Chicago Youth Centers and the Mentoring Program

Chicago Youth Centers (CYC) was founded in 1956. CYC invests in youth in underserved communities in Chicago to help them discover and realize their full potential. CYC is Chicago's largest independent, locally based, multi-site youth services organization. The mentoring program serves both school-aged youth and youth with one or both parents in prison.

Chicago Youth Centers Locations

Volunteers are needed most at the following locations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Centers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humboldt Park</td>
<td>North Lawndale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridgeport</td>
<td>Bronzeville</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Shore</td>
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During the School Year: Mon-Fri, 2:30-8:00pm.
During the Summer: Mon-Fri, 9:00am-6:00pm.

21st Century After-School Programs

| South Loop               | Bronzeville |
| South Shore              |          |

During the School Year: Mon-Fri, 2:30-6:00pm

Why be a mentor?

You can find meaning in your life as a mentor. Whoever you are—a professional with a busy schedule, a college student beginning to chart your future, a faith-based community member wanting to serve, or a retiree with available time—you can make a difference.

Who benefits from your time & effort?

- The child: your time and energy can change the life of a young person for the better.
- The entire community: every time a young person is helped to succeed we all benefit.
- You: research shows mentoring has a positive effect on the volunteer, and volunteers report they get back as much or more than they give.

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Mentoring a child opens your eyes and opens their future.

We make it easy.

Our experienced staff supports you through the entire process and helps you develop and maintain a friendship with your mentee. And you don't need to spend too much time thinking of things to do. We connect you to activities and provide FREE tickets to sporting events, amusement parks and educational programs. In addition, CYC provides FREE use of its gym, computer lab, and art park. CYC also provides scholarship programs and summer go-away camp.

Become a mentor today!

Chicago Youth Centers
Mentoring Office
3947 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60653
773-268-3815
mentoring@chicagoyouthcenters.org
chicagoyouthcenters.org

Mentor Today. Change Tomorrow.
What does it take to be a mentor?
If you can give just a few hours a week of being yourself and being a friend, you can be a mentor. You are eligible to be a mentor if you are:

- At least 18 years old (16 for Site-Based programs)
- A positive role model and consistent friend
- Willing to share new experiences with a young person

Other Volunteer Opportunities
If you can’t make a commitment to long-term mentoring (several hours a month for a minimum of one year), you can still become involved in the following ways:

- Homework assistance and tutoring
- Career and college readiness activities such as ACT/SAT preparation, mock-interviewing, and applying to colleges and jobs
- Prepare and lead recreational activities such as arts/crafts, dance, yoga and DJ academy
- And many other areas where you can make a contribution

Getting involved is easy—just call 773-268-3815 today!
1. Complete an application.
2. Be interviewed and trained.
3. Complete the background check process.
Then, start volunteering!

Mentoring Works!
Study after study confirms that youth who have a positive mentoring relationship are:

- Less likely to use illegal drugs or alcohol, skip school, skip a class, or hit someone
- More confident of their performance in schoolwork
- Better able to get along with their families

Mentoring changes the future—for you, the child, and your community.
You can help change Chicago’s future by becoming a mentor with Chicago Youth Centers (CYC) Mentoring Programs. You can participate in one of two successful CYC programs that have a dramatic and positive impact on the communities in which we live:

1) Site- and School-Based Mentoring Programs
For children participating in CYC programs.
Mentors provide CYC youth ages 9-13 years old with the necessary guidance and support to become productive members of their communities. Mentors meet with their mentees at their school or CYC center once a week for a couple of hours after school during the academic year. Together, you’ll do homework, play interactive games, learn a new skill, or play sports together.

2) Making Mentoring Meaningful
For children of incarcerated parents.
Youth ages 4 to 17 years old whom have an incarcerated parent are matched with caring and dedicated mentors. Mentors meet with their mentees two to four times a month for a couple of hours for at least one year.
Activities include going to the park, the zoo, the library, shopping, doing laundry, doing homework, going to a museum or sporting event or even practicing to become the next American Idol!

Make the world a better place, one child at a time.

Success story: Couple’s Match Carly & Steve with Arvier
Couple’s Match Carly and Steve report: “We have been so fortunate to get to know our mentee, Arvier, age 10, over this past year. We have found him to be a remarkable young man from the very onset—always excited about our outings, happy to have new friends to share his experiences with, and interested in learning about our lives as well.”

“Mentors are truly supported through activities designed by CYC to develop the mentee/mentor relationship. CYC also provides free tickets to events that would otherwise be cost prohibitive—such as a Black Hawk’s game, a Cub’s Game, a Bulls’ game, several Sox games, and Arvier’s favorite, the Kooza Cirque du Soleil event! As mentors, we have found our experience to be a truly rewarding one. Whether our outings with Arvier involve big events or just relaxing together for a night of Scrabble, all three of us know that our time together has made a lasting and positive impact on all of our lives.”