



## Mentee Application

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for considering Mentoring Tucson's Kids. It is our desire to match your child with a mentor who will provide a caring hand and sound guidance as they struggle to make good choices. Our volunteers are caring adults who want to help a youth succeed. They don't try to replace parents or act like a professional youth counselor.

I've enclosed a short application and some additional information about Mentoring Tucson's Kids. Please complete the forms and mail/fax/scan at your earliest convenience.

Mentoring Tucson's Kids will seek to match your child with a mentor who not only shares common interests, but also lives within a reasonable distance from your home. Mentors assume responsibility for all transportation, and we want them to be accessible to their mentees.

We have a limited supply of qualified mentors so we can't promise we'll be able to bring your child into our program immediately, however, we will do everything possible to find just the right volunteer to help as soon as possible.

Once again, the first step in the process of finding a mentor for your child is to submit an application. As always, we would be happy to answer any questions you might have throughout the process. You can contact our office by phone (520-624-4765) or by email ([mentoringtucsonskids@gmail.com](mailto:mentoringtucsonskids@gmail.com)).

Thank you again for placing your trust in Mentoring Tucson's Kids. We look forward to working with you and your child.

Sincerely,

Barney Hilton Murray  
Executive Director

## Parent Questions & Answers

### 1. How often will the Mentor see my child?

Mentors commit to spending four or more hours per month with their mentees. Ideally, mentors and mentees will meet at least twice monthly.

### 2. How do they spend their time together?

Mentors and mentees explore interesting activities that fall into five categories:

- Building a friendship
- Having fun
- Skill building and educational development
- Spiritual wholeness
- Community service

Depending on your child's interest, they might go horseback riding or hiking. Perhaps your child's mentor will take time to teach a new skill like woodworking or car maintenance. Often the activities are simple in nature, like a bike ride on a sunny afternoon or playing catch at the park. Sometimes mentors assist their kids with homework. Mentors often invite their young friends to church activities. The match also participates together in community service. A mentor's goal is to expose his or her mentee to new possibilities that encourage personal growth.

### 3. What will it cost to provide a mentor for my child?

There is no cost to you. Mentoring Tucson's Kids is a 501©3 nonprofit, supported by friends of the program. Mentors budget a modest amount to cover monthly activity costs. However, if you have the means, contributing to your child's activity costs is greatly appreciated as the Mentors are volunteers and not paid.

**4. How can I be sure my child will be safe with his/her mentor?** Mentoring Tucson's Kids mentors undergo rigorous screening that includes mentor training, a lengthy application, a thorough personal interview, four references, and a complete criminal background check. Mentoring Tucson's Kids' number one priority is your child's safety. If at any time you feel uncomfortable or concerned about the mentor, you are urged to contact your mentor coordinator immediately.

**5. What are some of the services provided by Mentoring Tucson's Kids USA?** In addition to ongoing match support, Mentoring Tucson's Kids provides a variety of fun group activities: horseback riding, summer camp, college and professional sports events and theatre tickets

### 6. What if my child doesn't like his/her Mentor?

Your mentor coordinator will work diligently to provide the best possible mentor for your child. Location, mutual interests, and personality types are considered in this process. It may take a few weeks before the friendship stabilizes so it's in everyone's best interest to be patient and give the relationship time to grow. However, if after a reasonable length of time your child is not connecting with his or her mentor, the mentor coordinator will meet with you to determine the best course of action.

### 7. What if there are other problems?

The mentor coordinator is there to oversee the relationship and render assistance whenever needed and should be contacted if any concerns should arise.

### 8. What happens after the one-year commitment is over?

Your mentor coordinator will meet with the match to discuss future options. If both parties are interested, the match may continue indefinitely. Mentees are allowed to stay in the program until their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**9. What other services can I count on from my child's mentor?** The mentor is strictly a friend to your child. They guide by example and unconditional love. They're not equipped to provide counseling or other professional services to the child or to the child's family. Should a need develop, your mentor coordinator will make appropriate referrals.

**10. Can I get mentors for all my children?**

Mentoring Tucson's Kids strives to match all eligible children within the family. While we can't promise to find a suitable mentor for each child, we will make every effort to meet the need.

## Guideline for the Parent/Guardian

We know your interest as a parent/guardian is in giving your child the best possible experience with his/her mentor. It is with this in mind that we provide you with the following guidelines. Please read them carefully, and if you have questions or do not understand, please feel free to discuss them with a member of the Mentoring Tucson's Kids staff, either a mentor coordinator, program manager, or program director. Your role in your child's mentoring relationship is very important.

