SAIL/UO Mentoring Program Information Guide

Program Background:
The SAIL Program began in the Summer of 2005 in an effort to assist lower-income, often first generation teenagers, in seeking out higher education. SAIL is aimed at increasing awareness and familiarity for students and families to believe in and find ways to make college happen. In 2011, SAIL created a unique, structured academic-based mentorship program that will be offered on high school campuses. The program design includes activities that offer academic support for all subjects, SAT skills training/practice as well as scholarship essay & college application assistance.

Program goals include:
- Additional academic support for all high school subjects
- SAT skills/training & practice opportunities
- College application assistance
- Help with Scholarship essays
- Improving confidence
- Empowering youth to take responsibility for their own futures

Length of the Program:
Fall, Winter & Spring terms (Mentors are strongly encouraged to volunteer for the school year)

The Mentor Program:
The SAIL program is not focused on developing friendships with students but on offering assistance with goal setting through academic support, goal setting processes and encouragement. Mentors may find themselves working on academic tutoring, ACT/SAT practice, communication skills, college searches, scholarship exploration, assisting with college essays, job exploration...
The SAIL Mentoring Program is free to all who participate. Funding comes from the SAIL Program. Mentors may also be asked to be available for any additional mentor trainings and SAIL events such as student panel presentations, campus tour events or dinners.

*College credit is available for mentors with Dept. Head approval.

Expectations of the Mentors:
- 2 hours weekly
- Track interactions with high school students and EMAIL these weekly to the Director for SAIL: laraf@uoregon.edu
- If unable to meet with your mentee, call Lara Fernandez, the SAIL Program Director, by the appropriate time, to tell her of my absence so that she can contact the school. 541-346-8378 or 541-225-8394.
• Be on time!
• Act in a positive and appropriate manner
• Do not talk about inappropriate subjects (i.e. skipping classes, drinking/drugs, dating relationships, or partying) in the presence of my mentee.
• Always stay within areas that are visible to other adults and will not take my mentee off of my assigned site's grounds or into a vehicle. Do not see my mentee outside of this commitment
• Attend periodic reflection and/or training sessions with other mentors that will be facilitated by professors and the SAIL program staff.
• Cell phone use and texting are not allowed during mentoring program
• Mentors will be instructed to develop supportive roles for these students that is to remain only on SHS campus during the mentorship scheduled hours. Outside contact is discouraged between mentors and high school students. Do not give out personal contact information including phone numbers, texting, email or facebooking.
• ANY concerns about your mentee's well being, talk directly with the site coordinator, Karen Wiant or Lara Fernandez, @ 541-346-8378 or 541-225-8394. (**Please do this in person or via phone-no email**)

There is a zero tolerance policy on illegal substance use or possession and weapon use or possession at the SAIL Mentoring Program.

**Confidentiality for Mentors**

As a mentor, you will likely learn a lot about the private matters of your mentee and his/her family. There will be times when you want to talk to roommates, friends or relatives about what is happening in your relationship with the mentee or what you know. This is where confidentiality comes in.

PLEASE...
Remember that Eugene is "small town America." You never know when you are talking to someone's cousin, sister-in-law, neighbor, co-worker, babysitter, significant other, pet groomer, etc...
A person who has probably had a very difficult time trusting many people in his/her life has entrusted you with private information. Please respect the family's right to keep some matters private. If you need to talk, call or make arrangement to see your site coordinator, Lara Fernandez. Things can be worrisome, shocking, annoying, etc and it is understandable that you need to process this information. We ask that you do so in the appropriate and mature manner.

HOWEVER... confidentiality does not prevent you from disclosing information or evidence of a harmful situation for you or your mentee TO THE APPROPRIATE PEOPLE. Situations that cause you to be uncomfortable inhibit your ability to fulfill your mentor role and will be addressed. And it is the LAW that you report all cases of potential abuse.
Consider the SAIL staff as part of your support system. Your friends and family do not have the whole picture or the contact with the family, so their input, however well-intentioned, is not going to be the most useful. The professionals that make up the SAIL staff are trained in the skills and resources to best help your mentee.

GUIDELINES FOR CHILD ABUSE DISCLOSURE
TELL THE SCHOOL/CENTER COUNSELOR!!!! In Oregon, any suspicion of abuse or neglect which occurred to anyone under 18 years old MUST be reported to the Dept. of Human Services. We ask that you contact your site coordinator or Lara Fernandez as soon as possible to report your suspicions. These professionals will then make a report to DHS. This allows the school to follow the investigation of the report and assist you, the child and DHS in any way.
Please understand that once this step is taken, further information may not be available to the mentor for confidentiality reasons. Please respect this. The SAIL staff honestly does have the best of intentions to help these children and will exhaust every possible avenue to do everything possible to improve the situation for the child.
Sometimes the child will tell the mentor about incidents that may be child abuse. This happens because mentors are trusted adults and the children feel safe in asking for help.
The child may not come right out and say what happened but indicators may point to abuse. It is up to the authorities to determine what actually happened.