

OREGON
MENTORS

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### New! \$1500 Scholarship awarded to Match of the Year

Oregon Mentors is now accepting nominations for 2008 Match of the Year, Exceptional Program, and more. New this year is a \$1500 savings bond or scholarship awarded to the youth in the Match of the Year. Nomination forms will be posted to our Web site by Tuesday, June 10:

<http://oregonmentors.org/partners/annualevent/>.

### Summer Events: how will you hear about them?

Here are just a few of the summer events we're planning:

- Oregon Mentors will be partnering with PSU to offer a half-day workshop for local programs during its Summer Mentoring Institute - the tentative date is July 24<sup>th</sup>.
- We're offering your mentoring program \$50 - \$250 credit for a Technical Assistance for Community Services (tacs.org) training or network.
- We're developing a big celebration for mentors, kids, and Greg Oden.
- We'll be hosting a forum about kids and gangs.
- We're holding a speech contest for a high school age mentee. The winner will receive a \$1500 scholarship and speak at our September 17<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, alongside Trail Blazer Greg Oden and Portland Community College's President, Preston Pulliams.

If your program closes for the summer, consider [signing up for our Enews](#) with your summer address.

### Oregon Mentors' Lending Library: Check out these books!

#### **SAFE: Screening Applicants for Effectiveness**

This book covers screening to prevent child molestation should be read by *every* mentoring program staff member! Oregon Mentors purchased 10 copies, and we will lend them out to programs one month at a time. It is a quick read with mentoring screening specific examples.

<http://stores.friendsforyouth.org/Detail.bok?no=33>

#### **Mentoring Journal**

These thoughtfully created journals for youth and mentor matches were designed by an art therapist and are lots of fun. Oregon Mentors purchased two journals (mentor's and youth's journals are identical). Email Celeste to check out a mentoring journal for a two-week period. <http://stores.friendsforyouth.org/Detail.bok?no=48>

## New Online Resources

### **MENTOR has launched online forums**

Expand your peer networking from the comfort of your computer. MENTOR hosts forums about topics that relate to your program's needs including training, specific populations, activity ideas, trends, policy, etc. Learn how to participate at:

[http://www.mentoring.org/find\\_resources/online\\_forums/](http://www.mentoring.org/find_resources/online_forums/)

### **Big Brothers Big Sisters' new Web site for African American men:**

Check out the BBBS national's new Web site launched last month as a volunteer recruitment tool to reach African American men: [www.mentoringbrothers.org](http://www.mentoringbrothers.org)

### **Adolescent Connectedness Evaluation Resource (Surveys, Scoring, and More)**

Hemingway Measure of Adolescent Connectedness is the first research-based measure of adolescent connectedness. The Hemingway was developed in response to the need for an effective way to evaluate the impact of a high school mentoring program. The scales and more are available for free on: [www.adolescentconnectedness.com](http://www.adolescentconnectedness.com).

Researchers are talking about connectedness: Youth development practice illustrates that a young person who develops a positive relationship with an adult or older peer cares more about his/her community and becomes more connected. That connectedness often translates to better relationships with peers, improved attitudes about school, and fewer behavior referrals. Those experiences can foster the youth's increased involvement with his/her communities, including school. A youth who is more connected to school is more likely to stay enrolled longer, receive more cumulative education, graduate, become a skilled worker, and contribute to society and the economy.

## Other News

### **Hollywood Neighborhood Farmer's Market**

Interested in spreading the word about your program? Oregon Mentors has reserved a booth at the Hollywood Neighborhood Farmer's Market (in NE Portland) on September 6<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 1 pm. We'd like to open the booth to one or two programs. Email Celeste if you are interested!

### **Team ODEN Public Service Announcement**

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Oregon Mentors and the Trail Blazers filmed a PSA starring Greg Oden and his mentor, Jimmy Smith. The PSA is a volunteer recruitment pitch to get more mentors involved with programs like yours. Also in the PSA are kids from a local program (thanks for your flexibility, Mentor Portland!). Look for the PSA to air this summer.

### **Annual Data**

Oregon Mentors annual call-out for basic program data has been postponed this year, while our Web developer is building a data component into our site. We will be asking for your annual updates through a Web form in the fall. Programs will have more than a month to return data to us. Look for the aggregated picture of Oregon's mentoring programs to be released during National Mentoring Month in January 2009.

**Don't forget about these available resources:**

## MentorPRO

Mentor PRO is a sophisticated mentoring-specific database that lets you track all the details of running your program. MentorPRO comes with a complete evaluation system, designed by Dr. Jean Rhodes and a team of national researchers. Learn about it at [www.mentorpro.org](http://www.mentorpro.org).

## Making Connections

A low-cost training for mentors or staff. *Making Connections* is an innovative online learning tool designed to build strong, positive, lasting relationships with kids at-risk of dropping out. Some of the content contained in this course is adapted from work developed by Donna Beegle, Ed.D. Scholarships are available! <http://makingconnections.ceed.pdx.edu/wordpress/about-the-course/>

## Fingerprinting

Did you know about the unique free fingerprinting system in Oregon through the Oregon State Police (OSP)? Your program can qualify for free fingerprinting if 1) your program is a 501(c)3 2) the individual being fingerprinted is a volunteer 3) that volunteer is working with a child or elderly adult for nine months or more.

The OSP system can be customized to suit your program: During the initial registration process, programs can select which offenses to screen for, as well as time periods.

The OSP system is comprehensive: Fingerprints are sent through the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), which searches Oregon, Idaho, Washington, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Alaska and Nevada, as well as the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Prints are then sent to the FBI. MENTOR reports that the FBI maintains the most complete criminal database in the United States. It contains more than 200 million arrest and conviction records of more than 45 million individuals. Five to seven thousand new individuals are added to the FBI database every day when persons are arrested for the first time. The database contains all federal crimes plus approximately 70 to 90 percent of each state's criminal databases. Learn more at: [Oregon State Police Clearinghouse Unit](#)




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Oregon Mentors  
2142 NW Overton St. | Portland OR 97210 | 1-866-450-4040  
[info@oregonmentors.org](mailto:info@oregonmentors.org) | [www.oregonmentors.org](http://www.oregonmentors.org)

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