

*"My mentor makes me
really happy! She gives
me courage." ~ MENTEE*



LSS Mission

INSPIRED BY GOD'S LOVE,
WE CARE FOR, SUPPORT AND
STRENGTHEN INDIVIDUALS,
FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES.

School-Based Mentor Program

To become a mentor, contact:

School-Based
Mentor Program
Lutheran Social Services
of South Dakota

621 EAST PRESENTATION STREET
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57104
(605) 221-2403
FAX: (605) 221-2404
www.lsssd.org



*Accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services
An Equal Opportunity Employer*



Lutheran Social Services
Strengthening Individuals, Families and Communities



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Strengthening Individuals, Families and Communities

What is the School-Based Mentor Program?

The School-Based Mentor Program empowers youth to succeed by establishing trusting relationships with adult volunteers. Mentors have a significant impact on youth by increasing self-esteem, providing guidance, and developing consistent, long-term friendships.

Volunteers spend an hour a week one-on-one with an elementary, middle or high school student at school.

Value of Mentoring

Mentoring is linked to building positive behaviors in children, including:

- Increased self-esteem.
- Improved academic skills, attendance and social development.
- Greater awareness of the importance of education.
- Heightened sense of citizenship and character development.
- Better understanding of trusting relationships.
- Increased confidence.

The mentoring relationship is rewarding for adults. It can be a way to learn more about yourself and experience the joy of seeing a child grow and change because you were there to help.

Schools value mentoring because it brings community members into the schools, making education real for children and showing young people that the community cares about them.

Mentor Responsibilities

- Attend an orientation and training session.
- Meet with your student one hour per week throughout the school year.
- Attend ongoing mentor support sessions as you are able.

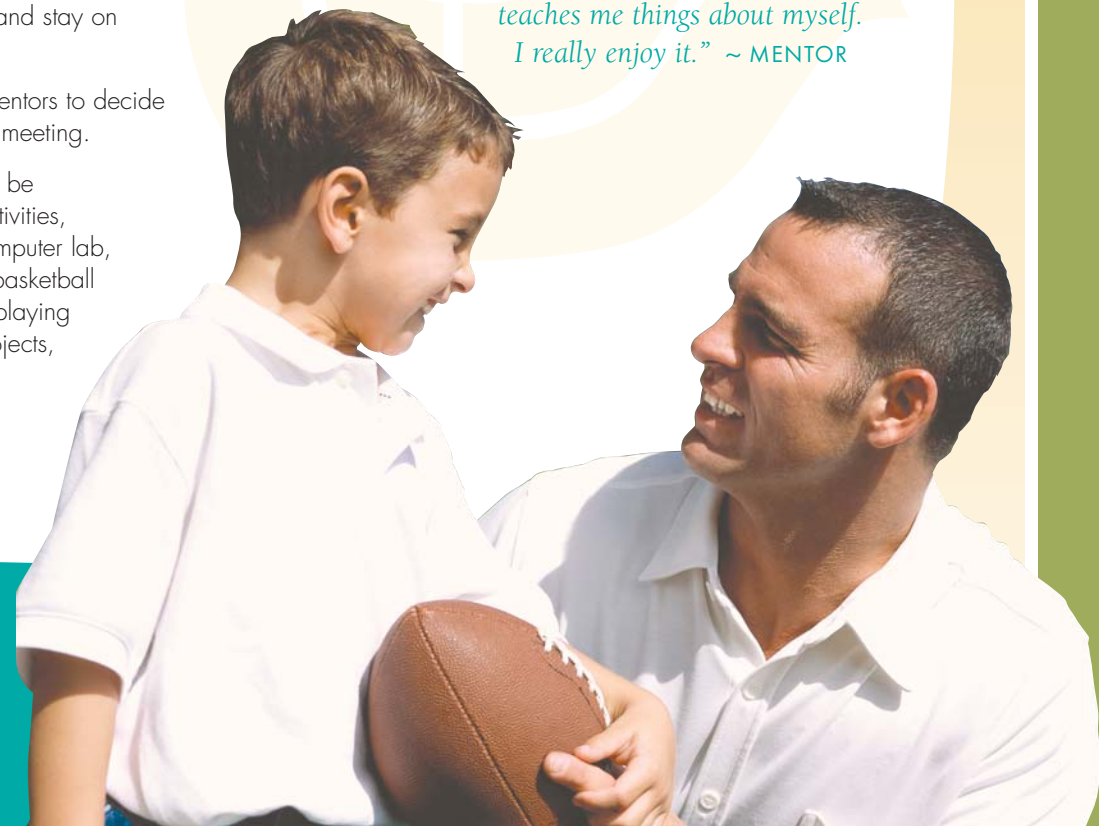
How Does it Work?

