

Guidelines for Mentors / Sponsors to youth

Consider a variety of adults across the life span in the congregation. When inviting adults to serve as mentors or sponsors, be clear about the expectations involved. Plan a get-together with all the mentors and Confirmands for some orientation. One way is to get together for a simple lunch after worship. Plan at least two or three gatherings during the year for mentors and youth together. Sometimes it helps adult mentors gather with one another. Participating in a group event or service project with the class is also advantageous for building relationships.

Characteristics desired:

- An adult of mature faith – someone who can give evidence of fulfilling his or her baptismal promises
- An Episcopalian - This is not to say that members of other denominations are not Christian. It is to recognize that some of the sharing and witnessing that the sponsors are asked to do come out of a particular tradition and theological understanding. There is a reason that we are Episcopalians, and this tries to support that reason.
- An active member of the congregation – faithful in attendance, stewardship and ministry; one who can serve as a personal representative of the parish and is a sign of the community's commitment to the candidate. This will give the young person another adult outside of his/her family with whom he/she can identify in the parish. The young person's parish life will, therefore, be strengthened if the adult is a regular and visible participant in the life of the parish.
- One who has a heart for engaging in conversation regarding faith issues

Responsibilities:

- To meet with the Confirmand regularly. The meetings do not have to be long, but should be in a public area or with others nearby (following safe church guidelines). Meet over coffee at a local diner, bookstore or fast food restaurant. Please allow enough time for interaction.
- Attend gatherings/luncheons with all the Confirmands and sponsors, probably at the beginning of the
- Confirmation class and as the date of Confirmation draws near.
- Attend worship services involving the Confirmand: enrollment, Deanery Confirmation service, postparish celebration
- Hopefully, after Confirmation the newly confirmed and sponsor will maintain a relationship in years to come.

Compile by Sharon Ely Pearson