

Grand Area Mentoring Mentor Survey 2016/2017

17 Respondents

Survey Instructions: Respond to the statements below by circling how much or how little you agree with each on a scale from 1 (absolutely disagree) to 10 (absolutely agree). Circle N/A if you don't know or can't answer.

Dear mentor,

Your input is important to us. Please take a minute to complete this survey. Thanks a million! **Dan & Megan**

My mentee or mentees I know...

Disagree ← → Agree %
agree

1. show improved social skills with peers and adults.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8.4	9	10	100%
2. demonstrate better listening and communication skills.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8.2	9	10	100%
3. are more cooperative.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8.6	9	10	100%
4. make better decisions.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8.3	9	10	100%
5. are happier.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7.8	8	9	10	100%
6. show improved self-control.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8.6	9	10	100%
7. seem more motivated.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8.3	9	10	100%
8. demonstrate greater understanding of others' feelings.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	88%

9. How would you describe mentoring to someone who is considering becoming a volunteer for Grand Area Mentoring?

A chance to offer a relationship to a kid that can help foster their growth, development, school participation, and just have fun and have a friend.

Mentoring is a great opportunity to have a positive impact on a child. It is super rewarding!

As a great way to be a part of the community!

Mentoring is like being a friend who is a positive influence for their mentee. You just spend time together and talk and maybe plant some seeds for positive behavior/life skills.

The best decision I've made all year!

Enriching a deserving students life and your own life.

A time to "play" / be a kid again

Building intentional connection with our community's youth to fight intergenerational trauma – provide support to kids in need of an adult they can trust.

Mentoring is an easy and fun way that you can give back to your community and ensure happier, more successful future generations.

Mentoring is a great chance to be a positive adult influence for a Grand County student. Really fun, empowering feeling.

The mentor spends one hour of fun time with a child. The child benefits by doing better in school and life.

A chance to make a difference in someone's life through friendship and positive reinforcement.

It's not only rewarding; it's fun! Your mentee will never forget you, even in his/her latter teen years.

Spending time with a child who needs extra time spent!

Grand Area Mentoring is an outstandingly run program that empowers children in need, as well as adults volunteering to spend time with them, to improve their lives by being together.

It is fun and incredibly rewarding.

It's so much fun. Really rewarding.

10. What was one mentoring success story or positive outcome you witnessed this year?

Had a mentee that described himself as "not good at math," and after playing Backgammon several times, talking in detail about numbers, probability, risk/reward, etc., and having him beat me up pretty badly on occasion in the game, based on his strategy and use of math, he realized, "Maybe I'm not so bad a math." Even though his test score was below grade level, he saw something positive there and made a connection.

My mentee continues to grow in her ability to use her communication skills. I observed this while I went with her during fundraising activities.

My mentee said, "Hello, MY NAME!" when he came up to me today.

I only started mentoring in March, so I haven't heard/witnessed too much yet.

She started asking me questions.

Seeing my mentee so willingly sharing with others and expressing gratitude.

I love it when both of my mentees break into a big smile when we see each other on mentoring day.

Excitement and buy-in from a kid I've experienced as shut down and disinterested in school.

My mentee smiles more now than during the first year of mentoring.

My mentee has shown a lot of skills with puzzles and mechanical brain activities. He checks in about behaviors. [With a little help from me] my other mentee won a scholarship to Outward Bound!

Remembering to say thank you. Initiating invitations to join in our activity and willingness to ask others if she can join.

One of mentees has made great strides in social skills and has developed empathy and the ability to reason things through. The other one has made new friends and is happy at this school.

When my mentee said she wanted us both to be happy!

The sad, traumatized girl I'd been struggling to engage with because interested in earning rewards by working at a new job. Her job was straightening up the mentor room and organizing the shelves. She stated smiling, talking, and interacting. Her hard work paid off; she bought a toy and gained self-esteem.

Playing the "Bully Game;" we got to talk about real things. He opened up!

Dealing with anger issues – talking it through instead of reacting.

11. What do you find most challenging about mentoring? Or what is a typical challenge you face?

Sometimes I wish I had more time to spend or could meet longer or more often.

Trying to find a way to get my mentee to share about difficult times at home. I sometimes sense that there are troubles, but I am not 100% sure. But maybe coming to mentoring and having fun is better than spending an hour on negative things? Does that make sense?

My mentee's attitude/willingness to engage varies week to week. He seems to be doing better these last two weeks. I can find it difficult to get him to respond to me.

The challenge I've faced the most so far is getting my mentee to remember to let me know when she can't make our sessions. But I know that will hopefully come with time and patience.

Trying to fit our mentoring sessions into her lunch break.

Getting mentee to slow down and to dispose of garbage properly.

