



Disabled Sports USA Youth Sports Mentoring Program

Why am I being asked to participate?

The event, camp, or program that you are registering your child for is hosted by a proud participating chapter of the DS/USA Youth Sports Mentoring Program and is delighted to offer the benefits of this program as a free service to you and your child (youth ages 6 to 21 are eligible to participate). By enrolling your child into this program, you are expressing that you are interested in getting your child involved in youth sports mentoring. Please be aware that the staff has your child's best interest in mind, therefore, by checking 'YES' above, there is no guarantee that your child will be included the DS/USA Youth Sports Mentoring Program within this event, camp or program if no compatible match can be made.

What is the DS/USA Youth Sports Mentoring Program?

The DS/USA Youth Sports Mentoring Program is a nationwide initiative conducted in partnership with its chapters to increase youth sports involvement and to foster social interaction between people of all abilities through mentoring. Match interaction within this program occurs face-to-face within a sports or recreation venue, and also via phone and email contact. Through sports, mentors and mentees can work together to identify and accomplish measurable goals. Success in sports builds self-confidence and greater motivation to succeed... as the DS/USA motto goes: *"If I Can Do This, I Can Do Anything!"* For more information about the DS/USA Youth Sports Mentoring Program, please visit <http://www.dsusa.org/Mentoring.html>.

What is a Mentor and how can my child benefit from mentoring through sports?

Mentoring through sports and physical activity not only promotes the development of athletic skills and encourages healthy active lifestyles, but it also supports the development of independent living and social skills among youth with disabilities.

Mentors within this program are caring, responsible volunteers who successfully complete a DS/USA Mentor Training session and a full-service background check. They are supervised by the program staff and usually have an invested interest to serve as a guiding friend and positive role model to the mentees within this program. A mentor can help a young person in any number of ways: Become more physically active; Meet people and make friends; Learn fundamentals of a sport; Get more involved in the community; Have more fun in sports; Gain access to people, places and things outside of routine environment; Stay on track in school and/or employment. There is unlimited potential on how much a mentor can help a young person in sports and in today's society.

What are the time commitments to participate in this program?

To successfully and completely enroll your child into this mentoring program, you will later be asked to complete some paperwork to help the staff make appropriate matches and to help manage risks. In addition, you and your child will later be asked to complete an evaluation form about your mentoring experience through this youth sports mentoring program. The structure and time commitment of this mentoring program will follow the same structure/commitment as the sports event, camp or program. Any outside correspondence and/or face-to-face meetings will be determined and agreed upon, if appropriate, by you, your child, the volunteer mentor and the program staff.

If you need additional information about the DS/USA Youth Sports Mentoring Program, please contact the organizer of the event, camp or program that you are registering your child for, OR contact Disabled Sports USA at (240) 268-1250 or ascott@dsusa.org.