



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the total time commitment of the mentors?

We ask that a mentor spend four to six hours a month, for one year, with the mentee.

2. What are the eligibility requirements for the mentor?

We are looking for loving, caring adults who are willing to spend time with one child for one year to help change their life and break the chain of their prison heritage.

3. What is the time commitment outside of the required one hour one-to-one weekly time commitment with the mentee?

There will occasionally be group activity opportunities for mentors and mentees to enjoy the fellowship of other Amachi matches. Knoxville Leadership Foundation will coordinate group activities at no expense to the mentor or mentee.

4. Where do I meet with my Amachi child?

Meetings may be in their home, pre-selected communities sites such as the library, zoo, skating rink, museum, movies, shopping, church, etc.

5. What type of support and assistance will the mentor have?

Each mentor will be supported and assisted by *Amachi Knoxville* at least once a month or more as needed.

6. What expenses are involved in mentoring?

The Amachi Mentor carries no financial responsibility for his/her Amachi child. The focus is on spending time, not money, with a child. However, if a Mentor invites his/her mentee to a sporting event, movie, lunch, etc., the Mentor will carry the expense for that particular activity. Periodically, *Amachi Knoxville* will provide free or discount tickets to events/activities for the children and their mentors.

7. What insurance coverage is necessary? What, if any, are the liability issues?

Knoxville Leadership Foundation provides insurance coverage.

8. How are the mentors prescreened?

Mentors are prescreened by *Amachi Knoxville* via reference checks and face-to-face interviews. You are then matched with a child based on the interests of both the child and the Mentor.

9. Are there cross-gender matches?

In general we do not have cross-gender matches. There have been some exceptions where a female mentor could be matched with a male mentee less than 10 years of age. We will never have a male mentor/female mentee match.

10. What types of activities do the mentor and mentee participate in on a normal basis?

The first rule of any relationship is to HAVE FUN! But in addition to having fun together, you and your Amachi child can:

- Discuss positive career and life experiences
- Exchange thoughts and observations about experiences in the workplace
- Engage in activities that support your Amachi child's educational goals
- Participate in group recreational activities and events
- Come up with activities on your own that are based on your mutual interests.

11. What type of training is provided?

Once you have been interviewed and your paperwork processed, a two-hour mandatory mentor training session is required. On-going training and support will also be provided.

12. How can I sign up to be an Amachi Mentor?

If you would like to be an Amachi Mentor, please contact Danita McCartney, Mentoring Initiatives Director at (865) 524-2774 or dmccartney@kif.org.

13. What difference can one-to-one mentoring make?

National research has shown that mentoring works to break the cycle of low achievement and delinquent behavior among high-risk youth. Specifically, youth mentored:

- Are 52% less likely to skip school;
- 46% less likely to begin using drugs;
- 27% less likely to begin using alcohol;
- 33% less likely to engage in violent behavior when compared to similar at-risk youth;
- Show measurable and sustained improvements in school performance; and
- Confidence and relationships with peers and adults.