

TOP FLIGHT ATHLETICS S.O.A.R.

GENERAL FAQ'S :

Q: What organization is the Mentor Program associated with?

A: *Top Flight Athletics*

Q: What is mentoring?

A: *Mentoring is a structured and trusting relationship that brings young people together with caring individuals who offer guidance, support and encouragement aimed at developing the competence and character of a mentee.*

Q: Is Top Flight Athletics sponsoring the mentor program?

A: *The S.O.A.R. mentor program is operated by a paid staff of current athletes, former athletes, businessmen and women and teachers and coaches of Top Flight Athletics. Future plans for additional funding include seeking corporate advertisement and sponsorship partnerships and financial support through general funding and scholarship programs.*

Q: How long has the program been in existence?

A: *This is a new program and a grassroots effort to create a forum for the student athletes/mentees, so they have the opportunity to be exposed to role models and create relationships with others who can influence them positively personally, athletically, and professionally.*

Q: **What sort of funding does the program have?**

A: *As the program is still a pilot program, permanent funding hasn't been established. Top Flight Athletics will financially support once the program has been officially launched.*

Q: **Who participates in the mentor program?**

A: *This program is a mentoring program for any student athlete, both male and female between the AGES 8-18 who are living in Harris County. The mentees will be selected through the application process with Top Flight Athletics and their coaches and teachers based on progress, performance, attitude, and behavior.*

Q: **How does this program differ from other such similar mentoring programs?**

A: *It differs from an after-school program because the nature of the mentoring sessions promote; healthy behaviors, friendship/socialization, career exploration, and educational components. Another way it differs is we use a "Co-Operative" approach combining the physical programming to improve upon an athlete's performance in very specific areas and, a formal curriculum based upon the necessary performance "mindset" and lifestyle mentoring. The programming includes the to ensure success, accountability and consistency for everyone participating.*

Q: **Who is the Program Director?**

A: *Currently the program is being directed the founder and CEO of Top Flight Athletics, Scott M. Shafer. Top Flight Athletics is handling the coordinating/facilitating for the program, until all remaining funding is secured for a dedicated mentor members who would then be trained and oriented to facilitate the program.*

Q: What are the goals of the program?

A: 1. To provide excellent professional role models to the mentees. 2. To encourage collaborative relationships. 3. To facilitate professional and personal growth opportunities through open and honest dialogue and social and professional activities.

Q: How many mentees/mentors will be in the programs?

A: The mentees participating would range from a minimum of 10 student athletes kids to a maximum of 25 student athletes each 13 week S.O.A.R. Session.

Q: What is the time commitment?

A: A minimum of one hour (1) per week and a maximum of four (4) hours per week. Each S.O.A.R. session will run approximately three months or 13 weeks.

Q: Do I have to sign up for the first session to participate in the mentor program?

A: No, we will have S.O.A.R. Session Start dates

Q: Is there a cost associated with being a mentor?

A: There is not a cost to be a S.O.A.R. Mentor. To create as equal of an experience as possible for all participating mentors and mentees there will be a minimum and maximum recommendation for what Top Flight Athletics will pay for each mentor /mentee 13 week session. We also intend to solicit as many free passes to attractions, events, shows and tours that would be available to the mentors to help subsidize the cost as well as for planned group activities. The minimum budget per mentor, for a 13 week session is \$100 and the maximum budget per mentor is \$150. With

the team, “Peer 2 Peer” mentor approach this would mean a team (2 mentors) would have a minimum of \$200 for the 13 weeks or a maximum of \$300. If there is a special activity that would require you to exceed this budget we will have a request form available and Top Flight Athletics program director will review the request.

Q: What is the application process?

A: If interested in being a mentor it is as easy as 1,2,3.

1) Go to the Top Flight Athletics website at:

www.topflightcoach.com. You will find the necessary documents under “Become A Top Flight S.O.A.R. Mentor”. Complete the necessary information and email back to: founder@oddsonpromo.com

2) We will have an informal interview process with each applicant so we can match the mentors and mentees up for optimum success.

3) 3) Once accepted, we will submit your information provided for the required background check.

Q: What if I have a background does this omit me from applying?

A: If you have had any prior arrests, criminal background or substance abuse this DOES NOT omit you from applying. On the application YOU MUST answer honestly and inform us of your prior background in the appropriate section. All applications are kept confidential.

Q: How are mentees/mentors partnered?

A: The program director will review all applications and be present for all mentor interviews. Additionally, at least one of the program coaches will participate in the interviews. This process will guide those coordinating the program in best partnering the mentors and mentees

while following the S.O.A.R. MENTOR MATCHING POLICY included on the Top Flight Athletics website.

Q: What is a group activity and how frequently would they occur?

A: A group activity is referred to as a planned event for all mentors and mentees. For example, the first mentor session to kick off the program will be a group activity so everyone can socialize and meet all of the participants in a casual and comfortable way. This could be a BBQ at Top Flight Athletics or a tour of The Top Flight Athletics Facility with guest speakers, etc. We will plan three (3) group activities per 13 week session. These group activities will count as a weekly mentoring visit. Essentially, you will only need to plan for 3 mentoring visits per month.

Q: What if A Mentor has to drop out of the program prematurely?

A: If there is no alternative to being able to stay through the duration of the program, the advantage of having two mentors assigned to each mentee is being able to provide an extra layer of support if one of the mentors' was unable to continue due to unforeseen circumstances. This will be handled with care to make sure the mentee understands they are not being abandoned.

Q: What if there are personality conflicts between the mentee/mentor and mentor/mentor?

A: Any and all issues that should cause concern and/or conflict should be immediately taken to the Top Flight Athletics Program Director, who will then direct the concerns accordingly.

Q: Are there any safety concerns?

A: While there is no way to guarantee anyone's absolute safety, the program has taken several steps to protect all participants. A few of those steps include: All mentors are required to sign a waiver and release of liability before they allow a mentee in their vehicle. All mentors must pass a background/FBI clearance and go through an interviewing process. All mentees have earned the opportunity and have met specific qualifications to be able to participate in the program and therefore they have each been carefully selected as prospective mentees.

Q: Is there a set 'curriculum' for the program?

A: Yes. Additionally, three group events/gatherings will be hosted either off-site or at Top Flight Athletics. These meetings will occur at the beginning, middle and end of each 13 week session.

Q: Describe a typical meeting between mentee/mentor?

A: Informal, open, honest, safe, discussion.

Q: What happens at the conclusion of the program...can I continue to meet with my mentee? Is there an opportunity to be a part of the program a second time? If so, would I be partnered with the same mentee/mentor?

A: Lasting relationships are encouraged. All mentors and mentees have the opportunity to continue with the program for as long as they and the mentee should so choose.

Q: **Can we give the mentee money?**

A: No, each mentor is provided an established budgeted amount to spend from Top Flight Athletics. NO MORE than the maximum budget (\$150 per mentor) on activities, etc. throughout the duration of the program. This creates equality