



Asian American LEAD

Leadership Empowerment and Development for Youth and Families

AALEAD Mentoring Program Factsheet

Asian American LEAD (AALEAD) promotes the wellbeing of Asian American youth and families through education, leadership development and community building.

Founded in 1998, AALEAD supports underserved Asian American youths, families, and the Asian American community. AALEAD provides a holistic combination of educational programs, mentoring, family support, and leadership training. Currently, AALEAD serves the Asian American community in Washington, D.C. and the Wheaton and Silver Spring area of Montgomery County, Maryland.

In order to help underserved youths succeed, AALEAD provides wrap-around services; we work with the individual, the parents, and the schools. Our programs include an after school program for elementary and middle school children, a high school program and tutoring program for teenagers, a mentoring program, educational advocacy and the family strengthening program. Staff and volunteers in all programs work together as a team to address the needs of each student.

Our mentoring program matches Asian American Youth (10-18) with caring adults who support them one-on-one in their efforts to develop the academic and life skills necessary to succeed.

Roles of a mentor Mentors may take on many roles, depending on their mentees' age and needs. They do some of the following:

- Have fun doing new activities together
- Provide academic support
- Model behavior
- Listen carefully to their mentees concerns
- Enhance their mentees' belief in their own potential
- Advocate for their mentees' needs
- Open doors of opportunity

Mentor Qualifications AALEAD mentors must be:

- Committed to making a difference in a young person's life
- Able to act as a role model
- Open-minded and willing to share and learn
- Willing to act as a volunteer under the supervision of AALEAD
- Over the age of 18
- Pass Background and Reference Checks

Commitment AALEAD requires that mentors commit to meeting with their mentees at least six hours a month for a minimum of one year. We want to emphasize that any commitment less than five months is not what AALEAD is looking for in a long and lasting relationship between the mentee and mentor.

Meeting places and times are decided by mentor and mentee (weekday afternoons/evenings or weekends). In return, AALEAD commits to providing you with the support and resources you need to learn and develop as a good mentor, and to ensure that the relationship is rewarding to both you and your mentee.



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All new volunteers are given an orientation. During the course of your mentoring relationship, you must submit mentor logs (a brief synopsis of each session) to the mentoring program staff on a monthly basis. You will also be invited to attend quarterly mentor/mentee group activities, usually held on Saturdays.

Application Process

1. Schedule an interview (Bring your application, driver's license or other identification [passport, green card], and vehicle insurance card ,if you plan to transport your mentee in your car, to the interview)
2. AALEAD will process your application
3. Attend mentor orientation training
4. The matching process begins
5. Meet your mentee and mentee's family!

Volunteer Screening and Interview In order to ensure that the volunteers we recruit are suitable matches for the youths we serve, AALEAD carefully screens each potential mentor.

First, we invite you to a personal interview. The purpose of the interview is to answer any questions you may have and to learn enough about you to start the process of matching you with a young person. Before starting the matching process, we contact character references and conduct criminal background checks, including motor vehicle checks (if you plan to transport your mentee in your car). Finally, if accepted into the program, we invite you to attend orientation training, match you with a student, and introduce you to the family.

Contact for Mentoring:

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