- Upon completion of an application and background check, mentors are referred to a school site coordinator to be matched with a student.
- Mentors work with the site coordinator to schedule a time with the student. Mentoring takes place at various times throughout the day and can vary according to your schedule.
- Mentors go to the school and stay on grounds with the student.
- Students work with their mentors to decide what they will do at each meeting.
- Mentors and students may be involved in a variety of activities, such as working in the computer lab, reading a book, playing basketball in the gym, eating lunch, playing games, completing art projects, or just "hanging out."

Partnership Opportunities

Many businesses, churches and civic organizations have partnered with the School-Based Mentor Program to help recruit volunteers or support the program financially. Contact the program for more information on partnership opportunities.

"It is excellent to work with kids who need a little bit of extra attention, whether it's with school or with life. This program also teaches me things about myself. I really enjoy it." ~ MENTOR



Steps to Becoming A Mentor

Step 1: Application

Complete application and background release form.
Mail to: Lutheran Social Services, 621 E Presentation Street,
Sioux Falls, SD 57104 or fax to 605-221-2404.



Step 2: Background Checks

Upon successful completion of a background check, mentors
are referred to a school site coordinator (school counselor).
Mentors may select where they would like to mentor



Step 3: Training

Mentors attend a mandatory training and orientation session
before their first meeting with the student.



Step 4: Matching

Site Coordinators match the mentor with a student and work
with mentors to schedule a time to mentor. Mentoring takes
place at various times throughout the day and can vary
according to your schedule. For example, many mentors meet
over the lunch hour.



Step 5: Meet your mentee

Mentors go to the school and stay on the school grounds with
the student.



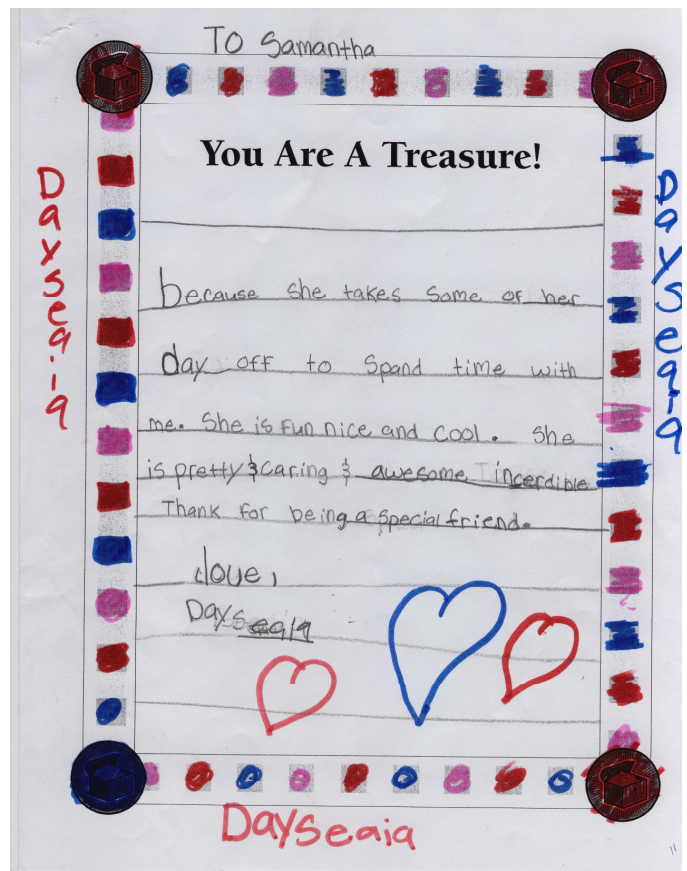
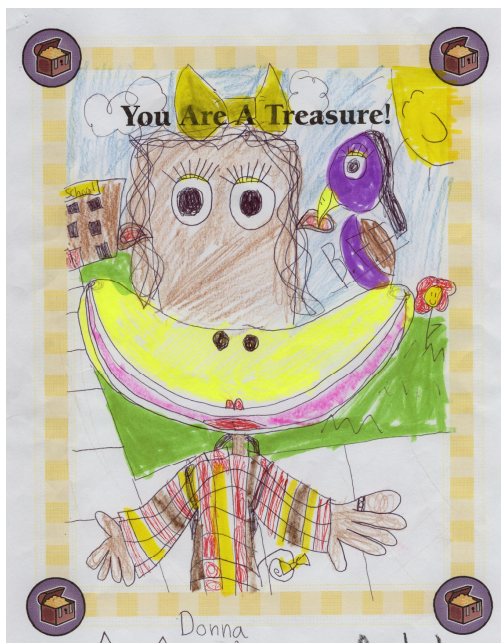
Step 6: Mentoring

