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4-H National Mentoring Program



For many of America's youth, 4-H mentors are so much more than tutors or program leaders -- they are hope, they are comfort, they are family. They are the pathway to a promising future.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) supports the initiatives that assist in the development and maturity of community programs providing mentoring services to high-risk populations under the 4-H National Mentoring Program. The goal is to reduce juvenile delinquency, drug abuse, truancy, and other problems and high-risk behaviors. The program objective is to provide direct one-on-one mentoring, group mentoring, or peer-mentoring services to underserved youth populations.

The 4-H National Mentoring Program features replication of three Programs of Distinction, recognized for implementing effective mentoring strategies with goals of improving family relationships, increasing social competencies, increasing school attendance, reducing juvenile delinquency, youth unemployment, and school failure.

The three model programs are:

- [4-H Mentoring: Youth & Families With Promise](#) (4-H YFP) from Utah State University
- [4-H Tech Wizards](#) from Oregon State University
- [4-H Living Interactive Family Education](#) (4-H LIFE) from the University of Missouri

About the 4-H Tech Wizards Mentoring Program

4-H Tech Wizards is a youth development and mentoring program developed by [Oregon State University Cooperative Extension System](#) to provide opportunities to underserved youth. It began as a bilingual, family-supported, after-school program to support and engage low-income Latino/Hispanic youth who were lagging behind in STEM classes and careers.

Today, Tech Wizards connects underserved youth, grades 4-12, with professional mentors. The mentors provide training in STEM subjects such as website development, video and podcast productions, GIS/GPS technologies, and robotics. Participants use these new skills to give back to their communities by creating a 15-hour technology-related service project.

4-H Results & Youth Impact

Data on the 4-H Tech Wizards program shows clear life-changing results:

- **91 percent of youth participants** exhibited favorable behavior changes
- **95 percent graduation rate** compared to the national average of 78 percent
- **70 percent** pursue post-secondary education

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4-H Tech Wizards Mentoring Program At-A-Glance New York City

- Who:** The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (**OJJDP**) is collaborating with National **4-H** on this mentoring project because of their history of excellence in the field of youth development, service and mentoring. The project in NYC is being coordinated by **Cornell University Cooperative Extension (CUCE-NYC)**.
- What:** The 4-H Tech Wizards Program is an out-of-school **mentoring program** that partners caring adults with NYC youth using science, technology and community service as vehicles to enhance their knowledge and skills as well as address needs and issues in their communities. Non-paid mentors and agency staff **volunteer** their time to do group mentoring in after school settings.
- When:** Contractually, the program is yearlong. The program runs from **January - December**. During the school year, mentors and mentees will meet **weekly** for **1-2 hour** sessions for a total of **50 contact hours**. During the summer the program provides trips and education opportunities for youth.
- Where:** Tech Wizards is located in four sites in New York City including Ft Hamilton Military Base and St Marks Day School (Brooklyn), Queens Community House (Queens) and a Bronx location (to be announced).
- How:** Each site will have approximately **4 adult mentors & 20-30 youth participants** working together as a large group on science & technology education, then in smaller teams to accomplish a service project. In total, there will be **16 Mentors & 90 Mentees** in the program.

Recruitment of Mentees: Students for the program will be selected by the staff at each site. However, if you have a student that you think would benefit from participating in the program and they live near one of the sites, contact the program coordinator, Michele Luc, to discuss having him/her join the program.

Mentor Requirements: Since the program is going to require a serious commitment and involves working with young people, we require that all potential mentors:

- Complete a 4-H volunteer application
- Submit a resume
- Submit 2 references (at least one professional and one personal)
- Be interviewed by CUCE-NYC staff
- Submit to screening for sexual/violent offenses
- Receive training in 4-H clubs, mentoring & relevant technology, such as GPS training

For more info on the program, contact cenyc@cornell.edu or visit our website at nyc.cce.cornell.edu.