In less than one month we will kick off our 5th Annual Coaches Challenge! Once again Kansas will be challenging Iowa and Nebraska to see which state can recruit the most new mentors. Last year, Kansas set a record, recruiting 5,269 new mentors.

The Challenge originally started in 2008, between Kansas (Coach Bill Snyder) and Nebraska (Coach Tom Osborne) as an effort to help close the mentoring gap in our states. This year, leading Team Kansas are Coaches Bill Snyder and Charlie Weis.

In the last 4 years, Kansas programs have recruited over 18,000 new mentors during the last 4 Coaches Challenges

In addition to materials, Kansas Mentors has also released a $500 Mini-Grant on Recruitment & Retention. KM partners are encouraged to think how they can tie their mini-grants to the Coaches Challenge to get a better bang for their buck!

**July 24:** Material Order Form Due

**August 1:** Mini-Grant Application Due

**August 1:** Coaches Challenge Kick-Off

**October 6:** Kansas State/University of Kansas Football game (stay tuned for event details)

**November 30:** Coaches Challenge Champion Announced

Kansas Mentors is again offering FREE Coaches Challenge materials to all of our mentoring partners in the form of bookmarks, posters and recruitment postcards. In addition to the printed materials, KM has created a [Coaches Challenge Toolkit](#) to help programs leverage their materials and the Challenge in their own communities.
Something to think about……

Q: Did you know that Kansas Mentors offers FREE technical assistance to programs looking to become Gold Star Certified?

Kansas Mentors is deeply committed to safe and quality mentoring. Based on the latest mentoring policies, practices, experiences, and research, the Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring™ serves as the gold standard for mentoring. This is why Kansas Mentors and its Advisory Council, comprised of mentoring programs, created the Gold Star Program.

The Gold Star Program not only recognizes mentoring programs that meet or exceed these standards, but it also provides a framework in which KM can assist mentoring programs looking to improve and expand their practices. To help programs achieve Gold Star status, KM offers free recourses and technical assistance to programs looking to develop their programs.

If you are not a Gold Star Program but would like to become one, Kansas Mentors invites you to take the Gold Star Self-Assessment and then contact us for resources and assistance in areas you need to develop.

2012 Conference on Service & Volunteerism:

This October 25 & 26, Kansas Mentors and the Kansas Volunteer Commission are hosting the 2012 Kansas Conference on Service & Volunteerism in Overland Park, KS. This year’s theme is, “Charting the course: Navigating your organization to success” and promises to be an even better line up than the 2011 Conference in Wichita!

Attendees include 200+ nonprofit professionals including: executive directors, grant writers, volunteer managers, program directors, mentoring programs, AmeriCorps members and programs, and Senior Corps programs and members.

Workshops will range from strategic planning to grant writing to positive youth development to school-based mentoring to marketing/social media and much more! In addition to over 25 workshops, two key note speakers will also be featured.

Not only will there be plenty of learning and networking opportunities, but this is an excellent way to learn from regional and national experts without the travel or the cost of leaving the state!

2012 Kansas Conference on Service & Volunteerism:

- October 25 & 26, 2012
- Overland Park Marriott
- Early Bird Registration (closed July 31): $35
- Conference Registration (closed Sept. 30) $50
- On-site registration: $65
- Hotel Accommodations: $84 + tax

Technical Assistance

Are you a mentoring program looking to expand or enhance your mentoring services or organization? Do you know of a community and/or school that is need of a mentoring program? Kansas Mentors is here to help you with these issues!

KM offers free technical and training assistance—all you have to do is ask!

Fill out this easy form, send to mentor@ksde.org and we will get in touch with you to see how we can best assist you.

The New SRS: Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF)

Kansas SRS is now Kansas DCF! What does this mean for mentoring programs? It means that you will now run your Child Abuse and Neglect Registry checks through Kansas DCF.

They have uploaded a new form, to find it you can visit their NEW website, Kansas Mentors website or click here.

Don’t forget that EVERY Kansas Mentors partner listed on the KM website will have the $10 fee waived!

In 2011, average Twitter communities grew by 81%*

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Hotel Accommodations: $84 + tax
Kansas Mentors will be at the 2012 Kansas State Fair!

Kansas Mentors and the Kansas Volunteer Commission are hosting a booth at the 2012 Kansas State Fair. We will be housed in the air conditioned Meadowlark Building providing information, distributing materials and of course RECRUTING mentors for your organizations!

If you plan to visit the fair this year, please stop by! (P.S. There may or may not be some sweet prizes involved.....)

New Gold Star Programs

Kansas Mentors is pleased to announce the newest member to the Gold Star family:

Senior Services Inc., Senior Mentor Program

We’d love to help you become a Gold Star program! Drop us an email at mentor@ksde.org to see how we can work together to get you qualified!

Snapshot of Mentoring in Kansas

Stay tuned and keep your eyes peeled on your email for a new survey coming from Kansas Mentors! In August, Kansas Mentors will request a short amount of your time to answer a few short questions about your mentoring program. The primary purpose of this survey is to provide an understanding of the scope and nature of mentoring and mentoring organizations in Kansas. The aggregated data will be made available in a formal report in January 2013 (just in time for National Mentoring Month!).

NEW Kansas Mentors Website

If you have bookmarked your favorite pages on www.kansasmentors.org you will need to update those addresses! You can still type in www.kansasmentors.org into your address bar and find us, as this is a “vanity address”. The true address is: http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=5166.

Please feel free to post KM links to your own websites - just be sure it is the new address and not the old one.

Kansas Mentors Partner Spotlight

Kansas Mentors believes that mentoring programs in Kansas are some of the best out there! We want to showcase your programs and tell the world how AWESOME you are. Send us your stories—be it an amazing collaboration, a cool match activity, a new recruitment idea or an inspiring mentor/mentee story. You can also share your stories on Facebook and Twitter—we LOVE to share, repost and retweet!