Students work with their mentor to decide what they will do
at each meeting. Mentors and students may be involved in a
variety of activities, such as: working in the computer lab,
reading a book, playing basketball at the gym, eating lunch,
playing games, completing art projects, or just “hanging out”.

WHY DO YOU TREASURE YOUR MENTOR



She is the nicest person I ever meet.
She makes me really happy! She
gives me courage! She tells me
how my day is going. That is why
my mentor has a heart for children.



My mentor is the best
mentor in the world.

MY MENTOR IS MY BEST FRIEND...

I have a Buddy and his name is Nick and he is a good mentor. Frist is that I have him becaus some peple do not have a mentor I am Lucky becaas of that. the Second thing is that we are best friends.



Did You Know...

FACTS ABOUT MENTORING

The School-Based Mentor Program reported 93% of students are in youth-centered relationships, 92% of students are emotionally engaged, and 93% are satisfied with their mentoring relationship.

99% of all mentors already in a formal mentoring relationship would recommend mentoring to others.

82% of mentors reported their students show more self-confidence and 71% report a better attitude toward school

When focusing on **social activities** during mentor time, it was found that students enjoyed spending time with their mentors, could count on their mentors, learned new things, participated in a variety of experiences and wanted to continue in the program for the following year.

The **School-Based Mentor Program** in Sioux Falls supports **more than 1000 matches** between children and adults. These volunteers provided **41,800 hours** of volunteer service last year alone, which is equivalent of **\$786,088** or over **20 FTEs**. Even with this tremendous show of community support, **more than 1500 students** locally are waiting for a caring adult mentor.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

School-Based Mentor Program
621 E Presentation Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Phone: (605) 221-2403
Fax: (605) 221-2404
www.lsssd.org/services/mentoring

The School-Based Program is a partnership of Lutheran Social Services, the Sioux Falls Public School District and the Sioux Empire United Way.

School-Based Mentor Program



Attending a required mentor orientation and training session before you begin mentoring will help you to:

- ♦ Understand your role and responsibilities as a mentor
- ♦ Understand the program policies and procedures
- ♦ Understand positive youth development and mentoring relationship stages.

Orientation and Training

Mentoring helps young people overcome challenges by reconnecting them to broader society. *Fortune* magazine states, the number one indicator of success for a child is a good relationship with a caring adult.



School-Based Mentor Program
Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota
621 E. Presentation Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

To schedule a training session, please contact:
Carmen Toft, 221-2402, fax: 221-2404, email: carmen.toft@lsssd.org

Mentor Position Description

School-Based Mentor Program

Purpose: The School-Based Mentor Program seeks to provide positive modeling and interaction between adults and children, which will lead to school and lifetime success.

