



IHADLA MENTOR PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Mentor Program is another building block in IHADLA programming that, combined with academic support and enrichment, social/emotional development, college and career preparation, and parent/family engagement, creates a full menu of services for the Dreamers. The concept of mentoring is a core element of the IHADLA model. The long-term, caring interaction between sponsors and Dreamers are mentoring relationships. The Program Coordinators are mentors to all the Dreamers, as well. But it is virtually impossible for a few sponsors or one PC to provide consistent, individual attention and guidance to the 40, 80 or 150 Dreamers in one IHADLA Program. Volunteer mentors can provide this regular one-to-one contact with the Dreamers and enhance the program's impact by acting as a friend, counselor, teacher and confidant.

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the "I Have a Dream" Foundation - Los Angeles Mentoring Program is to provide Dreamers a stable adult role model apart from the context of the Dreamer's family. The relationship should foster a positive attitude in the Dreamer toward education and expose the Dreamer to a variety of positive, new experiences.

GOALS

The three basic goals of "I Have a Dream" Foundation - Los Angeles's Mentoring Program are:

1. To build personal bonds and trusting relationships
2. To keep Dreamers in school, graduate from high school, and encourage them to pursue a post-secondary education.
3. Expose Dreamers to new experiences designed to cultivate a familiarity and acceptance of diversity; social, cultural, economic, etc.

WHAT IS A MENTOR?

A mentor with the "I Have a Dream" Foundation - Los Angeles is first and foremost a trusted friend and positive role model who encourages a Dreamer to be successful in school and who opens the doors to new experiences. A mentor encourages a child to dream and to work to make their dreams come true.

MENTOR COMMITMENT

A mentor with the "I Have a Dream" Foundation - Los Angeles makes a commitment for a minimum of one year. This commitment includes, but is not limited to, a one-to-one visit with the mentee at least once a month (twice a month for the first 3 months) and contacting the student by phone, mail, or email at least once a week.

MENTOR ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- At least 21 years of age
- Willing to adhere to all IHADLA Mentoring Program policies and procedures
- Able to make at least a one-year commitment to the program
- Able to see his or her Dreamer at least once a month and twice a month for the first three months
- Willing to communicate with the Dreamer weekly
- Willing to complete the screening procedure
- Willing to attend mentor trainings
- Willing to communicate regularly with the Program Coordinator and/or Mentor Coordinator
- Access to an automobile or reliable transportation
- A current driver's license, auto insurance and good driving record
- A clean criminal history
- Never accused, arrested, charged or convicted of child abuse or molestation
- Not a convicted felon
- Not a user of illicit drugs
- Not someone who uses alcohol or controlled substances in an excessive or inappropriate manner

MENTOR SCREENING PROCESS

- Online Application with:
 - 3 references
 - Proof of Auto Insurance
 - Copy of Driver's License
 - Small Fee for Background Check
- Background Check
 - Criminal Record
 - Driving Record
- Home Interview
 - Family Background
 - Educational Background
 - Employment Background
 - Lifestyle/Hobbies
 - Character/Personality
- New Mentor Training
 - Policies and Procedures
 - Appropriate Conduct
 - Problem Solving
 - Mentors Required to Sign: Oath of Professional Conduct
- Match Meeting with PC, Mentor, Parents, and Dreamer
 - Mentor meets Parents and Dreamer
 - Mentor signs Mentor/Parent/Dreamer Agreement Form
 - After meeting with mentor, parents have the choice to choose a better mentor match for their Dreamer

Please visit www.ihadla.org or call the IHADLA office at (213) 572-0175 for a Mentor Application.