

To Be a Great Mentor and Support Mentoring in Texas

50 Ways

The Governor's
Mentoring Initiative:



**TEXAS COMMISSION
ON VOLUNTEERISM AND
COMMUNITY SERVICE**

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Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.*



trustworthy



committed



dependable



50 Ways To Be a Great Mentor and Support Mentoring in Texas

- 1) Become a mentor - a trusted friend and guide
- 2) Commit to at least one year with your mentee
- 3) Ask your friends to become mentors
- 4) Enlist your co-workers as mentors
- 5) Ask your employer to give all employees one paid hour a week to mentor
- 6) Demonstrate to your mentee that you are consistent, dependable, and trustworthy
- 7) Consistently act in ways that are ethical to earn the trust of your mentee
- 8) Know the mission of your mentoring provider organization
- 9) Always follow the guidelines of your mentoring provider organization
- 10) Seek out shared opportunities to enhance the knowledge and skills of your mentee
- 11) Value the diverse economic, cultural, and religious traits of your mentee
- 12) Maintain regular contact with your mentoring provider organization to ensure effective mentoring practices
- 13) Have fun with your mentee as you learn together - mentoring should not be all work and no play

- 14) Do not criticize the staff or faculty of your mentoring provider organization in front of your mentee
- 15) Do less talking and more listening so your mentee can share his/her thoughts
- 16) Do not make inappropriate remarks about your mentee's family
- 17) Be a positive role model in both word and deed
- 18) Never engage in inappropriate physical contact with your mentee
- 19) Maintain a cheerful and positive attitude with your mentee
- 20) Participate in National Mentoring Month (January) - watch for updates at www.txserve.org
- 21) Support community efforts to encourage volunteerism
- 22) Never violate the law or organizational codes of conduct
- 23) Expect a personal interview by your mentoring provider organization to understand what is expected of you
- 24) Be able to cite statistics about the positive impact of mentoring - visit www.txserve.org
- 25) Put mentoring information on the bulletin board at your office, church, or school
- 26) Take your mentee to your office on Groundhog Job Shadow Day (February 2)

- 27) Help your mentee fill out financial aid forms for college
- 28) Help your mentee complete a resume
- 29) Keep conversations confidential between you and your mentee
- 30) Be an advisor, not a preacher
- 31) Be a sympathetic listener, not a psychologist
- 32) Be a friend, not a surrogate parent
- 33) Talk to a teacher or counselor if your mentee has problems you cannot help with
- 34) Refrain from profanity or other inappropriate speech
- 35) Know that you must authorize a background check for criminal history before you become a mentor
- 36) Know that your driving record might be scrutinized
- 37) Know that “thank you” may come in the form of a hug or a smile instead of words
- 38) Work on the computer with your mentee to sharpen technology skills
- 39) Read a story to your mentee to expand his/her knowledge of literature
- 40) Play games such as basketball or chess with your mentee

- 41) Sing songs or play music with your mentee
- 42) Do math problems or science projects with your mentee
- 43) Take walks and talk with your mentee
- 44) Have lunch with your mentee
- 45) Celebrate your mentee's birthday with a card
- 46) Build something with your mentee
- 47) Take pictures throughout the year and keep them in a photo album
- 48) Write stories or keep a journal with your mentee
- 49) Encourage mentoring provider organizations to enroll in a Mentor TEXAS! training course - visit www.mentortexas.org
- 50) Enjoy the satisfaction of making a difference in the life of a child

Be a great mentor!
(Texas kids are counting on you!)



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