



Mentor Information: As a Washington Youth Academy Cadet, you are required to have an adult mentor as part of the program. You will locate and select an adult mentor from your circle of family and friends. The mentor you select is required to complete the WYA Mentor application.

Mentoring with the Washington Youth Academy, WYA, is a positive one-on-one relationship between a WYA cadet and an adult that provides emotional support, advice, and guidance. WYA Mentors assist with goal setting, and Post-Residential placement through letter writing while cadet is in residence and 4 contacts (phone, email, text, or in person) per month, after they return home. The total commitment is for 17 ½ months.

Finding a Mentor. Finding a mentor can sometimes be a difficult process. Here are good places to look:

- School teachers, counselors, coaches, JROTC leaders.
- Parents' work associates, friends, neighbors.
- Extended family members-aunts, uncles, and cousins.
- Community organizations-YMCA, YWCA, Boy and Girls Clubs, Lion's Club, Kiwanis, Rotary, VFW.
- Religious Organizations-pastor, imam, rabbi

Requirements to be a Washington Youth Academy Mentor:

- Should be at least 25 years old.
- Same gender as the applicant.
- Not a member of the immediate family.
- Live within a reasonable distance of applicant.
- Must not have sex crimes history.
- Must be free of felonies and crimes involving alcohol or substance abuse in the last five years.
- Must provide social security number or at own cost, fingerprinting by the FBI.
- Must not be applicant's military recruiter.

What is Expected of a Washington Youth Academy Mentor?

- Mentor Training- 4 hours of training.
- Residential Support (5 ½ Months): Write/email weekly letters of encouragement to your cadet.
- Assist cadets with goal setting and action planning.
- Additional Mentor activities that are optional but highly recommended.
- Post- Residential Support (1 full year after residential phase): Maintain minimum contact requirements of four times or four hours a month or a combination of both. Report monthly on mentee's progress to the Academy.

DREAM BELIEVE ACHIEVE

The Washington Youth Academy Stresses Eight Core Components

~ Academic Excellence ~ Leadership and Followership ~ Life Coping Skills ~ Job Skills ~ Service to Community ~ ~ Responsible Citizenship ~ Health and Hygiene ~ Physical Fitness ~