

BEAR E-Mentoring Parental Consent Form



Dear Parent/Guardian/Caregiver,

Thank you for your interest in BEAR's E-mentoring program! Below you will find detailed information about the program, as well as consent questions regarding how you would like your child to participate in the program.

This form is an editable PDF. On the last page you will see a series of questions to which you'll need to check YES or NO in order to give permission for various aspects of the program. Below that, you can type in the details for each member signing up and the consenting parent/guardian. Type your signature on the appropriate line, as well. Then, save the form to your computer and send it to me as an email attachment.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Meghan Weaver
BEAR Program Coordinator
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Office hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00am-4:30pm

Why E-Mentoring?

In-person mentoring and programs are the most direct and impactful way for BEAR staff to connect with youth. However, when those programs are not in session or not feasible (like right now with COVID-19), BEAR has developed a way to connect youth with trained staff mentors, their peers, family, and the landscape through our E-mentoring program. There are two main ways to connect - 1:1 check-in calls & texts and our virtual programming activities on the BEAR E-Den blog. Through these mediums, we can grow trusting and supportive mentoring relationships with youth with safe and caring adults outside of their family unit and school.

1:1 check-in calls & texts

BEAR staff will call and/or text youth members directly on a weekly basis, providing a direct connection for each youth member. Family members are encouraged to join the conversation, as well. Participation in 1:1 check-ins is not required to sign up for the BEAR E-Den virtual programming activities, though both are strongly encouraged!

Virtual programming on the BEAR E-Den

The BEAR E-Den is a members-only blog platform where BEAR staff will post at least one activity per week for youth to watch interactive videos and download activity sheets. The goal is to get kids moving, thinking, and playing in ways that connect them with nature, their families and their individual potential. Members will have the opportunity to interact with BEAR staff and other youth members in the chat forum/comments section on the blog, and are encouraged to comment about their experiences doing the activities, as well as on each other's posts. This may include completing surveys or fun quizzes to celebrate what they've learned.

BEAR staff will also facilitate Zoom video chats for youth members who wish to chat with peers live and engage in group activities online. Scheduling of Zoom chats will be posted on the blog and in the bi-weekly *Shout OUT!* e-mentoring newsletter. Participation in virtual programming on the E-Den is not required to sign up for 1:1 check-in calls & text, though both are strongly encouraged!

Family Participation

Parents/Guardians/Caregivers are strongly encouraged to participate with their youth in the BEAR E-Mentoring program. By signing up as members on the BEAR E-Den, families may view the posted activities and make comments in the chat forum/comments section. Being a member of the blog also provides an opportunity to monitor online activity in the BEAR E-Den. Even if families are not members of the blog, they are still encouraged to participate in all of the posted activities with their youth. Not only is it a great way to spend quality time together, but family participation increases youth members' chances of winning raffle prizes!

Win Prizes

We want to reward program members for their participation by raffling off awesome outdoor gear, like headlamps, Thermo-flasks, hammocks, gift cards, rain gear, daypacks, and more! Prize drawings will take place every two weeks on Thursday mornings based on the previous two weeks of participation in virtual programming activities. Members who participate in at least one of the activities posted during the two week drawing period will have their name entered into the drawing ONCE. To verify participation, youth members are required to complete the survey or quiz linked after each activity. If family members participate in any of the virtual programming in the same two week drawing period, youth members will have their name entered a second time into the drawing. The family member does not have to be a registered user of the blog, however, the youth must report family member's participation in the post-activity survey/quiz in order to get their name entered a second time. A video will be posted on the blog of BEAR staff drawing the name of the raffle winner for the two week drawing period.

Shout OUT! E-mentoring Newsletter

To keep e-mentoring youth members and their families up to date throughout the program, BEAR staff will send out an e-mentoring based newsletter every other week with information on upcoming activities, events, raffle prizes, prize winners, games, articles, and more.

Program Schedule

The first session of the e-mentoring program will run for 8 weeks, May 11 - July 3, 2020. Youth and families can sign up at any time during the 8-week session for 1:1 check-ins and/or virtual programming on the BEAR E-Den. BEAR staff will be available to approve and/or respond to member comments on the blog chat forum during operational hours, Monday-Thursday from 8:00am-4:30pm. Comments made after hours will be approved and/or responded to during the next operational day.

Youth Online Safety

Online safety of our youth members is at the forefront of BEAR's e-mentoring program and thoughtful measures have been taken to ensure consistent monitoring of our platforms and 1:1 interactions.

- All communications on the E-Den blog are private and for members only.
- BEAR staff manage the online registration of members to ensure proper parental/guardian/caregiver consent prior to youth sign up.
- BEAR staff will review and approve all comments made by members in the E-Den before they are posted to the blog. Inappropriate content and/or bullying will be removed at staff's discretion.
- As part of the form to submit comments to the blog, members are required to enter their name and email each time they make a comment. Therefore, BEAR staff will compare the names/emails submitted with comments to the member registration log and only approve comments when the names/emails match the registration log. This ensures the identity of the commenting member each time they post and prevents members from entering alias names or hiding their identity.
- BEAR will post the names and/or photos of youth members who win raffle prizes, with parent/guardian/caregiver permission only (via the Parental Consent Form). Winners will be announced in a video drawing posted to the blog, in the bi-weekly *Shout OUT!* e-mentoring newsletter, and on the BEAR Facebook page.
- Parents/Guardians/Caregivers are encouraged to sign up as members on the blog as a method for creating greater transparency for families monitoring the online activity of their youth.

Child safety laws for internet use are posted on our website at <http://www.bearmt.org/e-mentoring.html>

In order for youth to participate in BEAR's 1:1 check-ins and virtual programming on the BEAR E-Den, youth will need access to a computer, mobile device, or tablet with access to the Internet. If these devices are unavailable, please let us know.

BEAR E-Mentoring Parental Consent Form

Please check YES or NO to the following statements:

1. Sign up my youth for the BEAR E-Den blog virtual programming. YES NO
2. Sign up my youth for 1:1 check-in calls/texts. YES NO
3. It's OK to share my youth's name and/or photo on the BEAR E-Den blog & *Shout OUT!*, the bi-weekly e-mentoring newsletter, if they're a raffle prize winner. YES NO
4. It's OK to share my youth's name on the BEAR Facebook page, if they're a raffle prize winner. YES NO
5. It's OK for my youth to share photos/videos on the BEAR E-Den blog (feature not yet available, but we'd like to get permission now). YES NO
6. It's OK to share my youth's photos/videos on the BEAR Facebook page. YES NO
7. Sign up a Parent/Guardian/Caregiver to be a member on the blog and consent to the same permissions given to your youth above. YES NO

List specific restrictions below, if any:

Please fill out the following information for all youth and Parents/Guardians/Caregivers below.

FIRST YOUTH MEMBER

First/Last name:

Youth's phone number:

Youth's email address:

Grade in school: _____

Age: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN/CAREGIVER

First/Last name:

Phone number:

Email address:

Home address:(to send prizes to youth members, if they win)

SECOND YOUTH MEMBER

First/Last name:

Youth's phone number:

Youth's email address:

Grade in school: _____

Age: _____

Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Signature:

Date: _____

*A follow up call/email will take place after this form is submitted.