

## Academy 4 Mentoring FAQ

---

**What is Academy 4?**

Academy 4 is a leadership mentoring program for fourth graders that gives you a way to connect, engage, and make a difference in your community. We seek to have an impact for good in our community and build hope in fourth graders in low-income schools.

---

**Why 4<sup>th</sup> Graders?**

4<sup>th</sup> graders are on the cusp of adolescence, have the language skills and cognitive ability to gather information, formulate opinions and thoughts that are well-organized and thought-out. They are at a stage between childhood and adolescence where they are more open to and listen to adults. Fourth graders are becoming individualistic, and their values and morals are forming. **Also, 4<sup>th</sup> graders are fun to be around!**

---

**What can I do?**

You can help by becoming a mentor. Our volunteers come together and serve for 90 minutes, one Friday, once a month during the school year.

---

**I'm not sure I have what it takes to mentor.**

We make it simple. We train you and prepare you each month so that you know what to do each Academy 4 Friday. You will also have the support of those with whom you are serving. Just show up and be a dependable role model who will invest time and express care for the student.

---

**What if I am not available on a Friday?**

Two absences per school year are allowed and substitutes are provided if you are absent. Please let your site coordinator know ahead of time if you will be absent.

---

**Will I need training?**

We have an online orientation that helps you learn more about Academy 4, how to be a good mentor, and our policies for keeping students safe. At the beginning of every Academy 4, we provide a short training session to share with you the focus of the day, what is our One Big Thing for the day, and reminders about child safety. Our workbook curriculum is easy to follow, and all supplies needed for lessons and activities are provided.

---

*Continued on next page*

**Will we meet at school or online this year?**

**We are delaying starting on-campus with Academy 4 until October.** As we continue to walk through uncertain times with the COVID 19 virus, many of our schools have restrictions for on campus visitors in place as we start the school year. In addition, we know that all our schools are working hard to establish on campus routines and assess the academic, safety, and social/emotional needs of students.

**What does this mean for Academy 4 volunteers?** We will still meet on the scheduled Academy 4 September date for a volunteer rally and walkthrough. Please keep this Academy 4 Friday date on your calendar. Your Site Coordinator will send you more details as this date approaches.

**It is our full intention to start the program on school campuses this year.** With major spikes in the incidence of COVID 19 in all the communities we serve, and much still unknown about the impact this will have on our school campuses; we feel the safest approach is to reassess in September. Feel free to reach out to your site coordinator or me with any additional questions.

**NOTE:** Some districts have the choice of a virtual learning option for students and families. We will have an online Academy 4 for those students. If you are interested in virtual mentoring, select “undecided” for your school and your Academy 4 Site Coordinator will follow up with you to know that you wish to mentor online this year.

---

**What COVID 19 Precautions are Being Taken?**

As guests on campus, we are following the lead of each individual schools in-person COVID 19 precautions for on campus activities. We will also consult with our church and community partners for any additional precautions.

---

**Where do I sign up?**

You can become a mentor by going online to our website.  
<https://www.academy4.org/mentor-sign-up>

---

**What does mentoring entail?**

- **1:00 – 1:15**  
Mentors Arrive & Check In
- **1:15 – 1:30**  
Mentor Training
- **1:30 – 1:45**  
LEADERS Assembly
- **1:45 – 2:15**  
Compass Workbook mentoring

- **2:15 – 2:45**  
Hang time with Mentors
- 

**How else can I help?**

There are many ways to help Academy 4. You can become a substitute mentor, a Spark Club leader, and/or you can donate online to <https://www.academy4.org/donate-now>.

We thank you for your service, patience, and prayers. We know our 4<sup>th</sup> graders need caring mentors more than ever, and we look forward to being able to come together and mentor 4<sup>th</sup> Graders soon this year! We are still recruiting mentors for this school year. Please help us by spreading the word and inviting someone to join you and mentor. New mentors can apply at <https://academy4.org/mentor-sign-up> .