# Service Description – Mentor

“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.”

Romans 12:11 (NIV)

## Service Title:

Mentor

## Ministry Purpose:

To disciple a child or adolescent through a loving, godly relationship in a ranch context.

## Position Qualifications:

Mentors are seen as fellow servants of Jesus Christ and ministers of the gospel and as such by serving in the mentorship program are committing to offer support and encouragement to their mentees and their families through a loving relationship built at Haven Acres. Given the nature of a mentoring relationship, mentors are expected to **display integrity in godly living** as defined by the Bible. Participants in the program will be watching and learning from their mentor’s example, and we want them to be able to imitate you as you imitate Christ! (1 Corinthians 11:1)

* **Be a minimum of 18 years of age**. (There may be a rare circumstance where the mentor is younger than 18 but must have completed mentorship training and be more than 3 years older than the child they are mentoring).
* **Agree with and live by the Haven Acres Faith Statement** ([havenacresmn.org/about/](http://havenacresmn.org/about/)).
* **Have a growing relationship with God** as evidenced by spiritual fruit (Galatians 5:22-23).
* **Spend time with the Lord** in regular prayer/Bible study (Romans 12:12 and 1 Thess. 5:17).
* **Be involved in a local, Bible-believing church** as evidenced by regular weekly attendance at a minimum. We also strongly encourage mentors to pursue Christian fellowship and discipleship through a Bible study group, Christian friendships, and/or a Christian mentor (Hebrews 10:24-25).
* **Live in a way that reflects the character of God**.
  + Positive examples: Love, patience, prayer, faith, generosity, sexual purity in body, mind, and heart, respect for authority, brotherly affection for believers, self-control, discipline, humility, etc. (Romans 12 and Colossians 3)
  + Negative examples: Getting drunk or underage drinking, drug use, unrepentant sexual sin (pornography, pre-marital sex, extra-marital sex, etc.), conceitedness, a quick-temper, greediness, swearing, slandering, etc.
  + Mentors will be held accountable for their actions and may be asked to leave if found to be unsuitable for the position.
* **Have a solid understanding of the Bible and the gospel**.
* **Be comfortable walking someone through the plan of salvation**. The Gospel message will not be forced upon the participants, but it is crucial that mentors are prepared to discuss spiritual matters in a biblically based manner when the opportunity presents itself.
* **Have a desire to serve kids and teens**.
* **Have openness and emotional/mental stability** to hear about challenging mental health or relational challenges of a child or adolescent and respond appropriately.
* **Demonstrate a willing and teachable spirit**; be able to take and implement correction.
* **Be committed** and reliable.

## Mentor Expectations/Responsibilities:

* **Meet with the assigned mentee for the agreed-upon time frame** (Once a week for 12 weeks in the summer. Usually a 12-week commitment is required).
* **Attend trainings held in the spring** to orient volunteers to the ministry and train in horsemanship skills until the volunteers are proficient.
* **Abide by all policies** as noted in the Haven Acres Volunteer Handbook.

## Other Requirements:

* A background check is performed on all mentors prior to service.
* Applicant must supply references that can testify to their character. We would prefer that at least one of the references is a pastor or spiritual leader.

## Serving Relationships:

Mentors are under the care of the President (Jason Heath), the Executive Program Director (Jenifer Heath), and the Assistant Program Director (Holly Janik). Any questions, comments, or issues are gladly received by the leaders and will be addressed in a prompt and caring manner.