

**TreeHouse – Sandstone**

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Mentoring Procedure

Mentoring is a critical component of the TreeHouse plan to help our struggling teens.  Mentors speak truth and love into our teens and encourage them to make good choices and become their best.

We desire our mentors to meet with their assigned teen(s) at least two times each month.  And that they have phone or electronic contact with them at least weekly.  There are goals to be accomplished during these meetings but there is a large component of having fun with your mentee. What a rewarding way to spend some time each month.  What a huge difference you can make in the life of a teen who is struggling.

We call our mentor/teen meetings “One-to-Ones”. They are personalized appointments between one mentor and one youth. One-to-Ones are a focused time dealing with personal issues as they arise and/or the development of specific assets. Either the staff or youth may initiate a one-to-one.

I. One-to-One Goals

* To begin and deepen individual mentor/youth relationships
* To assess and address the specific needs (asset deficiency) that motivated the appointment
* To provide an opportunity for youth to deal with issues they are not comfortable dealing with in a group
* To provide an opportunity to direct youth toward a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
* To provide counsel for Christian youth to grow in their faith and life

II. Responsibility of Mentor

* To set up one-to-ones by appointment ahead of time whenever possible
* To only meet with youth on their own careload unless permission is given by participant’s careload leader and/or the area supervisor
* To set an appropriate time and place
* To be intentional with planning for and responding to teens’ developmental needs.
* To create a safe environment by validating youth’s feelings, communicating care and concern, listening without providing answers, and giving guidance as appropriate
* To maintain mutual respect for personal boundaries in regard to appropriate subject matter
* To record participants' attendance and any significant spiritual decisions made

TreeHouse founder Fred Peterson says, “Everyone needs someone in their life who is irrationally positive about them.” This is a role our mentors fulfill.