

Wonder Mentoring Program FAQs



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

Explorers are the youth/mentees in our program. We call our mentors Guides.

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

We request a minimum of a one year commitment, but connections can be lifelong if mutually agreed. Wonder has successful matches lasting over 5 years.

3. How long does it take to be matched?

We take pride in our matching process and utilize the information you provide to identify an explorer that is a compatible fit. Therefore, we may postpone matching you depending on the explorer referrals we have.

Background clearances are also a factor that our program has no control over, but as soon as we receive all necessary documentation, the matching process can begin.

4. 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 (matched for 2 years), you can introduce the explorer (if they and the caregiver approve) to your family/friends.

5. What does “impacted by foster care” mean/include?

The Explorers referred to our program have had experiences with the Child Welfare System at different capacities and can include foster care, kinship, guardianship, or adoption.

6. Does the Explorer need to be receiving SSYAF services to participate in Wonder?

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

7. Do guides have to live within Sacramento or Placer Counties?

Not all of our Guides reside within the Sacramento or Placer counties, but the Explorers do. As long as Guides understand that they will be transporting and supporting youth in those two counties, they can be a part of Wonder.

8. What is the difference between Journey and Journey+?

Wonder has two Journey Levels. Journey is for new matches. Journey+ is reached if a match surpasses the two-year mark. This level allows for additional privileges including an exclusive match outing hosted by our program.

9. What does it cost for my Explorer to participate?

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

10. 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.

11. What is LIT?

Leaders in Training (LIT) are eligible matches that have been together for at least two years and the Explorer is at least 13 years of age. This embedded program within Wonder allows for matches to develop and learn leadership skills that they're able to apply to their own personal lives as well as during Wonder events and outings.

12. What are the four domains?

Our vision is to foster and increase self-worth, self-confidence, future-oriented mindsets, and a sense of belonging for the youth in Wonder.

13. What are the steps to becoming a Guide?

All individuals interested in becoming a Guide need to attend an orientation, submit an application, interview with our team, attend a two-day training, and successfully complete a background clearance prior to being matched.

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

