

DREAM MENTOR

ORIENTATION





WHO IS DREAM ALIVE?

DREAM Alive (DA) is a Non-Profit (501c3) focused on mentoring youth in 6th-12th grade to become civic-minded leaders. DREAM Alive helps break the cycle of poverty by helping youth discover career paths and mentoring them from 6th grade until high school graduation.

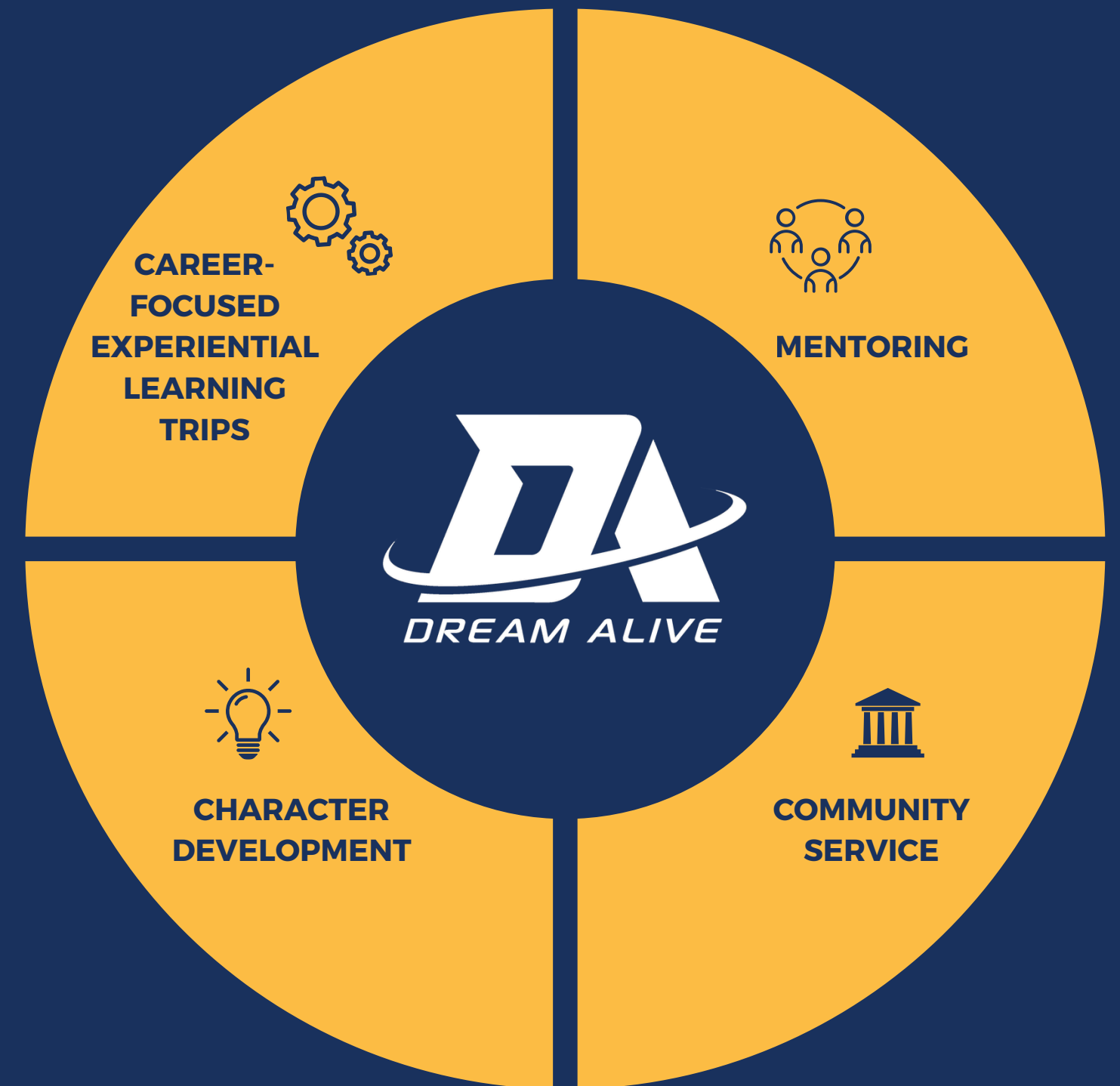




WHAT WE DO

Through partnerships with schools, communities, and corporations, DREAM Alive provides scholars with four key opportunities:

- Career-Focused Experiential Learning
- Mentoring Relationships
- Character Development
- Community Service



“We are committed to building servant leaders by giving youth opportunities to discover their community, grow in character, and achieve their dreams.”



