



NATIVE MENTORING

Newsletter

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Get Ready to Celebrate National Mentoring Month

January marks the 16th annual **National Mentoring Month!** This event is endorsed by both chambers of the United States Congress and is sponsored by MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership.

Mentors engaging with youth on a regular basis can address and prevent issues such as absenteeism, behavioral problems, and low productivity. Mentors can play a major part in the lives of youth as well as provide them with a positive role model to look up to. Some of the best mentoring practices that have been used at Clubs include mentors being matched with specific youth, mentors meeting with mentee groups on a weekly basis, mentors finding natural connections with members of the Club, and more. It is not too early to begin planning for National Mentoring Month now. **A key focus of the month is recognizing and thanking mentors**, whether from the community, Club staff or youth who serve as peer mentors. Here are some ideas for your Club(s) to consider:



- Plan at least one special mentor appreciation event during January;
- Schedule a **Mentor One, Recruit One** reception and recognize the mentor who brings the most potential mentors;
- Ask mentees to send their mentors a thank you note during the month to express their gratitude;
- Feature mentors and mentees in newsletters and your Club's website;
- Write a note of thanks to mentors;
- Plan a mentor/mentee community service project during the month (maybe it is cleaning up outside the Club and planting trees or bulbs!) and ask for media coverage;
- January 4th is **I am A Mentor Day**; January 15th is **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service**; January 25th is **#ThankYourMentorDay**.

Use National Mentoring Month as an opportunity to find out which model works best for your Club and see how mentoring positively impacts your youth!

National Mentoring Month 2018 Toolkit

Even with great mentoring programs, Clubs often run into issues with recruitment and struggle to get the word out. January marks National Mentoring Month and the National Mentoring Month 2018 Toolkit is a great way to obtain ideas needed to bolster recruitment and spread the word about your OJP Mentoring Program!

Developed by MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership, this resource provides marketing and social media materials to promote your Club's success in mentoring during National Mentoring Month. The Toolkit also provides best practices to improve the visibility of your mentoring program in the community.

In the National Mentoring Month 2018 Toolkit, you will find statistics regarding the importance of mentoring, a calendar of campaign dates for National Mentoring Month, and resources that encourage social activism and a media presence.

One such example is the *In Real Life* campaign which takes real success stories and uses them to highlight the success of a positive mentoring relationship. In Real Life also focuses on the **#ThankYourMentor** campaign which gives mentees the opportunity to give their mentor a shout-out through social media, and the "Mentoring Flipped" video series that shows high-profile people being "mentored" by young people.



Celebrate National Mentoring Month by reviewing MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership's National Mentoring Month 2018 Toolkit.

The goal of the **National Mentoring Month 2018 Toolkit** is to encourage more adults to become mentors and to create more opportunities for involvement by young people in mentoring relationships.

The Toolkit also provides examples of successful performance measures that you can use to determine the impact of your promotion efforts. These include website traffic, donations as a result of your efforts, sign-ups for email lists, new followers on social media platforms, and more. Lastly, there are links to free and reliable platforms to track your success including Google Analytics, TweetDeck and Buffer.

All of these tools combined form an incredibly helpful resource that will give your Club an advantage when attempting to promote your OJP Mentoring Program during National Mentoring Month!

For more information about the [National Mentoring Month 2018 Toolkit](http://www.nationalmentoringmonth.org) and other mentoring resources, visit MENTOR's website at www.mentoring.org. Don't forget to use **#MentorIRL** when beginning your promotion efforts for your mentoring program!

OJP Federal Grants Management Presentation at 2017 Native Summit

BGCA's 2017 Native Summit was held on November 14-16, 2017 in Fort Myers, Florida. The Summit was host to a variety of workshops and sessions in which Club staff were able to participate and engage, including a presentation on Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Grants Management led by BGCA's National Vice President of Federal Grants, Perry Cooper.

This session discussed key programmatic and financial requirements of OJP National Mentoring Program Grants, including OJP grant cycle dates and programmatic emphasis on mentoring at-risk and high-risk youth. Other topic areas included grant/reporting requirements, activating a federal grant, filing financial reports, tracking data, and information on uniform guidance.



Perry Cooper, National Vice President of Federal Grants presents a session on OJP Federal Grants Management.

If you missed the session, here are a few key takeaways regarding the target population of OJP funding, and potential risk factors to be mindful of:

- Mentoring youth at-risk consists of at-risk youth, high-risk youth, and youth residing in high-risk environments, with two or more individual and/or environmental risk factors.
- **Individual risk factors include:** poor academic performance, peer difficulties, behavioral issues, drug abuse, delinquent activity, gang involvement/affiliation.
- **Environmental risk factors include:** Family stress, lack of or loss of an adult role model, incarcerated parent, neighborhood with concentrated poverty, neighborhood with high rates of parental incarceration, gang activity, failing schools, and/or community violence (bullying, fights among gangs or other groups, shootings in public areas and/or schools).
- The **Mentee Risk Profile Tool** will enable your organization to formalize and extend existing processes for adjusting mentoring services according to mentee risk levels, and also will allow your staff and mentors to determine which prevention programs will provide the best support to mentees.

Additional Resources

Mentoring at Boys & Girls Clubs distance learning course

The appropriate professional responsible for administering the mentoring programs at each OJP funded Club site is required to complete the Mentoring at Boys & Girls Clubs Distance Learning Course and to record participation in your quarterly online program reports submitted to BGCA. To learn more about how to access this course, please visit <http://www.BGCA.net>.

Contact your assigned Grants Specialist when you need assistance

As a reminder, a list of Grants Specialists can be found on the Federal Grants Department page of bgca.net. Additionally, you can also contact one of the Federal Grant Directors:

- **Leith Smith** (Grant Activation/Financial Reporting) - lsmith@bgca.org – 404-487-5749
- **Marie Gordon** (Program Reporting) - mgordon@bgca.org – 404-487-5942

Club Spotlight: Boys & Girls Club the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina Mentors and Mentees Create Prayer Ties for Safe Travels

Native Clubs from across the country traveled to attend BGCA's 2017 Native Summit. During the event, Club professionals gathered to share their cultures and learn new skills to bring back to their respective communities. During Wednesday night's Cultural Night Social, leaders from the Boys & Girls Club of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina handed out Prayer Ties to all Summit participants, blessing their travels home.

The Prayer Ties are given as invocations and prayers as part of customary tradition. In order to prepare the prayer ties to be distributed at the event, mentees and mentors participating in the OJP Mentoring Program at the Boys & Girls Club of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina learned about the "People of the Pines" (the Lumbee people) and the significances of the Prayer Ties to their ancestral heritage.

The mentees and mentors then went into their surrounding environment to gather pieces of river cane, flat cedar, pine needles and tobacco, all of which are tied together to make the final construction. Then they attached laminated cards to each Prayer Tie explaining each of the sacred parts that were used to make them.

With November also being Native American Heritage Month, the Boys & Girls Club of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina's generous gesture at the 2017 Native Summit really embodies the amazing spirit and rich traditions of Native communities. Moving forward with the help of Clubs like the Boys & Girls Club of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, the future of the Native Clubs is only looking brighter!



Club staff from the Boys & Girls Club of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina (from left to right): Tangelina Jerry, Reggie Brewer, Tangelina Jerry, and Chelse Hunt.



Prayer Ties prepared by mentors and mentees from the Boys & Girls Club of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina.

CONTACT US

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Kelly Baird
FirstPic, Inc.
2614 Chapel Lake Drive
Gambrills, MD 21054
Phone: (443) 302-2080
Email: kbaird@firstpic.org



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