



Chebucto Connections Spryfield Pathways Volunteer Mentor Job Description



Chebucto Connections Spryfield Pathways to Education is a community based program designed to reduce poverty and its effect by lowering the dropout rate among high school students from economically disadvantaged communities. The program offers academic, social, financial, and advocacy support to youth in order to help them graduate high school and improve their access to post-secondary education and/or meaningful employment.

Overall Function:

- Assist students in the development of social skills and positive, healthy relationships with peers and adults through a wide variety of social, cultural, recreational and adventurous activities
- Promote a sense of belonging, individuality, identity, and self awareness through positive affirmation, self reflection, talent recognition, encouragement, empathy, active listening and constructive feedback
- Encourage positive risk-taking, stretching of comfort zones, and broadened perspectives through providing a non-judgemental/ safe space to explore new interests, ideas, cultures and activities
- Be a good role model and offer your talents, expertise and support

Specific Duties and Responsibilities:

- Commit to 2 hours from 4:15–6:15 or 6:15-8:15 PM one day a week from Monday to Thursday
- Pathways staff will supervise group mentoring activities with the support of volunteer mentors
- Communicate feedback to staff on mentoring activities, resources needs, and student issues
- If interested mentors can lead activities (artistic, social, and recreational pursuits) such as skating, swimming, cooking, crafts, music, theatre, debates, geocaching, rock climbing, hiking, etc.
- Ensure the safety and well being of all participants during mentoring activities and outings
- Engage in training opportunities and feedback sessions as provided by Pathways

Desired Skill Set:

- All mentor volunteers should be good adult role models who are committed to building capacity in youth
- Socially conscious individuals who champion diversity, equality, empowerment and poverty reduction
- Open-minded and fun-loving adults who want to share their time, wisdom and talents in exchange for youthful energy, vibrancy and creativity
- Professionals, university students, and caring adults with experience or an interest in mentoring youth
- Ability to work effectively within a team environment, problem solve and use common sense
- Ability to communicate with youth and other volunteers openly and without judgment
- Ability to establish a relationship based on shared responsibility and respect
- Caring, compassionate, patient, open minded and understanding

Commitment:

- Participation in the initial orientation and training (approximately 2-3 hours)
- Participation in ongoing training, as required
- To be available for a minimum of 2 hours every week during the school year (October to June) except during scheduled holidays and cancellations
- Participation in Pathways to Education program evaluation

Benefits:

- Making a positive and long-lasting impact on the life of a youth
- Recognition for your contributions, references, and letters of recommendation
- Excellent skills around supervision, motivation, and education of youth
- Experience interacting with youth and the opportunity to become a positive role model in young people's lives
- Opportunities for professional development and social interaction with other volunteers
- An opportunity to learn about best practices when working with youth

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