



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF MERCER COUNTY

2022 Youth of the Year Mentoring Program (November – February)

What is this Mentoring Program About?

The program is a high school writing, public speaking, and career guidance program for teens who are involved in the Boys & Girls Club. It culminates with a competition in February where a high school junior or senior will be recognized as the Mercer County's Boys & Girls Club's Youth of the Year. Not all students in the mentoring program decide to participate in the Youth of the Year portion and/or are eligible to do so. The winner represents our Club in the Boys & Girls Club of New Jersey's Youth of the Year competition, and receives a \$2,000 from BGCNJ for being our local Club winner. The runner up winner receives a \$500 scholarship from our Club towards continuing their education or career advancement. All other teens are eligible to apply for Club Scholarships as part of our Senior Awards program.

High School students are matched with a mentor and Club Advisor to help them complete all their mentoring Projects.

How does the mentoring work?

We have a chart of work which has various deadlines during the three month mentoring period in which each mentee works towards completing and the mentor supports their work. Mentors need to meet in person or via Zoom every other week. All in person and Zoom meetings occur at the Club or on Club Zoom meetings and are supervised by a Club staff member. Mentors can exchange emails with students for check in's during approved times, and staff must be cc'd on these communications.

Who Can be a Mentor?

Anyone not personally connected with any of the students can be a mentor. Mentors should have good writing and speaking skills to assist their mentee. Mentors need to pass a background check, and be commitment to meeting the mentor requirements.

What is expected of Mentors?

- Attend the Mentor Orientation session to understand your roles & responsibilities, resources available to you, timelines and Club policies. Our mentoring orientation session is scheduled for November 18th, 6:00- 6:30 pm at our Spruce Street Clubhouse in Lawrence. This is immediately followed by the YOY Speed Matching event with students from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Mentors can be matched with students post 11/18, depending on new student enrollment.
- Meet with your mentee to understand their goals and objectives and what support they need to succeed in the program.
- Meet at least 2 out of the 4 weekly mentoring sessions during the 3 month program. There will be some off weeks due the holidays.
- Follow the work plan around the due dates the Club has established.
- Encourage your mentee to attend the Essay Writing & Public Speaking workshops sponsored by the Club.
- Encourage your mentee to utilize the Club's SAT prep, tutoring, and career center programs. Also to take advantage of attending colleges, trade schools, and businesses tours.
- Provide input to your mentee on how to strengthen their essays
- Work with your mentee to practice their speech prior to the Youth of the Year event.
- If available to do so, follow up with your mentee after the Youth of the Year event and into the next school year.



Who do I contact if I want to become or recommend a Mentor for the Youth of the Year Program?

Call Jermaine Jackson at (609) 695-6060 x224 to discuss the Youth of the Year program and how you can get involved. You can also email him at jjackson@bgcmercer.org to express your interest in being a mentor.

If I can not be a Mentor, are there other Ways to Help?

There are lots of ways in which you could support our Teen programs without being a mentor

- Become a YOY Judge
- Host a table at our Fall College, Career & Job Fair
- Conduct a workshop at our annual Teen STEM Conference in November
- Be a Career Guest Speaker
- Assist in the Writing/Public Speaking workshops, Homework Help/Tutoring classes.
- Support our College Access program.

For more information about additional volunteer opportunities in the Teen Department Contact Fatima Scipio, Career & College Director at fscipio@bgcmercer.org or call her at (609) 695-6060 ext. 242

What is Expected of the Teens?

Project to be completed during the three month period include:

- Two Essays
- Preparing for a personal interview
- Preparing for a 2 minute oral presentation
- Developing their resume
- Asking for a reference

Youth who choose to enter into the Youth of the Year Competition must also:

- Youth of the Year application
- Copy of high school transcript
- One additional essays
- Present their oral speech in front an audience at the YOY event
- Prepare for the judges panel interview at the YOY event.

What happens at the Youth of the Year Event?

The event takes place on February 24th. It begins at 6:00 p.m. with a networking social for guests, nominees, and their families. The formal event starts at 7:00 pm with each Youth of the Year finalist making a two-minute presentation. By the end of the evening, the winner is announced.

Who attends the Youth of the Year Event?

Trustees and their guests, volunteer mentors, Boys & Girls Club staff members, Club supporters, teens, and parents attend the Youth of the Year event. All are welcome.

May I bring guests?

Yes. Please attend and feel free to invite anyone who is interested in learning more about the Boys & Girls Club. Reply by February 17 to nroberts@bgcmercer.org or call 609-392-3191 x123. There is no cost to attend.

