



IDEAS FOR MICHIGAN MENTORING MONTH EVENTS 2009

Pass It On.

Events have many purposes: to raise funds, to promote mentoring, to recognize volunteers, to recruit mentors, to celebrate accomplishments, to give mentors and mentees a chance to meet, and to announce important news.

Want to try something new? Check out these ideas for mentoring-related events. You may also want to look at the ideas for male-focused recruitment in the 2009 Michigan Mentoring Month Tool Kit.

- Host an open house and light dinner for mentors, mentees, and their families to meet and mingle. Mentors are encouraged to bring a friend who might want to be a mentor. It could even be a potluck dinner.
- Organize a group tour of a local cultural institute, museum, or nature park for mentors/mentees.
- Sponsor a photo exhibit, with art created by mentees and their mentors. Work with your local cultural center, businesses, mall, etc. to display the exhibit
- Work with a local professional, college, or high school athletic team game to host a special mentor/mentee sports clinic or special event at one of their competitions.
- Hold a Thank Your Mentor Day recognition event on January 22, 2009.
- Host a service project for mentors and mentees. They could paint the meeting room at your office, visit a nursing home, host a can drive, or do a clean-up project at the local school or senior center.
 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service is January 19, 2009. This is a day when Americans join together to serve in their local community. Visit www.mlkday.gov for more information or see the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service document in the 2009 Michigan Mentoring Month Toolkit.
- Hold an interactive press conference announcing your local or regional mentoring collaborative. Consider having mentors and mentees speak. Invite the media to participate in a hands-on activity.
- Host a mentoring “mini fun fair” with activities kids and adults can do together. Make sure you have information about your mentoring program available. Have it at a local mall, parks and recreation facility, faith-based organization, or school.
- Sponsor a recruitment fair for all mentoring organizations in the community.



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- Hold an intergenerational event for seniors and youth to get to know each other. Have a booth where seniors can sign up to become mentors.
 - Sponsor a marathon run/walk that raises money for and promotes mentoring. Have mentors and mentees do the walk together. (It could even be a three-legged walk if it's a short distance!)
 - Think of an activity, such as collecting returnable bottles, that raises funds for mentoring.
 - Hold a telethon that promotes mentoring and recruits volunteers.
 - Sponsor a day of skiing and snowboarding, with proceeds from ticket sales used for mentoring.
 - Promote a day of mentees going to work with their mentors (job shadowing).
 - Invite a local (and, perhaps, well-known) leader to speak interactively with young people at a breakfast or dinner meeting. Have the mentees invite their mentors to attend.
 - Create a legislative showcase that brings local and/or state leaders together to illustrate how local mentoring programs are making a positive difference in young people's lives.
 - Sponsor a Mentoring Day to bring mentor/mentee pairs (from a town, city, or region) together for a day of fun.

This information is brought to you by Mentor Michigan and MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership.