

Wonder Mentoring Program FAQs



1. Who are the “Explorers” and “Guides”?

Explorers are the youth/mentees in our program, and the guides are the volunteer mentors.

2. What does “impacted by foster care” mean?

The explorers referred to our program have had experiences with navigating the child welfare system at different capacities, including foster care, kinship, guardianship, or adoption.

3. Do guides have to live within Sacramento or Placer counties?

Not all of our guides reside within Sacramento or Placer County, but the explorers do. If guides understand that they will be transporting and supporting explorers in those two counties, they can be a part of Wonder.

4. Does the explorer need to receive SSYAF services to participate in Wonder?

Explorers do not need to be actively receiving services from SSYAF to participate.

5. What does it cost for an explorer to participate?

There is no cost for an explorer to participate in the Wonder program.

6. Do I have to provide transportation as a caregiver for my explorer to participate?

Transportation is provided by guides for outings and events attended. Caregivers do not need to provide transportation.

7. How long does the relationship between explorer and guide last?

We request a minimum of a one-year commitment to the program, but connections can continue as long as both parties choose. Some matches have been connected for over 5 years!

8. What are the four domains each match is intentionally focused on developing?

Wonder's vision is to support matches with further developing self-confidence, self-worth, a sense of community, and the ability to be a future-oriented thinker.

9. What's required for a guide to be matched?

We cannot move with matching a guide until we receive the following: 3 non-relative references, proof of active auto insurance and clean driving record, and eligible clearance from a completed Live scan.

10. How does Wonder determine whether a guide and explorer are compatible as a match?

There are numerous factors that impact how matches are determined. Wonder also makes an intentional effort to match explorers and guides based on shared interests and commonalities, which could result in either guides or explorers waiting longer if there isn't an available match.

11. What is the difference between Journey and Journey+ levels?

The journey level is for all new matches. Journey+ is reached once a match reaches 2 years and has approval from the caregiver and coach. This level allows for additional privileges.

12. Can I introduce my explorer to my family/friends?

Our mentoring program emphasizes the importance of one-on-one relationships. If the match continues past the year and reaches the Journey+ Level, a guide can introduce the explorer to family/friends/pets with caregiver approval and mutual interest.

13. What is LIT?

Leaders in Training (LIT) is an additional initiative within Wonder for interested, eligible matches to participate in. Matches need to be connected for at least 2 years, and the explorer needs to be at least 13 years of age. This initiative is geared towards further developing teen leadership skills.



For more information, please email wonder@ssyaf.org or call (916) 344-0199.