Sometimes other mentees begin these long, involved stories about their lives, and I have a hard time finding a pause in the conversation – and then finding a polite way to get back to my mentee. (I now it's fairly common with younger children – Just haven't found a good way to stop their run-on sentence.)

My challenge is only getting an hour a week with my mentee.

My mentee does not show many emotions and does not seem excited for mentoring. I'm just hoping that she does get something out of it because I do.

Meetings come up occasionally and I need to change times, which I know is difficult for my mentee. Not always happy to see me, but we end up having fun 😊

Not enough time. Hard to end a fun activity.

I just try to go with the flow. My mentees have been very good at accepting that my energy/mobility is not as high as theirs.

The hour is too short! And behaviors that need to be relearned, not necessarily with my mentee.

Motivating children to want to change. My biggest struggle is figuring out the key to getting girls with ingrained negative behaviors to want to behave in more productive ways. This is also my greatest challenge and reward when good things happen!

Mentoring during lunch! Could we find a way to mentor after school next year?

When thinking about program support, I feel that Grand Area Mentoring staff...

(Rating scale: 1 = not at all, 2 = a little, 3 = mostly, 4 = very much, N/A = not applicable)

- 3.7** 12. Understood the situations I faced with my mentee.
- 3.7** 13. Taught me how to handle difficult situations that arise in mentoring.
- 3.7** 14. Physically went with me during challenging mentoring situation(s).
- 3.6** 15. Provided information to help me think about my relationship.
- 3.6** 16. Helped me feel better when I experienced difficulty with my mentee.
- 3.8** 17. Suggested activities to do with my mentee.
- 3.7** 18. Noticed when I was working hard at being a good mentor.
- 3.6** 19. Helped me evaluate my feelings and attitudes about my mentee.
- 3.6** 20. Taught me skills that I could use in mentoring.
- 3.6** 21. Provided opportunities for me to reflect on my mentoring experience.

22. How could Grand Area Mentoring help you be a better mentor?

You did such a great job! I felt very supported!

I think if I go to more of the talks Grand Area Mentoring lets me know about via the emails, I can learn more skills for mentoring.

Nothing – you guys are awesome. Thank you!

Weaving loom and stitching cards.

Maybe a couple of basketballs at HMK

I am unavailable to attend trainings due to the time they are offered.

You guys are doing great!

Dan and Megan hit every one of these on the head! Grand Area Mentoring has helped me so much and given me so many opportunities for growth, along with support. It's dazzling!

If it is ever possible to do 5pm trainings

Popsicle sticks

Keep up the trainings and one-on-one support

The training was great. I just could use more time, which will happen next year.

My mentee requests more Legos!

23. What supplies, games, equipment, or craft materials would you like Grand Area Mentoring to provide, replace, or replenish?

Everything is great!

Maybe a basketball or volleyball.

Pipe cleaners. More jewelry making supplies.

Books to read – Can we use the library? Info on community partners to visit off campus

Bases (for baseball)

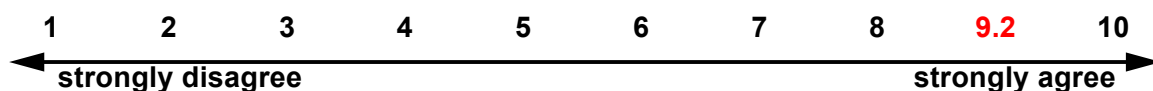
Glue dots, paint, brushes, glue sticks

Clay or play-doh

A pair of scissors that will cut fabric.

“Craft marks” (?)

24. The school where I mentor is a welcoming place to volunteer.



Comments:

Lots of smiles in the hallways from other adults

HMK staff is REALLY friendly.

Great school, great kids, great program

Everyone on staff I've come into contact with has been remarkably friendly and helpful.

25. Would you like to add anything else?

Great management. If there is anyone else willing to co-meet, without making it a huge deal, I would support a monthly mentor hangout at Rotary Park over the summer. Second Tuesday of month or something.

I am very grateful to have Dan and Megan ☺ – so loving and caring!

Thanks!

I am still really new to mentoring and get nervous about it, but Dan and Megan have been supportive the whole way. They make me feel like I can be a great mentor for the Grand County community.

Thanks for this terrific opportunity.

Thank you for being so loving, supportive, and honest ☺

<3 Thanks for all you do!

I plan on mentoring anywhere I go, it's so rewarding and the research can't be denied. Great, simple way to help kids succeed.

Thanks for all you do!

Love it. Thanks!

Perhaps a volunteer with time and expertise could perform additional fundraising on a local level to support the program.

Can't wait for next year!

You guys are great!!!

Thanks for your feedback!