



Urban Native Youth Association

Training the Leaders of Tomorrow

Volunteer Opportunity Volunteer Mentor, Kinnections Program

UNYA's mandate is to provide meaningful opportunities for Native youth in the urban setting. Our goal is to be a safe place for Native youth to come and find out about programs and services at UNYA and in the broader community. We continue to focus much of our efforts on community development initiatives, as we believe that the strengthening of our community as a whole can have a tremendous positive impact on the lives of Native youth.

The goal of the Kinnections Program is to connect Native youth in foster care (aged 15-19) with volunteer community members who will act as mentor, advocate, and friend. Our hope is that the friendships formed will be long term and support the youth as they transition into adulthood. These supportive relationships meet UNYA's mandate by engaging youth in meaningful and fun activities in the community. Furthermore, having a positive and consistent role model who plans one-on-one activities with them will contribute to the youth growing into a capable and confident adult.

Qualifications:

- Must be 19 years or older
- Must have excellent communication skills in order to facilitate a connection with the youth
- Must demonstrate the capacity to be a consistent and positive role model
- Must successfully complete all components of the selection process, including a Police Record Check

Time Commitment:

2-4 hours per week (8-16 hours per month) for a minimum of one year, but preferably on a long term basis.

Deliverables:

- Meets with the youth they are assigned to on a weekly basis.
- Provides acceptance and support to the youth, as well as, respects who they are and their current circumstances.
- Utilizes the strengths and interests of the youth, and works with the youth in planning future activities.
- Maintains up to date knowledge of community resources and develops awareness of matters relevant to the urban Aboriginal youth population.
- Models and encourages positive social interaction.
- Maintains open and positive communication with the youth's guardian.
- Keeps accurate records and documentation as required.
- Reports all critical incidents immediately to the Coordinator, and provides written reports when requested to do so.
- Complies with all provisions agreed to in the Volunteer Mentor Agreement
- Attends workshops and support meetings regularly.

Accountability: Volunteer Mentors report to the Kinnections Coordinator, Lesley Campbell

Recognition: We are happy to provide references 6 months after the start date of the mentor/youth match.

If you are interested in becoming a Mentor, or would like more information, please contact:
Lesley Campbell at 604-254-7732 or kinnections@unya.bc.ca

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