



Mentoring Program - Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I become a mentor?

Every young person — from a first-grade student to a graduating high-school senior — wants to know they're seen and known. And the power of a caring adult mentor can do just that: remind them they're important. But one in three young people grow up without a mentor. One in three young people navigate the rigors of school, friend groups, social pressures, and life's anxieties struggling to know whether they're important or valued.

We believe they are valued. Every single one of them. That's why we mentor. Mentors close the gap between the next generation believing they're not important and then realizing they are important. Mentors help youth cross the chasm from isolation to belonging. One caring mentor can change everything in a young person's life.

Who can be a mentor?

A mentor is a caring adult (18+) who invests in the life of a young person. That means anyone can be a mentor: a business professional, a retiree, a plumber, a college student, a nurse. No matter your vocational role, if you have a heart to see today's youth succeed, you're one step closer to being a mentor.

All mentors must pass a rigorous set of background checks.

- FBI/BCI Fingerprinting
- National Sex Offender Search
- Ohio Child Abuse Registry Search

Where do MVLF mentors meet with students?

We go to where the youth are: at their schools and in their communities. We come alongside area schools to match mentors with students, taking the pressure off of teachers' shoulders to care for some of the emotional and relational needs youth have through weekly one-hour meetings with their mentor.

What is the time commitment for mentors?

One hour...One day a week...for one school year. However, the option is available to continue with the same mentee the next school year and throughout the rest of their school career.

Will I receive training first?

Yes, every MVLF mentor must complete a 2.5 hour in-person training.

This research-based and evidence-based training will help provide tools that mentors will need as they start the mentoring relationship with a student. Training sessions are scheduled throughout the Miami Valley. Location, day and time of the training session vary depending on the needs of the community partners.

Mentors will also have access to additional online training resources that will be completed at the mentor's personal pace.

What if I have questions along the way?

Once you are matched with a mentee, the MVLF Mentoring Program Director will be in contact with you to provide assistance and answer any questions you might have. Anytime you are unsure about what to do or how to handle a situation, you will have support from MVLF. You can reach out to the Mentoring Program Director at any time.

I'm interested! What are the next steps?

Visit miamivalleyleadership.com/mentor-youth to learn more, contact the mentoring program director, or complete the online application.

Once MVLF receives your online application someone will contact you to schedule your required new mentor training and background checks.