Fall 2015

*This letter is from a current mentor and alumni. We would like to share our experiences and expectations with you and we’re also available to answer any questions that you might have.*

**Dear Prospective tSB Mentor,**

The experience of being a Service Board mentor could change your life. However, volunteering with us is a serious commitment and requires participating in a rigorous admissions process, emotional investment, and a huge open heart! Be warned, the tSB commitment is a lifelong affiliation; only serious applicants need apply.

**What is being a tSB mentor like?**

While mentoring high school students, you will quickly find that your life is enriched and horizons expanded. Nothing is more fun and fulfilling than learning how to snowboard one weekend and making our community a better place the next.

Mind you, it’s not all fun and games. We have participants who will test your patience, challenge your personal and cultural norms, need rides, and invade your space; as we know from our own experiences that is often part of the path from adolescence to adulthood. For every ounce of effort you give, you will get a pound of love in return. Before long the lines between “youth” and “adult” blur and what becomes clear are the bonds that tie us together. tSB has a unique, hands-on method of operating. In the 20 years we’ve been in existence, mentors have helped create and define each year’s program and curriculum. As you can see from the calendar on our website, you would be making a big commitment.

We use the Mentor Profiles to select individuals who will complement our team. Admission is based on a host of factors. We look for lots of things but, above all, *commitment, honesty, compassion and conviction* are the qualities shared by our mentors. Remember to return your profile before the October deadline and we will schedule an interview with you.

**Fair warning: mentoring is a huge commitment. On top of the six months that you give up your Wednesday nights and Sundays, you will help with homework, be asked for rides and to hang out on off nights. There are also three mentor trainings taking place on 11/11, 11/18, 12/2 and a retreat the weekend of 12/15-16.** That said, it is pretty much the best experience ever and the people- youth and mentors- are some of the most incredible you'll ever meet.

We sincerely believe that because of the caliber of our returning students, whom we call peer leaders, and your fellow mentors, the first half of 2015 could be one of the most rewarding and enriching experiences of your life. More than simply “spending time with kids,” we make tSB the most interesting and devoted volunteer-driven enterprise in the city.

Thanks for taking the time to review this material. If you have any questions about applying to be a tSB mentor please contact our either of our Program Coordinator, Sasha Ifé Sobers-Outlaw sashaife@theserviceboard.org). We are excited to meet you and hear your vision for the Service Board 2015.

Sincerely,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Layla Anane*tSB Class of 2005 and 2006 Peer Leader* | Jelani Jackson*tSB Mentor 2005-2009* |

**the Service Board**

**tSB 2015-16 PROSPECTIVE MENTOR APPLICATION**

**Return to:**

**the Service Board • attn: Sasha Ifé Sobers-Outlaw • 4408 Delridge Way SW, Ste 100 • Seattle, WA 98106**

 **DUE: Friday, October 9th, 2015 by 5pm**

*You can also return your application via email: sashaife@theserviceboard.org or fax 206.324.6516. Questions? call 206.324.7771*

Name: Friends Call You:

Primary Telephone #: Alternative Telephone #:

Address: Email:

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Ethnicity:

**SHORT SHORT ANSWER**

1. How did you hear about tSB?
2. How do you get around town?
3. Are you multi-lingual? If yes, what language(s) do you speak? How proficient are you in speaking, reading or writing?
4. Have you ever snowboarded? (If yes, how skilled are you?)
5. Do you have previous volunteer or relevant community service experience?
6. What strengths would you bring to tSB?
7. Do you have any scheduling conflicts with your Wednesday evenings and Sundays from January to June 2016?
8. If selected, are you free to attend mentor trainings this fall, on select Sundays from 10am - 2pm? (Potential training dates are the weekend of 11/7-8, 11/22, 12/6, and 12/16)
9. How do you spend your free time?
10. What’s the last book you finished and give a three-word review?

**Please continue on next page…**

**tSB 2015-16 — PROSPECTIVE MENTOR APPLICATION**

 **- b side -**

**LONGER SHORT ANSWER**

How was your high school experience? (Describe your personality traits)

In high school, who did you look up to and why?

Why do you want to be a tSB mentor? What gifts do would you bring to tSB?

What was the last disagreement you were in? Who was it with? How was it resolved?

If you were to organize a service project and/or evening session, what would you have us doing?

Please provide us with the name and contact information for two references (not relatives).

1. 2.