



The Year 9 Rite Journey Mentor Program

Information for Mentor



Dear Mentor,

Thank you for offering to be a mentor for one of our Temple Christian College Year 9 Rite Journey students. This letter outlines what is involved in The Rite Journey Mentor Program for 2021.

Why the Mentor Program?

You may be familiar with the saying, 'it takes a village to raise a child.' At Temple Christian College we recognise the importance for children and adolescents to be surrounded by well-meaning adults who create a community or 'village' of guidance. When one adult relationship in a teenager's life is under stress, it is vital that other adult relationships take the strain, rather than allowing the peer relationships to take on the guiding roles - something young people are not well equipped to do. There is also a healthy body of research which suggests that the more adult figures adolescents are healthily connected to, the less risk factors they will expose themselves to and hence the safer they are.

As teachers we are passionate about the development of children into responsible, respectful and resilient young adults. By connecting with adults who demonstrate these characteristics, our young people are able to develop their understanding of what a good man or woman might look like and how they might behave.

The Mentor Program seeks to extend each student's existing support network by connecting them with a supportive and trusted adult outside of their school and family environments. Parents will guide their child in this selection process. It is our desire for the mentor-mentee relationships formed this year to provide support, guidance and inspiration for our students and encouragement for you, their mentor, this year and in the years to follow.

MILE END CAMPUS

2 Henley Beach Road, Mile End, SA, 5031
Phone: (08) 8405 0900

PARALOWIE CAMPUS

17 Countess Street, Paralowie, SA, 5108
Phone: (08) 8256 9600

MARION MIDDLE SCHOOL

286 Sturt Road, Marion, SA, 5043
Phone: (08) 8465 6004

Email: admin@tcc.sa.edu.au

www.tcc.sa.edu.au

A Member of Adelaide Christian Schools

CRICOS PN:01179J ABN: 56 979 193 909



Why me?

You are receiving this letter because one of our school families recognises you as being a positive role model for their child and would like to extend the invitation to you to be their child's mentor for the year.

The ROLE of the mentor is to:

- Develop a trusting relationship
- Support parental values
- Help in developing social skills
- Share in celebrating milestones
- Listen to dreams, ideas and concerns
- Promote the discovery of undeveloped potential

The REQUIREMENTS for the mentor are:

- ✓ Is the **same gender** as the student
- ✓ Is **at least 25** years of age
- ✓ Is **not** an immediate family member (i.e. parent, grandparent or sibling)
- ✓ Is able to meet with the student for a total of **at least 18 hours** over the year (ideally **regular contact** of a couple of hours a month).
- ✓ Is willing to help the student complete **The Rite Journey Mentor Project and Poster**
- ✓ Is willing to be **contacted** by parents and teachers if required
- ✓ Is able to **sign the student's logbook** after each meeting as a formal record of the time spent together
- ✓ Is willing to attend **The Homecoming Ceremony** in November 2021. (Date to be confirmed early 2021)

What is involved?

The Rite Journey Mentor Project

To assist in facilitating the development of the mentor-mentee relationships, each student will undertake a project of some kind to be completed under their mentor's guidance. This is referred to as **The Rite Journey Mentor Project**. The project is a free choice project decided upon by you and



your mentee. You may choose to build something, or create something artistic or musical, or even teach/learn a new skill or refine a current skill together. Some specific examples include: learning new cooking skills or experimenting with new recipes, learning how to service a bike, creating a knitted blanket, or composing a song together. The possibilities are endless! With your support, your mentee will create an exhibit in which to display your shared project at The Homecoming Ceremony at the end of the year. This exhibit also involves the creation of a poster which will be displayed alongside your project in the exhibit. ***Please find The Rite Journey Mentor Project Exhibit task sheet attached.***

The Homecoming Ceremony

Date TBC early in 2021

We invite you to The Homecoming Ceremony to celebrate your mentee's journey over the year. The evening is a special time for us to celebrate the achievements and personal growth of our Year 9 students and to also express our appreciation to you for your support of your mentee along the way. The mentor project exhibit is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the mentor-mentee relationships that have developed over the year. More details to follow.

Thank you

Thank you for your willingness to play such an important role in this young person's life. I encourage you to touch base with your mentee's parents throughout the year to share about your experience.

I look forward to meeting you at The Homecoming Ceremony in 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Rebekah Western

Year 9 Rite Journey Coordinator