

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Check-in: Upon arrival go directly to the school office to sign in and receive a badge. (*don't forget to sign-out*)

What if I can't make it on my regular day: Please call or email the Program Coordinator to reschedule.

Phone use: Please turn off your cell phone prior to entering the school.

Can I bring someone with me: No, the mentor's focus needs to be on the assigned student.

Can I hug my mentee: No. Handshakes and "high-fives" are the only safe and friendly way to touch a child when volunteering.

Can I go visit my mentee outside of school: No. If additional school events are requested, it must come through the school staff and UWBFC Program Coordinator.

Should I go outdoors for recess with my mentee: You best know your capabilities and interests to go outdoors for recess and the interests/needs of your mentee. Be sure to consult the playground supervisor so you know the rules of what students can and cannot do on the playground.

Gift giving: It is not suggested that you bring gifts to your mentee. However, if you wish to acknowledge a special occasion (birthday or holiday) with a small gift it is a very thoughtful gesture and much appreciated by the child. Use your discretion. If you do give the child a gift, please make the school staff aware before you leave and remind the child to not play with it until they have returned home. The gift should be modest and inexpensive.

Confidentiality: It will be natural to discuss your mentoring experience with family and friends. Please remember to focus on YOUR experience – not the child's situation. As a volunteer, you must respect and maintain confidentiality of personal information obtained regarding a child or his/her family.

School Cancellations: If there is a 2-hour delay, we still run the program. If you're unable to travel safely please contact the school counselor. If school is cancelled there will be NO mentoring program that day.

Mandated reporting: As a school volunteer you are mandated to report certain information to authorities. If a child gives you information about something that seems harmful to them or someone else (physical abuse, emotional abuse, or sexual abuse) do not ask questions, just listen. After your visit immediately contact the school counselor to share the concern.

Reliability: A commitment made to a child is very important to keep. A child learns about "keeping one's word" by the actions of others. Keeping your commitment is a way of building a child's self-esteem. Being on time is important, especially since the lunch period is very short.

Can I attend my mentee's school concert or activities: As long as the activity is on school grounds during school hours, you are allowed to attend but do not make plans outside that framework. Approval from the school counselor is required for any school-sponsored event outside of lunch/recess.