



# Mentor OUT

## Peer Mentor Program

2019-2020

B.E.A.R. is an outdoor-based mentoring program whose mission is to inspire area youth to connect to their own potential, their community, and the landscape through experiential and outdoor adventure programs.

Our mentoring model is strengths-based, with a focus on non-judgmental communication and unwavering care for all B.E.A.R. participants. We provide youth with opportunities to learn about the outdoors, connect with their peers, and the larger community in an environment that is physically and emotionally safe, and of course, FUN!

### LOOKING FOR TEENS WHO ARE WILLING TO:

- Provide mentorship for middle school youth (9-14 years of age)
- Learn about outdoor and experiential education
- Share their knowledge of the outdoors and other topics with mentees
- Foster a supportive environment for the mentor team, the mentees, staff, and our friends in the community.

### QUALIFICATIONS:

- ★ 15-18 years of age (grades 9-12)
- ★ Love the outdoors
- ★ Interest in learning about youth mentoring, outdoor skills, and leadership development. (Previous experience is preferred but not required)
- ★ Flexible and willingness to try new things
- ★ Access to a phone/email to communicate with staff
- ★ Access to reliable transportation (we can help with this too)
- ★ Accountable for schedule and commitments
- ★ Ability/willingness to be outdoors in a variety of weather conditions,
- ★ Ability/willingness to develop hiking capacity and skills, while sometimes wearing a backpack with up to 30lbs of gear on uneven and steep terrain
- ★ Comfortable with being away from home for up to 1 week at a time (overnight trips)
- ★ **Can commit to attending 75% or more of trainings throughout the year**
- ★ **Willing to complete 52 hours of direct service with mentees**

## HOW IT WORKS:

Peer mentors receive bi-weekly trainings focused on mentoring best practices, the experiential education model, outdoor based skills, communication, teamwork, and leadership. Special training opportunities may take place on weekends.

Starting in January, peer mentors will begin to work with middle school mentees through the after school program, weekend club trips, overnight trips, family events, or any other scheduled programming. If mentors are available during the in-school portion of mentee programming, they are welcome to come to that too.

The 52 hour service commitment is in addition to the bi-weekly mentor trainings. We will help you create a calendar to track your mentoring schedule, but it's up to you to use it throughout the year. **It is expected that your role as a peer mentor will be a priority.**

## BENEFITS:

- Peer mentors are invited to attend National Peer Mentor Camp, June 23-27 of 2020, hosted by B.E.A.R and Project Venture of New Mexico. Camp will be held somewhere in Montana this year and our peer mentors will help plan the camp's location and events!!
- Trainings will be provided in Wilderness First Aid (\$195 value), first aid & CPR (\$55 value), and Youth Mental Health First Aid. These are life long skill sets and they look great on college or job applications!
- Gain experience in mentoring best practices, leadership skills, experiential education, outdoor education, and more! Also looks great on college or job applications and helps prepare you for life after high school.
- Job or school references and letters of recommendation are available after successful completion of the program. We want to share all your hard work and skills with others!

## TO APPLY:

Please complete the following application and send to Katie DeFelice at: [katie.defelice@bearmt.org](mailto:katie.defelice@bearmt.org) OR mail/drop off at: 1105 W. Main St., Hamilton, MT 59840.

**Applications due by November 15, 2019.**

Questions? Please call us at 406-363-5410 or email Katie.



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## Peer Mentor Application

Due by November 15, 2019

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the role of a mentor? Why are you interested in taking on this role?

2. What is your experience with youth younger than yourself? How did you relate to them?

3. What do you hope to gain from this program (academically, mentally, emotionally, professionally, athletically, recreationally, etc.)?