1. Your child's mentor cannot and does not wish to try to take your place with your child. You should feel free to inquire where they are going on outings, what time they will return, and in general, assure yourself of your child's safety and welfare. Please make it a point to be at home at the agreed upon return time.
2. You should feel free to ask your child's mentor not to take him/her to places of which you disapprove. It is never the desire of Mentoring Tucson's Kids or of your child's mentor to cause your child to be caught in a conflict between two important people in his/her life.
3. A child needs to have an adult who is his/her friend, one he/she does not have to share with anyone else. Here are some suggestions:
  - a) Don't ask the mentor to take other family members on the outings. This is appropriate on some occasions when it is the choice of the child or his mentor, and with the agency's approval.
  - b) Please don't discuss family problems, and especially the child's problems, with the mentor in the presence of the child. As your child develops real trust with his/her mentor, he/she will begin to talk about them. If the parent/guardian talks about them, the child begins to feel the mentor is the parent's/guardian's friend and not his/her friend, which can hurt their relationship.
  - c) If you think there is something the mentor should know, or if you want to discuss problems you are having with your child, or if there is something that concerns you in any way, please call your mentor coordinator assigned to the match. Not talking about your concerns may damage the match.
  - d) Remember that a real friendship takes time to develop and trust is not earned overnight. Give the relationship time, and don't look for immediate improvements in behavior, or judge too quickly.
4. If a child values being with his/her mentor, sometimes the parent/guardian may be tempted to use the visits as a means of discipline and may want to deprive the child of the weekly visits with the mentor. Please resist this temptation! This will harm the relationship the mentor is developing with your child. The child's relationship with his/her mentor should have a positive impact on your child in many ways. If you want to discuss effective means of discipline, the agency staff will be happy to talk with you.
5. The mentor is not expected to discipline the child for the parent/guardian. As the friendship grows, the child's behavior generally improves. It does so because his/her attitudes are changing, not because the volunteer mentor has lectured or disciplined the child.
6. It is our policy that the mentor will not run errands, loan money, provide transportation, and so forth, for the mentee's family. The mentor's time is better spent with the child, and not transferring the friendship from the child to the family.
7. When a parent/guardian begins to hear the child mention the mentor's name frequently and sees affection developing for the mentor, it is easy to start feeling that the volunteer is stealing the child's affection. Usually, this is because the relationship is new. Please be assured that no one can take the parent's/guardian's place in the child's heart, and that it is never our desire to attempt to do so.
8. If a child does not want to go with his/her mentor on a particular occasion, it is a good idea for you not to call and cancel the appointment for the child. Having the child make the call teaches responsibility and

may help prevent him/her from canceling for trivial reasons. You can point out that the mentor is expected to do the same for the child.

9. Mentors are screened carefully for personal stability and moral integrity, but should you have any questions about what is happening with your child, do not hesitate to call the agency and discuss the matter with your mentor coordinator, the program manager.
10. Try to let the volunteer know occasionally that his or her efforts are appreciated.
11. Forgive minor mistakes in judgment. The mentor is not a trained professional, nor is he/she perfect. You will probably disagree with the volunteer sometimes.

I hereby state that I have read the Guidelines for the Parent/Guardian and understand the suggestions and the context in which they are made.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Interviewer/Mentor Coordinator Signature

# Youth Application

Youth Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: Male  Female

Age \_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Youth's Email \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity (please mark one):

African American  Asian  Bi-Racial  Caucasian  Hispanic  Native American  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Parent  or Guardian  Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Email \_\_\_\_\_

Probation Officer (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Case Manager Name \_\_\_\_\_

Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in School \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out the following questions as completely as possible. For every yes answer, please explain in the space provided. This information is requested to assist the Mentoring Tucson's Kids staff in assessing how appropriate the child is for the program. All information received will be kept strictly confidential. Mentoring Tucson's Kids will not release this information to any organizations or individuals without written approval.

How did you hear about this program? \_\_\_\_\_

If referred, by whom? \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to child \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think the child would benefit from having a mentor? \_\_\_\_\_

What are the child's personal interests, skills or hobbies, sports played?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe any particular problems he/she might have. (i.e. emotional, behavioral, mental, social, academic, etc):

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Is the child having any problems in school? No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ If yes, please explain:

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Does the child have difficulty with people in roles of authority? (i.e., teachers, school principal, disciplinarian within the home) No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ If yes, please explain:

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Has the child experienced any abuse (i.e., physical, sexual, emotional)?

No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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Does the child have any history of drug or alcohol use?

No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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Has the child ever been arrested or had any court contact?

No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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Does he/she have any kind of health problem or physical disability?

No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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Is he/she taking any medications? No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ If yes, please list and describe what each medication is for:

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Does the child have a parent or other relative in prison? No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ If yes, please explain:

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If yes, is the child aware of this situation? No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_

What are the names and ages of those living in the home?

