

Refugee Services of Texas' newly created Youth Program aims to enhance cultural adjustment, self-sufficiency and integration into American society for refugee youth through strengths-based case management, engaging extracurricular activities, academic support and most importantly mentoring. Specifically, RST uses a model incorporating group, peer, and one-on-one mentoring to promote the successful transition of refugee youth to employment, continued learning opportunities, and independent living. The mentoring program uses adult volunteers to commit to advising, supporting, and guiding a refugee youth for a period of at least one year. By becoming part of the social network of family and community members who care about the youth, the mentor can help them develop and reach positive academic, career, and personal goals, setting them up for a successful future in the United States and beyond.

Role of the Mentor

- Serve as a positive role model and friend.
- Take the lead in supporting a young person through an ongoing, one-on-one relationship.
- Assist in cultural adjustment.
- Build the relationship by planning and participating in activities together.
- Strive for mutual respect.
- Build self-esteem and motivation.
- Help set goals and work toward accomplishing them.

Time Commitment

- Make at least a one-year commitment.
- Spend at least 8 hours a month with mentee.
- Communicate with the mentee weekly.
- Attend an initial training session.
- Attend optional mentor/mentee group events, mentee outings, and Drop-in Center program days.

Requirements

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Be interested in working with young people from various different cultures.
- Be willing to adhere to all program policies and procedures.

- Be willing to complete the application and screening process.
- Be dependable and consistent in meeting the time commitments.
- Attend mentor training sessions as prescribed.
- Be willing to communicate regularly with program staff, submit activity information, and take constructive feedback regarding mentoring activities.
- If transporting mentees, have auto insurance and a good driving record.

Desirable Qualities

- Willing listener
- Encouraging and supportive
- Patient and flexible
- Tolerant and respectful of individual differences
- Good relationship building skills

Benefits to Mentor

- Personal fulfillment through contribution to the refugee community and its individuals.
- Satisfaction in helping someone mature, progress, and achieve goals.
- Introduction to different world views, cultures, traditions and languages.
- Deeper understanding of teen and societal problems.
- Improved interpersonal skills.
- Personal ongoing support and supervision to help the match succeed.
- Mentee/mentor group activities and complimentary tickets to community events.

Application and Screening Process

- Written application
- Provide three personal references
- Criminal history check
- Personal interview
- Attend initial mentor training