Job Title: Mentor

Location: The School-Based Mentor Program takes place on school grounds at 27 elementary, middle and high schools in the Sioux Falls Public School District.

Key Responsibilities:

- (a) Spend one hour, once a week with a student during the school day.
- (b) Work with the student to decide what to do each week. Activities include working on homework, reading a book, playing board games, working on crafts, or simply eating lunch together and talking.
- (c) Attend an initial orientation and training session and any additional support training sessions as desired.
- (d) Contact the Site Coordinator if unable to attend at scheduled time.

Reports to: School Site Coordinator

Length of Appointment:

The School-Based Mentor will serve for the duration of a school year (September-May).

Time Commitment:

The School-Based Mentor position requires a minimum commitment of one hour a week. The mentor must also attend an orientation and training session before they begin.

Qualifications:

Eligible candidates for the School-Based Mentor position include adults over the age of 18 who pass a background check and are able to commit to spending one hour per week with a child.

INFORMATION	First Name		Last Name			Initial	
	Local Mailing Address (Home)					Apt.	
	City				State	Zip	
	Phone (Home)	Phone (Work)	Phone (Cell)		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female I prefer to be contacted at: <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Work <input type="checkbox"/> Cell During the: <input type="checkbox"/> Day <input type="checkbox"/> Evening		
	E-mail						
	Employer Name			Job Title			
	Employer Address		City	State	Zip		
	Are you receiving college credit or participating in the program as part of a college course? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		If Yes, name of college		Referring Professor		
	Do you use illegal drugs? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Have you ever been convicted of abuse, neglect, or assault? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>						
	Mentoring programs are offered in the following schools/districts. Do you have a school/district preference? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please specify below:						
REFERENCES	Sioux Falls Elementary <input type="checkbox"/> Hayward <input type="checkbox"/> Lowell <input type="checkbox"/> Sioux Falls Middle <input type="checkbox"/> Baltic <input type="checkbox"/> Anne Sullivan <input type="checkbox"/> Horace Mann <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Twain <input type="checkbox"/> Axtell Park <input type="checkbox"/> Brandon Valley <input type="checkbox"/> Cleveland <input type="checkbox"/> Jefferson <input type="checkbox"/> Oscar Howe <input type="checkbox"/> Edison <input type="checkbox"/> Canton <input type="checkbox"/> Discovery <input type="checkbox"/> John F. Kennedy <input type="checkbox"/> Renberg <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial <input type="checkbox"/> Garretson <input type="checkbox"/> Eugene Field <input type="checkbox"/> John Harris <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Frost <input type="checkbox"/> Patrick Henry <input type="checkbox"/> Harrisburg <input type="checkbox"/> Garfield <input type="checkbox"/> Laura B. Anderson <input type="checkbox"/> Rosa Parks <input type="checkbox"/> Whittier <input type="checkbox"/> Lennox <input type="checkbox"/> Harvey Dunn <input type="checkbox"/> Laura Wilder <input type="checkbox"/> Terry Redlin <input type="checkbox"/> Sioux Falls High <input type="checkbox"/> Tri-Valley <input type="checkbox"/> Hawthorne <input type="checkbox"/> Longfellow <input type="checkbox"/> Immersion Program <input type="checkbox"/> Roosevelt <input type="checkbox"/> West Central						
	Please list three non-family references. Please provide complete information to expedite your application.						
	1. Name		Relationship		Phone (day)		Phone (evening)
	Address		City	State	Zip	Email	
	2. Name		Relationship		Phone (day)		Phone (evening)
	Address		City	State	Zip	Email	
	3. Name		Relationship		Phone (day)		Phone (evening)
	Address		City	State	Zip	Email	
	In the event of an emergency, contact:			Relationship		Phone	

1. I prefer to work with a specific age:

- ☐ Age 5-7 (grade K-1)
 ☐ Age 9-11 (grade 4-5)
 ☐ Age 13-14 (grade 8)
 ☐ Any age
- ☐ Age 7-9 (grade 2-3)
 ☐ Age 11-13 (grade 6-7)
 ☐ Age 15-18 (grade 9-12)

2. I am available on the following days /times:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

3. Please list any other information about yourself you feel would be helpful in matching you with a student. This can include any special hobbies, talents, or interests.

