



"Kids in the Middle" mentoring program

Frequently Asked Questions

"Kids in the Middle" (KIM) is all about "providing youth with opportunities to build resiliency and character by connecting them to caring adult mentors who model and encourage relationships built on trustworthiness, personal responsibility and positive communication." Research is overwhelmingly clear: when youth have at least one responsible adult in their lives, they are significantly less likely to drop out of school, become bullies, or abuse drugs. KIM is part of the overarching mission of Citizens for Safe Schools to connect young people to their community. Together they strive to create a culture that values and understands youth.

What is a mentor?

A mentor, first and foremost, is a friend. A mentor is a positive role model in a child's life. Mentors do not replace parents, they are simply an added support and someone who can help put life back into perspective when things get rough. Mentors listen objectively and encourage positive decision-making. They exemplify good character and inspire their mentee to do the same.

Who are the kids?

The kids in our program are what we call "Kids at a Crossroad," meaning they struggle with issues of poverty, school performance, peer pressure or family trauma. They are between the ages of 10-14; choose to be in the program voluntarily; and they need additional role models in their lives. They are in need of a mentor who will guide them on their journey to making good decisions.

Why mentoring?

Mentoring is a research proven strategy for helping youth stay in school and resist using drugs. At adolescence, young people need additional support to make good choices and plan for their future. Klamath County has an overwhelming number of youth in poverty and at risk. Having a mentor can provide opportunities, hope and the additional encouragement needed to believe in oneself.

What is the commitment?

Citizens for Safe Schools requires that you make at least a one-year commitment to your mentee. We ask that you meet once a week for an hour. It is up to you and your mentee to decide when and where you will meet. Mentors must undergo criminal and personal reference checks, attend an orientation and participate in some basic training.

Does it cost me anything?

No. There is no charge to the mentor. The program often provides cultural and educational activities, free movie and event passes, etc. Mentors are also welcome to expend their own resources, though it is definitely not required nor expected.

What do I do with my mentee?

You are welcome to do anything you and your mentee would like, such as going bowling or to the movies, shooting hoops, etc. Also provided for you is the "Kids Club" room at the Riverside Community Center: a safe place to hang out, work on homework, play board games or participate in planned, weekly activities.

What's in it for me?

As a mentor, you get to make a friend, have a positive influence on a child in need, gain personal fulfillment, and **HAVE FUN WHILE DOING IT!!!!!!!**

**For more information please contact Citizens For Safe Schools
(541) 882-3198**