Volunteer & Mentor Program

How to Become a Mentor
Guidelines and Process

Thank you for your interest in becoming a mentor. Since Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services works with minors who are wards of the court, we must do everything in our power to protect the safety of our residents. As a result, we have stringent requirements in place for mentors.

In order to become a Mentor, you must:
- Be interviewed by the Volunteer and Mentor Coordinator
- Complete an application
- Pass a background/criminal clearance check, drug test and TB test
- Submit four (4) personal references, at least one personal and one professional
- Have a valid CA Driver’s License
- Submit your DMV record (last ten [10] years)
- Show proof of auto insurance
- Sign an Oath of Confidentiality
- Attend Mentoring training

In addition, we ask mentors to:
- Commit to six (6) months of mentoring, eight (8) hours per month
- Commit to completing training
- Initially meet with Mentee under supervision. The Mentee will be eligible for an off-grounds outing in the community at a pre-approved location after 24 hours or supervised hours and the resident’s P.O. and therapist have to approve to the outing in writing. Please note, mentors are not allowed to take the resident out past 5:30pm.
- Document the time you are spending with your Mentee
- Communicate, communicate, communicate

We understand this may seem like a large undertaking but we assure you that we will do everything we can to ensure the process runs as smoothly as possible. We are here to help you and our kids need you! Once you become a Mentor, you won’t look back as it is one of the most rewarding experiences you’ll ever have!

If you are interested in learning more about this program, or you’d like to become a Mentor, please contact Raquel Antonio-Subias at rantoniosubias@oyhfs.org or (323)443-3152.

Thank you!