



## CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES

# Youth Sponsorship

### INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



Did you recently receive PCS orders and have a middle and high school child that's worried about moving? Maybe you've heard them wonder:

- Who will my new friends be?
- What will my new school look like?
- What activities/sports are available?
- Will I fit in?
- What are the other kids wearing?

The Youth Sponsorship Program connects your child to another youth in the new community to answer these questions and so much more.

#### **Why should my child request a sponsor? A sponsor:**

- Allows your child to **get to know their community before they arrive.**
- Provides them with someone who can **show them the ropes** in their new community.
- Helps reduce social isolation, leading to a **healthier transition** with reduced stress and at-risk behaviors.

- Gives youth a **youth perspective** on their new community and school.
- Allows you to focus on other aspects of transition, knowing that your child's needs are being met.

#### **What does the Youth Sponsorship Program provide for my child?**

- Their sponsor will provide them a **welcome packet and information** about their new community before they arrive.
- Upon arrival their sponsor will arrange for them to have a **tour of the community** and, once you know which school they will be attending, **provide information about the school** and arrange for a tour there as well.
- Various activities and events will help your child **meet new people, learn about their school and community, and expose them to various activities and events.**

#### **How do I get a sponsor assigned to my child?**

- Once you receive PCS orders contact your School Liaison Officer.

## What is a Youth Sponsor?

Youth Sponsors are at both the youth center and the school and provide information about the community and school to their sponsee via welcome packets, e-mail, and face-to-face communication

- Youth Sponsors **ensure their assigned sponsees have the right information** to help them learn about their community and school and connect to other youth who have similar interests.
- They plan events that help transitioning youth feel more **connected to their community**.
- They are **leaders** in their school and community.

## Why Should my Child Become a Youth Sponsor?

- **Builds a sense of belonging** in their community and to **give back to others**
- Teaches new **coping and resilience strategies** that can assist your child when they transition
- Builds **leadership** experience
- Provides opportunities for **service learning hours**
- Offers opportunities to **participate** in training and programs with other youth across the community
- Provides **adult mentorship**
- **Inspires** youth to be an active part of their community

## How can my child become a Youth Sponsor?

*Contact your local installation youth center or School Liaison Officer.*

