

About SMYL

SMYL is a youth mentoring program dedicated to pairing local youth (ages 6-17) 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, 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?

Contact us:

Mentor Coordinator:

Matt Coleman -
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Case Managers:

Alisa Huffman -
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Seneca County Family & Children
First Council

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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. SMYL asks for a minimum of 4 hours of positive interaction per month.

SMYL Programs:

- Traditional 1-to-1
- Couple Mentoring
- School-Pal Mentoring
- Impact Youth After-School
- University Matches
- Waiting on a Match

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

SUCCESSFUL MENTORS:

- Help change 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

A SMYL MENTOR IS NOT:

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

Benefits to youth:

- Increased high school graduation rate
- 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

Benefits to mentors:

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

