

## **Training Activity #9**

### **MENTEE PANEL**

*(Recommended for fourth grade and above)*

---

**Objective:** To give mentees an opportunity to find out from other youth what the mentoring experience was really like and for them to hear the positive things that a mentor can do for them. It gives them the chance to see the impact the program had on past participants.

**Materials:** A table, one chair for each mentee

**Time:** 15–20 minutes

**Process:**

Prior to the training –

- Solicit volunteers from your past or current groups of mentees. Ideally, these should be youth who are slightly older than the youth being trained. This will allow the youth to see the impact that mentoring had. Using slightly older youth on the panel may also create a “role model” impact on the younger kids, in which they aspire to become successful like these previous mentees.

As with the mentor panel, if the program is brand new you may need to “borrow” mentees from another local program.

- As with the mentors, meet with the mentees prior to the session and brief them as to how long they will have to speak as individuals and as a group. Give them ideas about what they might cover. These might include:
  - ▶ How did they feel about being in a mentoring program?
  - ▶ Were they reluctant to join?
  - ▶ What did they talk about with their mentor?
  - ▶ What was good about the experience?
  - ▶ Were there any disappointments?
  - ▶ What would they wish for these future mentees?

During the training –

- Ask the former/current mentees to share their thoughts and experiences.

- Leave time for the mentees to ask additional questions.
- Thank the mentee panelists for their contribution and present them with a certificate of appreciation.

*Summary discussion:* This exercise should give your mentees a better sense of where they can go in life with the help of a mentor. Use this activity to take some of the fear out of program participation. Be sure to tell the youth that they are joining the ranks of a long line of kids, just like those on the panel, who have been involved with the program over time.