

Training Activity #11

WRAP-UP—THE MENTORING MONUMENT

(Recommended for third grade and above)

Objective: To summarize the bulk of the content covered in the training session and to get the youth thinking about all the different things that go into good mentoring

Materials: Mentees will need a bag of items, which may include drinking straws, cotton balls, crayons, colored paper, magazines, tape, paper clips, glue, rubber bands, and/or other assorted items that may be available. Paper bags, one for every two participants. Incentive prizes will be needed for each participant in the winning pairs, usually about six prizes. Also needed are instructions for each table, a sample of which can be found on the next page.

Time: This exercise usually takes 30 minutes.

Process: A variation of this exercise can be done with teams of 3 to 8 participants if you have a large group or if you want to emphasize team-building principles.

- Prior to the exercise fill each bag with an assortment of the materials gathered for the exercise. Put them where each pair can get one bag. Do not put the exact same items in each bag.
- Open the exercise with a discussion about all the things you've covered in the session (the program history, the staff, the mentor's role, communication skills, the mentee's responsibilities, etc.). Explain that all of those things come together to make their mentoring relationship work. Ask them to build a statue or monument that represents how all these concepts work together (string can be used to connect items, illustrating "connections" or "communication" in the relationship; other materials can be used to make a strong "foundation" for the relationship; etc.)
- Make sure each participant has a copy of the instructions and review these with them. Introduce the judges and address any questions.
- After the allotted time, usually around 20 minutes, ask each pair to present their creation and tell how it represents all the concepts talked about in the training.

- Then ask the judges to select the winning pairs and announce their winners. Prizes can be awarded in a number of categories, such as most creative, most concepts represented, most colorful, etc.

Summary Discussion: As prizes are being awarded, reiterate the points made throughout the training. This is your chance to drive home key points, calm any fears the kids may still have, and make sure that everyone is ready for the next steps in the program. And it gives the whole group a chance to have some messy fun at the end of what probably seemed like a long training to them.

Activity Worksheet:

BUILDING THE "MENTORING MONUMENT"

For the next 20 minutes, join with a partner to create a sculpture that represents...

ALL THE IMPORTANT STUFF WE'VE TALKED ABOUT TODAY

The objective of this activity is to build a creation that shows how all the concepts and information we've covered today relate to one another. Build a monument that reflects all the things that go into good mentoring relationships.

On your table you will find a bag of supplies you and a partner can use to create this piece of art. The other pairs have a bag of supplies as well. Their supplies may have items in them that are different from yours and that are of interest to your partnership. Feel free to see if other pairs will trade with you if you want to use some of their tools and/or materials.

At 12:50 our judges—Bob, Sally and John—will select three winning pairs. One team will win for the most creative structure. One will win for the tallest self-supporting structure. One will win for the most unusual structure. If you have any questions, feel free to ask any of the staff.

GOOD LUCK!