



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD



YOUTH CHALLENGE PROGRAM
BUILDING 80
CAMP SHELBY, MISSISSIPPI 39407-5500

Dear Potential Mentor,

Thank you for your interest in becoming a mentor for one of our cadets. A mentor is simply someone who will be a friend to the cadet during the residential phase of the program and when the cadet returns to his/her community.

In many instances, the mentor serves as a bridge between success and failure in the youth's life. *The mentor should be a mature adult (at least 21 years of age), of the same gender, but not a relative, and live within commuting distance of his/her cadet.* Please review and sign the attached *Mentor Job Description*. Each potential student must have a completed mentor application on file before they are enrolled into the program.

As a mentor, you are required to come to Camp Shelby one time to participate in "Mentor Day". During Mentor Day, you will attend a 3-hour *Mentor Training Class*. After the class, you and your cadet may leave the post and participate in an activity of your choice. During the five-month *Residential Phase*, we strongly encourage you to write to your cadet. When the cadet completes the program and returns home, as the mentor you are required to contact the student four times a month, for a twelve-month period. The contact may be by letter, phone, or in person. You are encouraged to make sure that at least one of these contacts be in person.

The National Guard Bureau requires us to do a *background check* on all potential mentors. Please fill in all blanks of the mentor application and have 2 individuals that you have known for at least two years complete the attached *Reference Response Forms*. Attached to the reference form is a self-addressed stamped envelope for your reference to use to return the reference form to us. **DON NOT USE THESE ENVELOPES TO RETURN YOUR MENTOR APPLICATION PACKET!** There is not enough postage on them, and these are for your reference to use

The administration and staff at the Youth Challenge Academy thanks you for your assistance, and we look forward to communicating with you in the future. If you have any question, please contact our Mentoring Staff, Ms. Sonja Edwards 601-558-2456 or email johnsonsedwards@msyouthchallenge.org or Ms. Tonia Reed 601-558-2163, email treed@msyouthchallenge.org. You may also reach us toll free 1-800-507-6253.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM L. CROWSON
Program Director