4. Please describe any previous experience working with children.

5. Why are you interested in becoming a mentor?

6. How did you hear about the School Based Mentor Program? (Check as many as apply and provide detail below)

- ☐ Newspaper
 ☐ Radio
 ☐ Television
 ☐ Internet
 ☐ Church
 ☐ Work
 ☐ Friend
- ☐ United Way
 ☐ School
 ☐ Current Mentor: _____
 ☐ Other: _____

Office Use Only

- ☐ CBC Complete _____
 ☐ SORC Complete _____
 ☐ VERIF Complete _____
 ☐ REF Complete _____

Please return completed application to:

Lutheran Social Services of SD • School-Based Mentor Program

621 E Presentation Street • Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Fax: (605) 221-2404 • Phone: (605) 221-2346

School-Based Mentor Program Release of Information Authorization

Disclosure and Release of Information Authorization

I authorize **Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota** and **Verifications, Inc.**, a consumer reporting agency, to retrieve information from government agencies and law enforcement agencies at the federal, state (including the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension), or county level, relating to my past activities, to supply any and all information concerning my background, and release the same from any liability resulting in providing such information. The information received is limited to criminal history records. I understand that this information may be shared with officials in the school district in which I plan to volunteer

I hereby certify that all the statements and answers set forth on the application form are true and complete to the best of my knowledge, and I understand that if subsequent to my service in the School-Based Mentor Program any such statements and/or answers are found false or that information has been omitted, such false statements or omissions will be just cause for the termination of my service in the Mentor Program.

I am willing that a photocopy of this authorization be accepted with the same authority as the original; and that this release will remain in effect throughout my time with the School-Based Mentor Program.

Please print clearly and complete all fields or you may experience a delay in the application process.

Signature

Social Security Number

Today's Date

Last Name

First Name

Middle Name

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip

Driver's License No.

State of License

Expires On

Date of Birth

List any other CITIES AND STATES in which you have lived during the previous 7 years.

List any other LAST NAMES you have used during the previous 7 years.

SCHOOL-BASED MENTOR PROGRAM

MENTOR AGREEMENT

Please initial where noted to confirm your understanding of the program guidelines. Thank you for carefully reading before completing.

I, undersigned, hereby state that if accepted as a mentor, I agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the school and the School-Based Mentor Program. I affirm that:

- _____ I will do my best to visit with my mentee for 30-60 minutes once per week at school, during the regular school day or at school-sanctioned events throughout this school year and any subsequent school year that I participate. In the event that I cannot attend as scheduled, I agree to contact the school in advance of the scheduled meeting.
- _____ I am encouraged to contact the school before a scheduled meeting to verify that the student is in attendance unless the school has specifically indicated that they will contact me.
- _____ I am willing to commit to at least one school year in the program and will be asked to consider renewing my participation for another year.
- _____ The information I have provided in the application may be verified, and I give permission to the school district listed above and Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota to make inquiry of others concerning my suitability to act as a volunteer.
- _____ In the course of volunteering for the school district, I may be dealing with confidential information, and I agree to keep said information in the strictest confidence. This means that I will not discuss my student's personal problems publicly or with others. If I need help, I will seek the assistance of the school site coordinator or School-Based Mentor Program staff. I understand that this confidentiality does not apply to suspicions I may have about abuse, neglect, illegal activity, or suicide. If these issues arise, I will immediately contact the school site coordinator or principal.
- _____ The relationship between the school district and volunteers is an "at will" arrangement, and that it may be terminated at any time without cause by the volunteer, the school district, or Lutheran Social Services.
- _____ I agree to attend new mentor training.
- _____ I will be a positive role model to my mentee.
- _____ I agree to abide by the policies and guidelines of the mentor program and the school in which I volunteer. I understand that failure to do so may result in termination of the mentoring relationship.
- _____ I understand that all mentor activities shall take place during the school day, on school grounds, or at school-sponsored events at which school personnel are in attendance.

Signature

Date