Sunburst Youth Academy is instilling 8 core components into the lives of at-risk youth:

- **Academic Excellence**
- **Job Skills**
- **Physical Fitness**
- **Leadership/Followership**
- **Health & Hygiene**
- **Life Coping Skills**
- **Responsible Citizenship**
- **Service to Community**

As a mentor, you will serve as a positive role model and friend, striving for mutual respect and building the self-esteem & motivation of your mentee. You will help set life goals while guiding and encouraging your mentee to accomplish them.

Do you have what it takes to be a Sunburst mentor?

- At least 25 years of age
- Employed, attending school or retired
- Must pass a background check
- Possess a valid driver’s license
- Commit to the entire 17½ months
- Be a good role model

**Mission Statement:**

To intervene and reclaim the lives of 16-18 year old high school drop outs; to produce program graduates with the values, life skills, education & self discipline necessary to succeed as productive citizens.

For additional information:

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Mentoring is the key to the success of the Youth ChalleNGe Program. The ChalleNGe mentoring model is a "friendly match" in which the youth identifies someone who will be a friend and support system for him or her during the 12-month post-residential phase. This ensures that mentors will play an ongoing role in the student's life, in the Program, and very often, beyond.

Potential mentors are screened and trained prior to being matched with a student mid-way through the residential phase. Mentors are required to have four monthly contacts with the cadet and one meeting in person. Mentors and students discuss the student's future plans and spend off-site time together, often providing service to the community or exploring job and school options.

However, not all students are able to identify a friendly match, so the programs are often in need of additional mentors. Only half of the programs currently have enough mentors to assign to each student.

Q&A

What is the benefit of being a mentor?
Aside from possibly gaining lifelong friends, being a mentor provides a priceless opportunity of being a part of the personal growth and success of an at-risk teenager.

What will I be doing?
Attending Mentor Training, maintaining contact with mentee via schedule phone calls, letters and visitation, demonstrating professional and personal ethics and values at all times.

How long is my obligation?
17 ½ months at minimum but you may find yourself keeping in touch with your mentee for a lifetime. The Residential Phase consists of 5 ½ months of mentor training, phone calls, letters and visitation. The Post-Residential Phase consists of 12 months of maintaining a minimum of 4 hours of contact with your mentee, providing guidance and support as they conquer life outside of Sunburst.

What type of activities can I do with my mentee?
Study groups, sports events, and college tours, provide assistance with job applications, educational field trips, service to community projects or even something as simple as having a meal together.

Where can I get help when my mentee struggles?
Please utilize your mentee’s RPM Case Manager should you encounter any issues or concerns regarding your mentee. Sunburst wants all of our graduates to succeed and our support is never-ending.