

KANSAS MENTORS

Gold Star Program



What is Gold Star?

The Kansas Mentors Gold Star program was developed during 2008 in an effort to provide a safe and effective mentoring environment for the youth of Kansas. This program recognizes mentoring partners across the state who have committed to maintaining a high set of standards to ensure a quality mentoring experience. Developed by Kansas Mentors and its Council of Mentors, these standards reflect guidelines set forth in MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership's *Elements of Effective Practice (EEP)*. Based on the latest mentoring policies, practices, experiences and research the EEP serves as the "gold standard" for mentoring.

Why Complete Gold Star?

Recognition as a Gold Star program communicates to the state your organization's commitment to quality mentoring. Kansas Mentors encourages all programs to go through the Gold Star application process. The Gold Star Quality Mentoring System will help create benchmarks of current quality practices, which in turn, allow the field to improve future practices. In addition, programs who go through the Gold Star process will:

- ◆ Participate in a **FREE**, nationally studied process
- ◆ Receive **FREE** training and technical assistance throughout Gold Star process
- ◆ Demonstrate program's commitment to excellence to potential mentors, funders, parents and community partners
- ◆ Identify current practice areas that could be more effective
- ◆ Be eligible for more funding opportunities (ie: Gold Star programs given priority in KM/KVC grant competitions)
- ◆ Participate in the **State Employee Mentoring** program (only eligible to Gold Star programs)

"We take the responsibility of creating life-changing friendships seriously, and our top priority is the safety and well-being of the children in our programs. Being considered a Kansas Mentors Gold Star program is an incredibly rewarding and positive testament to our efforts."

-Big Brothers Big Sisters of Salina

Getting Started

Steps to attaining Gold Star are as follows:

1. Contact KM Director to discuss interest and develop MOU.
2. Fill out Gold Star Registration Form
3. Fill out the Benchmarks Checklist that matches your mentoring program model (one-to-one or group)
4. Include documentation for each Benchmark and submit to KM
5. KM Director and/or review committee will review the application
6. Applicant will participate in a Clarification Questions phase
7. Upon review of Clarification Questions, KM Director will write a Recommendations and Review form
8. Program will either be approved for Gold Star or given a list of areas for improvement