POPULATION WE SERVE

6th-12th GRADE STUDENTS



58%
FEMALE



42%
MALE

ETHNICITY



94%

OF SCHOLARS AT
OR BELOW POVERTY LEVEL

95%

OF SCHOLARS LIVE IN
HIGH-CRIME NEIGHBORHOODS



DREAM ALIVE STAFF ROLES

Let's meet the familiar faces you'll be seeing during your lunch mentoring sessions at your assigned high school.



STEPHEN SMITH

Vice President of
Programming



KEON DOWDELL

High School Director



ANDY CONRAD

High School
Development
Director



JILL PATRICK

Volunteer
Engagement
Director



WHAT IS A LUNCH MENTOR?

Studies have shown that intentional mentoring time can lead to growth in both character development and leadership skills. For this reason DREAM Alive has created a Lunch Mentoring Program which pairs a DREAM Alive Scholar with a volunteer who we call, a DREAM Mentor.

FUN FACT: 

Youth who are mentored are 55% more likely to go to college and 130% more likely to hold leadership positions as an adult





PROGRAM DETAILS

- ~ 14 total sessions from September – April
- Meet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays depending on the school you're assigned to.
- Location: Arsenal Tech High School, Shortridge High School or Purdue Polytech High School
- Same consistent time slot each session
- DREAM Alive will provide the lunch





WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A MENTEE/MENTOR?

SCHOLAR "MENTEE"

- High school students in grades 9–12
- Many have little to no support at home
- Looking for a connection with an adult role model, but are not used to adults always showing up for them.
- **The scholar's primary role is to SHOW UP and treat you with respect.**
- It may take some time to "break through" and build a connection with them.

VOLUNTEER "MENTOR"

- Just by showing up, you will make a huge impact on your scholar.
- **Engage your scholar; be intentional for that 1 hour; give them your full attention; try to find something in common.**
- As you develop a bond, we hope you'll consider spending additional time with your scholar outside of these sessions. This is not required, but DREAM Alive will provide some fun opportunities throughout the year.
- Consider texting/calling your scholar from time-to-time to check in on them.



VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT

Respect: At DA, we want our volunteers, mentors, staff and scholars to be treated with respect.

Zero-tolerance approach: The purchase or possession of alcohol, illegal drugs and/or weapons is strictly prohibited.

Inappropriate Relationships or Behavior: Behavior that respects the human rights of all people and our scholars. Avoid any inappropriate physical or sexual relationships with staff or scholars. At no time may a volunteer engage in sexual activity with a scholar, regardless of the legal age of consent.

Maintain Confidentiality: Our scholars are building trust with you even though you are only meeting with them for a short time. We ask that the conversation that you have with your scholar remain strictly confidential, unless the mentor has received approval from the scholar. The one exception is that DA and our volunteers are required to disclose any type of abuse or maltreatment.

Gift/Money Request Guidance: Please do not exchange gifts with scholars or community members without first consulting with a DA staff member. This helps to avoid any potential misunderstandings.



SIGNS OF ABUSE + REPORTING

- Youth sexual abuse is a criminal behavior. **WE ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO REPORT ANY SUSPECTED ABUSE TO CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES.**
- In your volunteer handbook you will find a detailed list of signs to watch out for. We ask that you review this material so you can keep your eyes and ears open for any indicators.
- If you are concerned about any potential signs, please report them immediately to a DREAM Alive staff member.
- If a scholar comes to you about abuse, please follow the guidelines laid out in the Volunteer Training Handbook and contact a DREAM Alive staff member for additional guidance and instructions.





5 WAYS FOR LIFE INFLUENCE



- **Share Your Story** – share your life, how you were successful or unsuccessful and how you learned from those experiences
- **Participate With Them** – Our scholars often don't normally have adults participating with them – your presence has an effect, whether you know it or not.
- **Intentionally Answer Questions** – Since our scholars don't typically have a consistent, older, wiser influence in their lives, it is crucial that we provide their questions with a thoughtful response that you would stand by.
- **Follow Up With Your Scholar** – follow up on your last conversation; ask them what they are learning at school or anything important going on in their life
- **Goal Setting** – Help your scholar find a goal, help them reach the goal and provide constructive feedback.



NEXT STEPS

- ➔ If you are a new mentor, you'll receive an email from me in the coming week with the name and contact info of your new mentee.
- ➔ If you are a returning mentor and would like to remain matched with your mentee from last year, please let me know as soon as possible.





THANKS

for volunteering!

*If you think of any further questions, you're always
welcome to reach out to me at the contact info below:*

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www.dreamaliveinc.org