

## **About SMYL**

*SMYL is a youth mentoring program dedicated to pairing local youth with mentors in order to provide a positive, stable influence in the youth's life. A mentor is there to act as a friend and a guide in a fun and positive way.*

*The success of the match friendship depends greatly on the efforts of the mentor and the youth, with the support of the Parent and/or Teacher and Agency Staff. Each one plays an important role in helping build a meaningful friendship.*

*SMYL aims to provide an avenue to build these friendships and foster more positive environments for youth in Seneca County, OH.*



## **How Do I Apply To Be A Mentor Or A Friend?**

### **Contact Us:**

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**Mentoring**  
Be a Mentor...Be the Difference



### **Funding provided by:**

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Mentoring  
Seneca County  
youth to make better  
choices for a  
brighter future.





## Why Mentor?

At its most basic level, mentoring helps because it guarantees a young person that there is someone who cares about them.

Mentors provide their matched friend with an experienced person who is there to help in any number of situations. The mentor, in turn, also benefits from their friendship.

## Benefits for mentors:

- Increased self-esteem
- A sense of accomplishment
- Creation of networks of volunteers
- Insight into childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood
- Increased patience and improved supervisory skills

*A mentor is, first and foremost, a positive friend that arranges consistent, comfortable, and enjoyable meetings with a youth.*

## Successful Mentors:

- Changing the behavior of the child
- Are not authoritarian
- Decide activities together with their matched friend
- Are consistent & dependable
- Have realistic expectations
- Are patient
- Focus on having fun
- Set boundaries and limits
- Acknowledge that positive impact on the child comes after the relationship is built
- Put a child's safety and well-being first



## What a SMYL Mentor Is Not:

- Parent
- Tutor
- Peer
- ATM
- Teacher
- Babysitter
- Therapist

## BENEFITS TO YOUTH

- Increased high school graduation rates
- Healthier relationships and lifestyle choices
- Better attitude about school
- Higher college enrollment and educational aspirations
- Enhanced self-esteem and self-confidence
- Improved behavior, both at home and at school
- Stronger relationships with parents, teachers, and peers
- Improved interpersonal skills
- Decreased likelihood of initiating drug and alcohol use.

