



DREAM CATCHER

www.dreamcatchermentoring.ca



WHAT IS DREAMCATCHER MENTORING?

DreamCatcher Mentoring is a **Canadian** leadership and e-mentoring program designed to empower northern youth by connecting them with mentors in their career area of choice and setting them on a path to success. The program will incorporate indigenous tradition and northern values throughout and initiate a process where students can start to take steps to realize their educational dreams. The program will expose youth to the “outside world”, while giving them tangible examples of how to achieve their goals both academically and socially.

WHY IS DREAMCATCHER MENTORING IMPORTANT?

This program was created in response to the low number of students that enter and graduate high school in the North. The average national graduation rate, excluding Ontario is 75.6%, whereas the rates for Canada, Yukon, NWT and Nunavut, are 78%, 59%, 45% and 28% respectively. We at DreamCatcher Mentoring believe that a high-quality mentoring program will give students the confidence and skills to pursue their dreams and aspirations.

HOW DOES DREAMCATCHER MENTORING WORK?

The essence of DreamCatcher Mentoring is to provide career counseling and exploration by matching students with a Canadian mentor. Enrolled students from participating schools provide DreamCatcher Mentoring with a list of their top 3 'dream careers'. DreamCatcher Mentoring utilizes a specialized selection process which analyzes the information collected from students and potential mentors to ensure that the most effective matches are made between the two. Based on this information, students are then paired up with a suitable Canadian mentor who works in the student's aspired career-of-choice.



During class students will engage in a tailored, online curriculum that allows them to learn about their career from their 'dream mentor'. All communication will occur on the DreamCatcher Mentoring website and will be monitored daily by DreamCatcher Mentoring administrators. In some schools, students will also be given a chance to explore local opportunities by participating in a day-long job shadow at a workplace relevant to the students' career choice.

HOW TO GET DREAMCATCHER MENTORING INTO YOUR SCHOOL

Schools offering Grade 9 and up are eligible to participate in the DreamCatcher Mentoring program. For successful delivery of the program, schools must:

- Have computers with internet access
- Allot approximately 3 hours per week of classroom time for the DreamCatcher Mentoring program
- Participate in the program for a minimum of 2 months
- Enlist students (Grade 9-12) who want to participate in the program
- Select a teacher who can communicate with DreamCatcher Mentoring for the proper delivery of the program in your school



PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Since 2005, over 600 students representing the following Yukon and Nunavut schools have participated in the DreamCatcher Mentoring program:

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| · Porter Creek Secondary | · Teslin School | · Robert Service School |
| · FH Collins Secondary | · Ross River School | · Del Van Gorder |
| · Ghuch Tla Community School | · JV Clark School | · St. Elias Community School |
| · Individual Learning Centre | · Eliza Van Bibber School | · Chief Zzeh Gittlit |
| · Watson Lake Secondary School | · Vanier Catholic Secondary | · Inuksuk High School |

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

Participating students benefit from this e-mentoring experience in a number of ways, including:

- Improving leadership, confidence and self-esteem
- Exposing students to their career-of-interest
- Understanding the work and rewards associated with this career path
- Receiving advice and resources to learn more about their selected career
- Recognizing the importance of knowing your heart, mind, body, and spirit as well as the importance of relationships
- Appreciating the effectiveness of experiential learning
- Giving students a sense of community, home and family
- Educating students about healthy living practices to support the students in achieving their dreams
- ‘Cool enhancements’ to their existing school curriculum



TEACHER TESTIMONIAL

“My students learned an incredible amount about themselves. They learned how to evaluate where they currently stand in life and how to set and achieve their goals.”

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

“I liked how my mentor helped me understand myself. I appreciated that she was willing to answer all of the questions that I had about my career. I especially liked how my mentor inspired me to learn more and carry out my dreams. I thought this program was so cool.”

MENTOR TESTIMONIAL

“This is a fantastic program. I want to continue mentoring people to be the best they can be!”

WHO ARE OUR MENTORS?

DreamCatcher Mentoring mentors are **Canadian** professionals who volunteer their time to help northern youth explore their career interests. Mentors are expected to provide students with guidance into their own careers and share the knowledge attained through their experience to introduce the many opportunities available within the students’ area of interest. Once a relationship between mentor and student has been developed, they then work together to identify the student’s goals and develop a plan towards achieving them. All DreamCatcher Mentoring mentors have undergone an extensive screening process to ensure safety and quality in the delivery of the program.

By committing as little as 30-60 minutes per week and keeping within a given framework, Mentors are expected to tailor the DreamCatcher Mentoring curriculum to address the unique personality and interests of the student.

The following themes will guide the mentoring:

ADVICE

Students may ask for advice about anything from school assignments, career counseling and resources for scholarships to problems at home with family and friends. It is our hope that over the term of this mentorship, the student will be learning, gaining confidence and feeling a sense of empowerment without even knowing it. Mentors are acting as a valuable source of knowledge, insight and encouragement for the student.

ACCESS

One of the most valuable things Mentors can do is to help connect their mentee with people, opportunities, and information that are otherwise out of reach. We encourage Mentors to help their mentees find and get involved in new situations or find new resources.

ADVOCACY

Mentors can be an advocate for their mentee – in other words, work on their behalf to get them the recognition they deserve or the resources they need to resolve issues or problems.

Since 2005, DreamCatcher Mentoring mentors have included a diverse cross-section of Canadian volunteers from cities across the world including Sydney, Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa, San Francisco, Dubai and New York.

Some of the careers that these mentors represent include: Navy officer, entrepreneur, teacher, doctor, photographer, police officer, veterinarian, athlete, video game designer, retail associate, forensic scientist, paramedic, and mechanical engineer.

JOSH SILVERTOWN

Josh has been involved in mentoring programs with Big Brothers since 1997, and has been responsible for implementing science and engineering leadership programs in Ontario and the Northwest Territories. Josh holds a MBA from the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario and a PhD in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Guelph.

BEVERLY SEMBSMOEN

Beverly, a Daklaweidi of Carcross/Tagish First Nation (CTFN), is a member of the team that negotiated her First Nation's treaty and self-government agreements and implementation plans. As CTFN's Implementation Official, she is responsible for negotiating various programs and services in collaboration with the Capacity Development, Infrastructure, Heritage & Natural Resources, Health & Wellness, and Governance departments. She also sits as Daklaweidi representative on the CTFN Development Corporation Board of Directors, which has an economic development mandate. An advocate for the youth, she shares her belief that individuals can change the world by first making changes to one's self.

Contact Us

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