In less than one month, we will kick off our 6th Annual Coaches’ Challenge! Once again, Kansas will be challenging Iowa and Nebraska to see which state can recruit the most new mentors. The competition is getting fierce this year with the addition of two new states: Michigan and Minnesota!!!

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.

26,250 new mentors have been recruited since the Coaches’ Challenge began in 2008!

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

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

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

**August-October:** Coaches’ Challenge Logo Design Competition (stay tuned for details)

**September 14:** Kansas State University Football Game—Outstanding Match Recognition

**Mid-December:** Coaches’ Challenge Champion Announced

If you did not get your order form in on time for FREE materials, contact KM today. We may have extra materials that programs who missed the deadline can utilize.
Kansas Mentors will be at the 2013 Kansas State Fair

Interested in Volunteering?!

Kansas Mentors and the Kansas Volunteer Commission are hosting a booth at the 2013 Kansas State Fair. We will be housed in the air conditioned Meadowlark Building providing information, distributing materials and of course recruiting mentors for your organizations! If you plan to visit the fair this year, please stop by! We have some fantastic give-aways and activities planned for participants. In addition—we have opportunities for people to volunteer at the booth. If you are interested in participating, please contact the KM Director today!!

2014 National Mentoring Summit

Call for Proposals—Due July 26, 2013

MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership is seeking proposals for Workshop presentations at the 2014 National Mentoring Summit, Taking place on Thursday, January 30 and Friday, January 31 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA. The sold out 2013 National Mentoring Summit brought together approximately 650 key mentoring stakeholders from across the nation, featured a wide array of workshops from seasoned experts and included a Corporate and Philanthropic Leadership Session focused on strategies for deepening private sector volunteerism and investment in quality youth mentoring.

Applications are being accepted through the online submission process. Click here to access this application. Contact 2014summitworkshops@mentoring.org with any questions related to workshop proposals.

Didn’t get to attend the 2013 National Mentoring Summit? Go to MENTOR’s website for details.

Something to think about......

Q: Do you have a policy around information collected informally on mentors?

For example, if a mentor in your program tweets that they were arrested last night for assault, but no charges were filed or if you hear through the grapevine (and confirm) that a mentor in your program was recently fired from their place of employment due to performing a lewd act - How do you handle those types of situations; and do you have policies in place to help guide and protect everyone involved?

Kansas Mentors is attempting to create a resource for this topic-if you have a policy(s) related to information collected informally on mentors, send it to mentor@ksde.org (upon request, you will be given credit for any policy example listed).

Still accepting applications for the KM Background Check Grant. Don’t miss out! Apply today!!!

Want more details? Check out the KM website.

Connect with us!!

Kansas Mentors
@KansasMentors
Gold Star Program Updates

The Kansas Mentors Gold Star program was developed in an effort to provide a safe and effective mentoring environment for the youth of Kansas. This program recognizes mentoring partners across the state who have committed to maintaining a basic set of standards to ensure a quality mentoring experience.

We are currently working on a Gold Star application format that Group Mentoring programs can utilize. The current Gold Star application is geared heavily towards one-to-one mentoring. Gold Star for Group Mentoring should be going live during the first week of August.

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!

Congratulations to

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Flint Hills, Kansas
Big Brothers Big Sisters, Compeer Mentoring and Youth Horizons for being Gold Star recertification recipients!

Kansas Mentors is always accepting Gold Star applications and will provide technical assistance upon request.

2013 Conference on Service & Volunteerism

This October 17 & 18, Kansas Mentors and the Kansas Volunteer Commission are hosting the 2013 Kansas Conference on Service and Volunteerism in Manhattan, KS. This year’s theme is, “Aspire to New Heights: What’s Your Mountain?”

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 include but are not limited to: strategic planning, grant writing, positive youth development, school-based mentoring, marketing/social media, and much more.

This year, we are offering a mentoring specific track at the conference!! This is a conference you DO NOT want to miss!!!! 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.

But wait… There is more. Kicking off the conference will be a welcome presentation from Kansas State University Football Coach Bill Snyder, Chair of Kansas Mentors!

2013 Kansas Conference on Service & Volunteerism
• October 17 & 18, 2013
• Manhattan Conference Center (Hilton Garden Inn)
• Early Bird Registration (closes July 31): $50
• Regular Registration: $75
• Hotel Accommodations:

KM Recruitment & Retention Mini-Grant

In the spirit of the annual Coaches’ Challenge, Kansas Mentors is seeking projects taking place during the Challenge that focus on the recruitment and/or retention of mentors. Specifically, efforts should focus on: 1) outreach efforts to recruit more Kansans to meet the state’s shortage of mentors and/or 2) innovative strategies and trainings to retain existing mentors and to ensure young Kansans are receiving high quality mentoring services.

Grant activities should take place between September 1—November 30, 2013.

Who May Apply?

This is a competitive grant application process. Organizations that are currently engaged in youth mentoring activities that meet the definition of mentoring posted on the KM website, and are registered as an Affiliate Program with Kansas Mentors prior to August 1, 2013 are invited to submit applications.

Kansas Mentors expects to award over $5,000 in one-time grants. Funds may not be used to engage in political activities. Applicants may request up to $500 in funding.

Grant applications and materials can be found by clicking on this link or contacting KM Director 785-368-6211 or mentor@ksde.org.

Grant Due Date: August 1, 2013!!!!