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Seymour Public Schools Mentoring Program (SPSMP) Mentor Application Packet



Every child has the promise, possibility, and potential to succeed in life. Unfortunately, not all children have the support they need to accomplish their goals. According to the Governor's Prevention Partnership, "an astounding 17.6 million young people – nearly half the population of young people between 10 and 18 years of age – live in situations that put them at risk of not living up to their potential. In the State of Connecticut, there are 160,000 children who could benefit from a mentoring relationship because they are at risk for personal and academic failure as a result of poverty, family issues, incarcerated parents and similar problems."

Children who are involved in a mentoring program experience higher levels of academic success, better peer and family relationships and are less likely to use drugs, alcohol or engage in other dangerous behavior. Mentoring – the presence of caring adults offering support, advice, friendship, reinforcement and constructive examples – has proven to be a powerful tool for helping a young person fulfill his/her potential.

Established in 2010, the SSMP was begun to serve Seymour students in grades five and six. The Program's goal is to match deserving students with positive adult role models who can make a significant difference in these students' lives. The Program coordinates a structured one-on-one relationship between a student and adult volunteer; it is entirely school-based. This unique approach provides participants with an adult who can meet them for approximately one hour per week during the school year and engage in academic and/or social activities conducive to the school setting.

The primary purpose of a mentor is to help a young person define individual goals and find ways to achieve them. Since the expectations of each child will vary, the job of the mentor is to encourage the development of a flexible relationship that responds to both the mentor's and the young person's needs. By sharing fun activities and exposing a youth to new experiences, a mentor encourages positive choices, promotes high self-esteem, supports academic achievement, and introduces the mentee to new ideas.

We thank you for your interest in mentoring a child. Please fill out the attached application and return it to Mary Lavoie, SSMP Co-Coordinator by mail (98 Bank Street, Seymour, CT 06483) or email (mlavoie@seymourschools.org).



Seymour Public Schools Mentoring Program (SPSMP) Application

Application Date: _____

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Employer/Occupation: _____ Phone No. (W) _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Street

Town

Zip

How did you hear about our program (please be specific)? _____

Preferred day of weekday to mentor 1st Choice: _____ 2nd Choice: _____

Preferred time between 11 AM–1 PM 1st Choice: _____ 2nd Choice: _____

Please indicate preference: Boy _____ Girl _____ No Preference _____
Grade 5 _____ Grade 6 _____ No Preference _____

Please list languages you speak other than English: _____

Do you identify with a certain cultural identity or ethnicity? _____ If yes, which one?

Please describe any special interests which may be helpful in matching you with a mentee. Examples include career interests, playing sports, hobbies, art, music, dance, being outdoors, etc.

Please list any other special talents, experiences, or abilities that may be helpful in the matching process (i.e., prior work with special needs children, sign language, crafts, and extensive travel)

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Please tell us why you would like to be a mentor:

References: List two (2) references other than family members that we may call upon.

Name (1): _____

Relationship: _____ **Phone:** _____

Name (2): _____

Relationship: _____ **Phone:** _____

Please list the last 3 places of employment with the most recent or current employer first.

Company _____ Contact Person: _____

Address _____ Phone No. _____

Dates of Employment _____

Company _____ Contact Person: _____

Address _____ Phone No. _____

Dates of Employment _____

Company _____ Contact Person: _____

Address _____ Phone No. _____

Dates of Employment _____

Mentor Release Statement:

I, the undersigned, hereby state that if accepted as a mentor, I agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the Seymour Public Schools Mentoring Program (SPSMP). I understand the program involves spending one hour each week at the assigned school with my mentee from September to June. Further, I understand that I will attend a training session, be involved during the school year, and communicate with the teacher during this period. I will commit to at least one school year and will be asked to renew for another year. I have not been convicted within the past ten years, of any felony or misdemeanor classified as an offense against a person or family, of public indecency, or a violation involving a state or federally controlled substance. I am not under current indictment. Further, I hereby fully release, discharge and hold harmless the SPSMP from any and all liability, claims, causes of action, costs, and expenses which may be or may at any time hereafter become attributable to my participation in the Seymour Public Schools Mentoring Program.

I understand that the SPSMP and relationships established take place only on Seymour Public Schools property within the confines of the school day in Seymour, CT. Relationships established between mentor/mentee and family members beyond the school day, are not part of the Seymour Public Schools Mentoring Program. The SPSMP Advisory Board reserves the right to terminate a mentor or deny acceptance.

I give permission for the program staff to conduct a background check as part of the screening for entrance into this program. This will include verification of personal and employment references as well as a criminal records check and finger printing.

I have read the above release statement and agree to the contents. I certify that all statements in this application are true and accurate.

Signature

Date

Seymour Public Schools Mentoring Program (SPSMP) Screening Policy

All applicants for the Seymour Public Schools Mentoring Program (SPSMP) must be fingerprinted and submit to a background check.

Automatic disqualifiers for gaining acceptance to the SPSMP include ANY of the following:

- All felonies
- Termination from a paid or volunteer position caused by misconduct with a child
- Prior history of abuse of children, sexual, physical and/or otherwise
- Conviction of any other crime in which children were involved
- History of extreme violence and/or sexually exploitive behavior

Misdemeanors and one-time small offenses will be determined on a case by case basis after careful consideration and reference checks. Final decisions will be made by the SPSMP Advisory Board and/or the Superintendent of Seymour Public Schools. In these cases, applicants must submit a description of what occurred, when it happened, and any rehabilitative steps that have been taken since.

Disclaimer: All applicants must submit an application, participate in an interview, provide references for checking, complete a background check, and attend a training program prior to placement. Applicants who provide false information shall be disqualified from and terminated from the program. The SPSMP has a right of refusal to reject applicants at their discretion.

I have read and understand the above written Seymour Public Schools Mentoring Program screening policy. I have not been convicted of any of the above disqualifiers. I am not currently under investigation for any such crime.

Print Name

Signature

Date

Seymour Public Schools Mentoring Program Agreement

As a volunteer mentor in the Seymour Public Schools Mentoring Program,

I, _____ AGREE TO:
(Name)

- ✓ Attend the required training session before beginning.
- ✓ Submit an honest and accurate application and notify the SPSMP of any changes in my employment, address and phone numbers.
- ✓ Engage in the mentor/mentee relationship with an open mind.
- ✓ Be on time for scheduled meetings.
- ✓ Notify the school office if I am unable to keep my weekly mentoring session, and when possible the student directly.
- ✓ Accept assistance from mentee's teacher and support staff and follow all school rules and procedures.
- ✓ Contact the school liaison or the SPSMP program co-coordinator with any questions, concerns or problems.
- ✓ Keep discussions with my mentee confidential except in cases of suspected child abuse or neglect as covered in mentor training.
- ✓ Notify the program coordinator of any changes in employment, address, email or phone number.
- ✓ Meet with my mentee only on school property during the school day once a week.
- ✓ Check my email regularly for updates, newsletters and information from the program coordinator.

SIGNATURE

DATE

Seymour Schools Mentor Program Liaisons

Bungay School	Nancy Staab	881-7500
Chatfield School	Jessica Strumello	888-4640
LoPresti School	Kim Leoni	888-2009
Seymour Middle School	Trisha Hazzard	888-4513
SSMP Co-Coordinator	Mary Lavoie	888-4564