

MENTOR TEENS FROM BACKPACKS TO DUFFLE BAGS, BRIEFCASES, AND TOOL BELTS

Volunteers Mentor During High School Advisory Periods

Where teenagers discover positive relational skills for each one's bank of strengths.

Volunteers and Employee Volunteer Programs Answer The Call To "Be A Mentor!"

StrengthBank® Talk Groups offer an opportunity to "mentor" high school youth specifically and meaningfully. StrengthBank® brings renewing, energizing hope to the mentors as well as mentees. Companies spend nearly \$3 billion annually on Employee Volunteer Programs(EVP) and increasingly link such efforts to business goals:

- Better internal communication/ interpersonal skills, customer loyalty, brand image, recruitment.
- Better new hires and more employee retention.

StrengthBank® Talk Groups In High Schools

StrengthBank® For High Schools-A Relationship Skills Initiative parallels "business" goals but for education:

- Focused, high school graduates who have already rehearsed and been confirmed in each one's next steps, who have learned the power of respecting each other's bank of strengths to become productive citizens, and who know how to come back from any tough circumstance.
- Fewer dropouts, addictive behaviors, gangs, teen pregnancies, and violence.
- Greater understanding of how to work well with others, not against others or in spite of others.

Through engagement, relationships are the fundamental power sustaining successful productivity and high school academic achievement: Readin', 'Ritin', 'Rithmetic + The Much Needed 4th "R"= Relationships

Essential 4 R's Success Requirement: Be In Your StrengthBank®!

High School Students Benefit:

Students acquire a clear, unique discovery of each one's innate bank of strengths and the importance of relational connections. As they see how StrengthBank® can come true bit by bit in everyday decisions, *they learn the hope of reachable possibility* – the possibility of living the vision each heart has known from birth.

Fundamental hope is a powerful engagement tool. With that "best fit" now in focus, teenagers are eager to learn how to work through inevitable struggles. They learn to live out the plan for each life that includes struggles to perseverance, perseverance to character, and character to Hope – leaving each more engaged in school with a strong connection to tomorrow's potential. This engagement for a positive future encourages high school graduation as the necessary next step. **Students begin making tomorrow's dream today's direction before they leave high school.**

StrengthBank® Mentors And Teachers Benefit:

Current StrengthBank® Mentors and participating high school faculty proclaim that participating in **StrengthBank® Talk Groups** not only enhances their relational skills for better real-time parenting and workplace relationship skills but also allows them to focus better strategies in ongoing career decisions. Additionally, each experiences a powerful, unique connection to the greater good of the entire community.

Business and Community Benefits:

- Communities who are better known to each other have a safer, stronger, more personal connection. The youth-community-career connection manifests itself additionally as crime prevention and connected homeland security.
- Adult mentors gain greater job/life/team satisfaction from the Strengthbank® strategies mentored.
- Families gain higher engagement with the "team"; youth engages and "teams up" for more positive futures
- Business gains higher engagement and productivity.

Stronger Youth • Stronger Businesses • Stronger American Communities

Positive relationship building connects high school education to its extended life as corporate productivity.

How StrengthBank® curriculum functions as both an elective for-credit course and as advisory period talk group:

I. StrengthBank® Talk Groups

StrengthBank® - EVP and community volunteers (certified by a one-day professional growth seminar) meet with approximately 15-20 students, 45 - 55 minutes, bimonthly during scheduled advisory periods. The talk centers on elements of *StrengthBank® For High Schools - A Relationship Skills Initiative* as it works out in each life. School faculty takes an observation role and facilitates the learning environment for the mentor.

II. Accredited StrengthBank® Elective Class

StrengthBank®- certified teachers (secondary teachers + StrengthBank® certification in-service) present StrengthBank® in a regular elective class. Students experience in-depth discovery and earn 1/2 credit per semester. StrengthBank®-certified mentors come in two times a month for StrengthBank® Talk Groups as the curriculum and subject teacher decide.

Mentors facilitate and augment the teacher's role in a way only a non-teacher can as they provide an individual focus for each student but within a group - *the way life works outside the classroom*.

How An Implementation Begins

I. Professional Growth Training Event.

A personal/professional growth presentation event is executed. Topics are focused with StrengthBank® principles and cover topics in all the interpersonal areas, e.g., leadership development, team building, excellence, communication, service, employee retention, motivation.

These presentations serve as a youth mentoring launching pad. Parents and concerned citizens in the audience see the worth of StrengthBank® principles for teens; and, literally, they ask for the program designed for teens. (These continual requests became the reason the curriculum and volunteer certification began.) Personal/professional growth sessions remain successful but are certainly not the only way to give the military base community an overview and an opportunity for personal and professional growth that encourages volunteering into the high schools. We work with each base individually for best results.

Once the event is completed, the extension into high school youth mentoring becomes self-evident; an opportunity to know more and volunteer into the local/base high school(s) can be presented. The appeal is clearly understood because each has unknowingly experienced the mentoring foundation in the process of the personal and professional growth training.

II. Volunteer Certification Event.

All volunteers are given mentoring materials and submit application, background checks where necessary, and get all necessary access-to-the-facility information.

III. High School Faculty In-Service.

All faculty and administration receive an in-service presentation to discuss their facilitation of each talk group and/or their core academic content alignment with the talk groups and/or the elective class. The set up and schedule is confirmed and the first **StrengthBank® Talk Groups** day (if school wide implementation) or first semester of StrengthBank® elective class (accredited elective class) is announced. Both **StrengthBank® Talk Groups** and the StrengthBank® elective class can occur simultaneously so that no teenager misses the message and necessary focus for the future.



Each bank of strengths comes with a plan:
The plan for each life
That will prosper That will not harm
And give
Hope and a
Future.

[Testimonials and Video Resume for StrengthBank® Talk Groups](#)

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