

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the TON Youth Mentoring Program is to encourage our youth through a professionally supported one-to-one relationship with a caring adult, to engage our youth in positive activities involving community action, and to empower our youth to make healthy lifestyle choices where they can capitalize on their own inherent potential.



GRANT AWARD

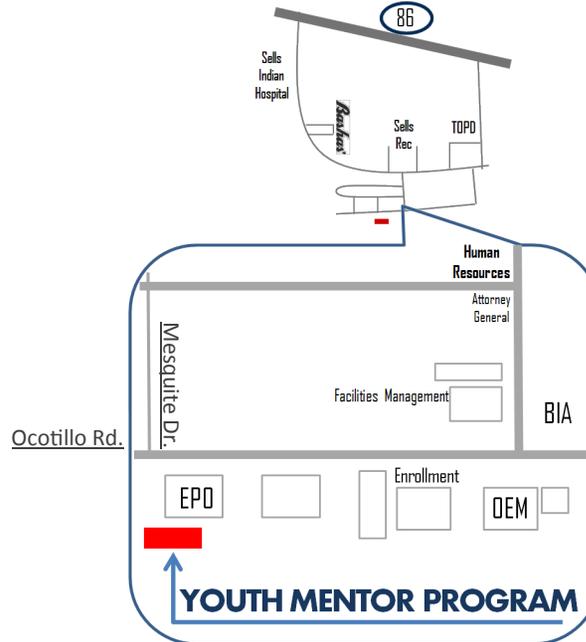
The Tohono O'odham Nation was granted an award from the Department of Justice/Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to form a youth mentor program that will target youth in 5th-8th grade in need of extra support and guidance. The program is under the Tohono O'odham Nation Police Department and will function as an intervention and prevention project known as **Project ILEAD** (*Inspiring Leadership, Enrichment, and Determination*) to decrease the rate of substance/drug abuse, gang violence and associated criminal misconduct among the Nation's youth.

PROJECT ILEAD INSPIRING LEADERSHIP, ENRICHMENT, AND DETERMINATION

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

CONTACT US:

- FOR A MENTOR APPLICATION
- TO REFER A YOUTH
- MORE INFORMATION



Tohono O'odham Nation Police Department Youth Mentor Program

PO BOX 189
Sells, Arizona 85634
Phone: 520-383-4354
Fax: 520-393-4352

TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION

Youth Mentor Program



Tel: (520) 383-4354



MENTORING WORKS!!

Research shows that quality mentoring can make a difference in the life of a youth. Help make a difference in the lives of our wechij hemajkam. Call Tohono O'odham Nation Youth Mentor Program for more information.

ELIGIBILITY AND COMMITMENTS

MENTORS

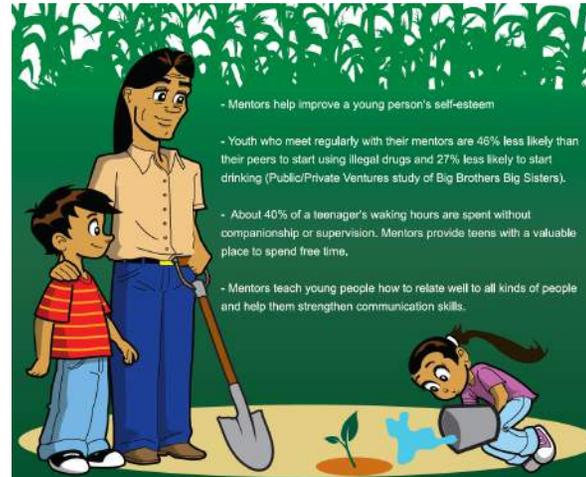
- **SEEKING AMAZING VOLUNTEER MENTORS!!!**
- Be at least 21 years of age
- Agree to a one-year commitment to the program
- Be willing to complete the application and background screening process
- Be willing to spend a minimum of two hours a month with the youth
- Have access to an automobile or reliable transportation
- Have a valid driver's license and good driving record

YOUTH

- Enrolled Tohono O'odham member
- Student in 5th to 8th grade attending Indian Oasis Elementary School or Baboquivari Middle School.
- Reside within the Tohono O'odham Nation
- Agree to a one-year commitment to the program
- Commit to spending a minimum of two hours a month with the Mentor

What is Mentoring?

Mentoring is a structured, consistent and purposeful relationship between a young person and a caring adult who provides acceptance, support, encouragement, guidance and concrete assistance to foster positive youth development.



Research shows that mentoring:

- Enhances academic motivation and achievement
- Improves school attendance
- Reduces the likelihood of drug use
- Reduces the likelihood of violence
- Increases bonding at school and at home

Public/Private Ventures. *Making a Difference: An Impact of Big Brothers Big Sisters* (2000)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How will I be matched with a Youth?

A: Mentor pairs will be matched based on age, gender, interests, location, and need.

Q: How long will the mentoring relationship last?

A: Mentors and Youth participating in program must pledge to a one-year commitment.

Q: What is the typical background of a Youth participating in the program?

A: Youth will have varied backgrounds. They are usually experiencing a challenging period in their lives and are in need of support and stability.

Q: What do I do with my Youth?

A: Mentors focus on different activities (cultural, recreational, and educational) based on the interests of the Mentor and Youth. Some activities may include hiking, cooking, sports, scrapbooking, helping with homework or just hanging out. What a Youth needs more than anything is someone who is willing to listen and cares enough to be there consistently.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM WILL BE BASED ON REFERRALS SOLICITED FROM TEACHERS, GUIDANCE COUNSELORS, PARENTS/GUARDIANS, COURTS, GROUP HOMES, AND OTHER CHILD SERVICE PROGRAMS. MENTORS ARE EXPECTED TO COMMUNICATE EVERY OTHER WEEK WITH THE YOUTH (E-MAIL, LETTER, PHONE CALL, ETC.) AND SPEND A MINIMUM OF TWO HOURS A MONTH WITH THE YOUTH TO ENGAGE IN A POSITIVE ACTIVITY. MENTORS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND MENTOR TRAININGS BEFORE AND AFTER BEING MATCHED WITH A YOUTH.