

Rebel Voices

Mentor Program Overview

Why are mentors important for the Rebel Voices Students?

Our Rebel Voices scholarship recipients are taking a risk to change their lives. They are looking ahead to a new and exciting future for themselves, and their families. A mentor's main role is to encourage and support the student through good and tough times during their trade school program. A mentor provides essential accountability for the student outside of their support systems in their family or at school.

The Rebel Voices scholarship allows our students to attend and complete their trade or technical school program without any financial debt. This is a special and unique opportunity that should be taken seriously. The guidance of a mentor is essential to keeping a student on track, and making the most out of the program.

Why should I become a mentor?

Being a Rebel Voices mentor has the potential to be a life changing partnership for both the mentor and the mentee. A mentor will encourage the student in their field of study, but they can also inspire the student in other areas of their life.

Think back to a time in your life where someone has encouraged and supported you when you were embarking on a new journey. The power of another individual believing in you, and giving their time and effort to help you achieve your goals, is a humbling and powerful experience. You can pay it forward by becoming a mentor.

Now is the time to rise up and come together. Now is the time to work to spread more love than hate. Now is the time to put our words into action and to help change lives. People want to see change and together we can start that process in changing people's lives and reminding them that humanity and compassion runs deeper than the color of our skin.

Who are the Rebel Voices scholarship students?

Our scholarship recipients are young adults from Chicago's South and West side neighborhoods who are attending a trade or technical school program. Our motivated and determined students have been hand selected after a thorough screening process.

First, our students are accepted into a program at one of our partner schools – Lincoln Tech, MedEx Ambulance Service and Midwestern Career College. Between the three schools, we offer 25 different programs ranging in length from 13 weeks to 2 years. Once they accept the scholarship, students commit to keeping their GPA at or above a 3.0 and to staying in regular communication with Rebel Voices staff and a mentor.



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Mentor Program Specifics

What kind of commitment is expected of a mentor?

- Being a mentor is not a role to be taken lightly. We ask that mentors stay in touch with their student for the entire length of your mentees program, which varies from 13 weeks to 2 years depending on their area of study.
- We encourage communication with your mentee at least once a week in whatever way you choose – email, phone call, Facetime, text or in person.
- Mentors should be respectful of the students, and honor all commitments made to them. Mentors can be positive role models by being honest, empathetic and vulnerable with your mentee when the situation calls for it, but also not being afraid of a tough love and no excuses approach when needed.

What kind of training and support will I have during my time as a mentor?

- Rebel Voices will provide a brief mentor training, to familiarize you with the program, and offer ideas and suggestions for connecting with your mentee. Many of our mentees have had to put up high walls to protect themselves and keep everyone out in order to survive and get by day to day. There is no greater gift than watching those walls slowly come down over time and getting to see their true personalities and selves come out.
- Rebel Voices staff will facilitate the introduction between you and your mentee. Each mentee has their own journey they must take. Regardless of the choices they had to make in the past, we hold nothing against them, because they chose to show up today wanting something more for themselves, and that is all that matters.
- Rebel Voices staff is here to support you and your mentee during the entire journey. If your mentee seems to be falling behind, losing motivation or struggling with something in their personal life, just let us know during our weekly check-in and we will work together to best support the student.



Rebel Voices Mentor Interest Form

- I am interested in becoming a mentor!
- Life is busy right now, but please keep me in mind for the future. I will be available _____.
- I need more information. Can someone please contact me?

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Occupation: _____

Previous Mentor Experience: _____

