



Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida

Be the Change you Want to See in the World!

Overview: The GoodGuides Mentoring Program of Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida is part of a national initiative by Goodwill Industries International funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The program is designed to divert youth from the juvenile justice system and support them in making positive choices, contributing to the community, and exploring healthy career choices.

Purpose: By engaging youth in positive activities with adults who are strong role models, youth receive the encouragement and support they need to maximize their potential. GoodGuides engages adult volunteers who are expected to commit to supporting, guiding, and being a friend to a young person for a period of at least one year. By becoming part of the social network of adults and community members who care about the youth, the mentor can help youth develop and reach positive academic, career, and personal goals.

Characteristics of a GoodGuides Mentor: GoodGuides mentors are of strong moral character, dependable, truly like adolescents, and are willing to commit at least one year to helping a young person or group of young people uncover and develop similar characteristics. GoodGuides mentors are good listeners, encouraging, supportive, flexible, patient, tolerant, and respectful of individual differences. They are people who want to be a part of the solution and *be the change they want to see in the world*.

Targeted Youth: Youth targeted for this program are ages 12 through 17 who are at risk for delinquent behavior. They are young people struggling in school, experimenting with drugs, living in socially depressed neighborhoods, hanging around negative peers, and/or prime candidates for gang involvement. Their backgrounds are varied, but many live in single parent homes, have disabilities, are unsupervised large portions of the day, have a parent in prison, and/or have a history of serious family problems. They are looking for guidance, support, and a positive way to be a part of their community.

Types of Mentoring: GoodGuides mentors can mentor youth in a one-on-one relationship with one or more young people, work with small groups of young people (five or less), or serve as a peer mentor (be a young person who has turned her or his life around who wants to give back).

Mentor Role

- Serve as a positive role model and friend
- Build the relationship by planning and participating in activities together
- Be willing to share information on your career and explore career options with your mentee(s)
- Strive for mutual respect
- Build self-esteem and motivation
- Help set goals and work toward accomplishing them
- Be respectful of the mentee's time, opinions, and decision-making
- Serve as a positive role model by modeling desirable behaviors
- Be comfortable and able to establish appropriate boundaries with the mentee and his or her family

Pre-Service Requirements

- Written application
- Criminal history check and Child Protective Services Registry check with clearance
- Personal interview
- Provide three personal references



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- Eight hours of training and orientation

Service Requirements

- Make a one-year commitment
- Spend a minimum of six hours per month with your mentee(s)
- Communicate with your mentee weekly
- Keep track of and report time spent with your mentee
- Communicate with the Program Manager or Master Mentor at least monthly
- Attend ongoing training and mentor group meetings
- Adhere to all program policies and procedures
- Be dependable and consistent in meeting the time commitments
- Attend special events and recognition events as available
- Complete surveys as asked and ensure youth complete surveys as asked

What You Can Expect from the GoodGuides Program

- Pre-service and ongoing training to prepare you to meet the program goals
- Assistance in matching you with a youth who shares your interests
- Ongoing support from the Program Manager and Master Mentor
- Assistance in troubleshooting problems as they arise
- A safe place to meet your mentees with staff available to help
- Help in developing projects and activities to do with your mentee
- Staff support in completing all reports for the program
- Monthly contact from the Program Manager or Master Mentor
- Recognition for your service through formal and informal means

Benefits

- Personal fulfillment by making a difference for a youth in need
- Satisfaction in helping someone mature, progress, and achieve goals
- Personal growth through training sessions and group activities
- Personal ongoing support, supervision to help the match succeed
- Mentee/mentor group activities, complimentary tickets to community events, and recognition events
- Access to the services and resources of Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida

For more information, contact the Program Manager Courtney Portela at (239) 823-6931 or email courtneyportela@goodwillswfl.org

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