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Church Name (if you attend) \_\_\_\_\_

List below the names and dates of any other agency that has assisted your family in the past year (family and children's agency, child guidance clinic, public assistance, etc.)

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Describe anything else you would like us to know about the child.

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**For Youth to complete:** Mentoring Tucson's Kids is an organization for youth like you, who would like to have an adult friend to support you in your life. Youth and mentors talk, work on homework, hang out, and do fun activities together. If you would like to have a mentor and be a part of our program, please check and sign below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

1. I would like to have a mentor. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

2. I am willing to meet with my mentor once a week for a year. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of Youth

Date

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**For Parent to complete:**

Mentoring Tucson's Kids is an organization for children and adolescents who may be facing challenges in school, with their peers, or with personal issues. We support these children and adolescents through a mentoring relationship with an adult volunteer. All volunteers are thoroughly screened and monitored throughout their relationship by a Mentoring Tucson's Kids Mentor Coordinator.

Kids who want to have a mentor must apply. Those who are accepted are teamed up with an adult for one year.

We are limited in the number of youth we can accept. If we are to consider this application, we must be sure that you want your child to have a mentor and that you are willing to support her or him if accepted. Your signature below indicates your consent to the above and your desire to provide a mentor to your child with Mentoring Tucson's Kids.

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Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date



## Parent/Guardian Consent Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_, as Parent/Guardian(s) of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, understand the nature of the Mentoring Tucson's Kids Christian mentoring program as described in the Mentoring Tucson's Kids Brochure, Fact Sheet, and Parent Questions and Answers Sheet and willingly request a mentor for my child. I understand that Mentoring Tucson's Kids will not deny my child's participation in the program solely based on any one of the following statements.

### PLEASE INITIAL:

1. I consent to my child's participation in the Mentoring Tucson's Kids program, and give him/her my permission to participate. \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No
2. I will do everything I can to help him/her meet the program's requirements; \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No
3. I will fully support my child's relationship with the Mentoring Tucson's Kids mentor. Should I need to discipline my child, I agree that discipline would not automatically include denial of contact with the mentor; \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No
4. I hereby give consent for the Mentoring Tucson's Kids staff or Mentor Coordinator, or the Mentoring Tucson's Kids mentor to obtain appropriate emergency medical or dental attention for my child, if such attention is required while I am unavailable or unable to be contacted; \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No
5. I give my permission for Mentoring Tucson's Kids staff or Mentor Coordinator to share and access information with other agencies and professional persons working with my child, including but not limited to, psychological, medical, and school/educational information, including grades, test results and attendance; \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No
6. I agree to provide the Mentoring Tucson's Kids staff or Mentor Coordinator with copies of my child's school report cards upon request; \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No
7. I give my consent for the Mentoring Tucson's Kids mentor or the Mentor Coordinator to share information regarding my child's progress and the status of the match with referral or other agencies, as appropriate; \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No
8. I give my permission for my child's name, likeness, and speech in any audiotape, videotape, film, or photograph made at any Mentoring Tucson's Kids activity for public relations or fundraising purposes of Mentoring Tucson's Kids. I also give consent for any printed materials, artwork, stories, or quotes from my child to be used for public relations or fundraising purposes; \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No
9. I give my permission to the Mentoring Tucson's Kids mentor and/or Mentor Coordinator or staff to visit, pick up, or transport my child for activities and events; \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No
10. I give my permission to the Mentoring Tucson's Kids mentor and/or Mentor Coordinator or staff to visit, pick up, and be an advocate for my child at his or her school; \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No
11. I give my permission for my child to participate with his/her Mentor in church, Bible studies, church youth group, or other activities of a similar nature; \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

I understand that my child will be participating in various one-to-one activities with a volunteer mentor, and that he/she will be under that volunteer's supervision during those activities. I release Mentoring Tucson's Kids, its officers, agents, employees, and volunteers from any and all liability, claims, demands, or causes of action whatsoever that I may have as Parent/ Guardian of this youth, for damage, loss, or injury to him/her which may occur while participating in any of the activities contemplated by this Agreement, whether caused by the negligence of Mentoring Tucson's Kids, its officers, agents, servants, or employees, or by the negligence of the Mentoring Tucson's Kids volunteer, or otherwise. I understand that my child's participation in Mentoring Tucson's Kids sponsored activities and specific activities with his/her mentor, whether secular or religious, is voluntary. By my signature below, I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understand this document and the items contained therein, and that I have received a copy of this document for my records.

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Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Time

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Printed Name Parent/Guardian

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Signature of MTK Representative

Date

Time

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Printed Name of MTK Representative