



Fresh Lifelines for Youth

COURT APPOINTED FRIEND & ADVOCATE (CAFA) MENTOR DESCRIPTION

PURPOSE:

Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to reduce juvenile crime and incarceration through legal education, leadership training, and one-to-one mentoring. FLY CAFA Mentors build **positive relationships** with youth involved in the juvenile justice system, helping them to **develop new ambitions**, set and achieve **goals**, and learn to **have fun** in a positive, sober way. FLY CAFA Mentors have all of the privileges and responsibilities of mentors, but they are specially appointed by a judge in the juvenile justice system to **provide court advocacy** for their mentee, including submitting court reports, making recommendations, attending juvenile court proceedings, and addressing the court on behalf of the youth.

TIME COMMITMENT:

- FLY's **minimum commitment is 12 months**. Matches meet once a week for 2-3 hours per week (8-12 hours/month).

WHAT CAFA MENTORS DO:

- **Individual activities with your mentee are up to the two of you**. Examples are to talk over coffee, go for a hike, play soccer, assist mentee in applying for jobs, share a meal, etc.
- **Participate in monthly FLY-sponsored group activities**. Examples are attending a San Jose Sharks game, horseback riding, whitewater rafting, a beach BBQ, go-kart racing, and a ropes course.
- Agree to **write and submit court reports** prior to their mentee's hearings and are strongly encouraged to **attend hearings** to speak on behalf of their mentee.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CAFA MENTORS:

- Be a **minimum of 21 years old**.
- **Pass a criminal background check** through the Department of Justice.
- Have a **desire to connect with and support youth** who are involved in the juvenile justice system.
- Have a **valid driver's license** and access to **reliable transportation**.
- Be responsible, reliable, and **willing to engage in written and oral advocacy** on behalf of their mentee.

TRAINING/SUPPORT YOU CAN EXPECT:

- 26 hours of initial training and orientation (mandatory).
- 3-hour follow-up trainings once every three months on a Saturday morning (mandatory).
- **Regular contact** with a CAFA Mentor Program Case Manager for **personalized support**, advice, and encouragement. Contact by phone, email, or in person according to your preference.

VOLUNTEER BENEFITS:

- Make a **sustainable, long-term difference** in your community.
- **Get experience** with system-involved youth, as well as a ground-level view of the juvenile justice system and relationships with system partners like judges, probation officers and attorneys.

GET INVOLVED:

Go to <http://flyprogram.org/get-involved/volunteer/mentor-volunteer-application/> to apply online. For more information, contact our Match Manager, Alexis Mendoza, at alexis@flyprogram.org or (408) 218-4951.