

Guidelines for Parents

1. Please don't discuss your youth with the Texas ChalleNGe mentor in the presence of your youth. If you think there is something the mentor should know, call him or her when your youth is away.
2. If there is something about the relationship that concerns you, contact your Texas ChalleNGe Mentor Team immediately. If the Mentor Team is not available at the time you call, please leave a message so that your concern can be addressed. Not talking about your concerns may damage the relationship.
3. Try to let the mentor know that her or his efforts are appreciated.
4. Remember the relationship that exists is between your youth and the Texas ChalleNGe mentor. Don't request that you or other family members be included on outings.
5. Forgive minor mistakes in judgment. Although the mentor has received mentor training, he or she has is neither a trained professional nor a perfect person. You will probably disagree with the mentor at times.
6. Do not deprive the youth of the weekly visit with the mentor as a means of discipline. Remember, the mentor is volunteering his/her time and energy to form a bond with your youth.
7. In most cases trust and friendship will grow because the youth feels comfortable sharing with the mentor. Don't demand or expect the mentor to share things told to them in confidence by your youth. Allowing the youth to have a non-parent adult to share with will actually enhance the quality of your parent-child relationship in most cases.
8. When the Texas ChalleNGe mentor tells you when he or she will be returning your youth, make a point of being at home.
9. Give it time. This relationship needs time to develop – at least three to five months – so don't judge it too quickly.
10. Your youth's mentor is a person, too. Get to know the mentor at least to the point where you feel comfortable with him or her.

We hope these guidelines will help support your youth's mentoring relationship. Your role in the development of this friendship is very important. Thank you!

The Mentoring Team

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