



KIDS HOPE USA: HOW IT WORKS

Kids Hope USA is a national organization that equips churches to serve their local public elementary schools by providing positive adults to serve as mentors. Through a Kids Hope USA mentoring program, church members are active participants in serving the students in their community through caring, consistent relationships.

Below are essential steps in establishing and supporting a Kids Hope USA program through your church. Remember that through each step of establishing and running your program, Kids Hope USA is here to support, encourage, and equip you to have a thriving mentoring program.



1 CONNECT WITH A SCHOOL

Kids Hope USA helps your church connect with a local school, as well as provide structure, training, support, and resources for your partnership.

You'll also affirm your partnership with Kids Hope USA by signing an affiliation agreement. This document affirms your commitment to the program and adherence to the program best practices. You'll receive an invoice for our program set-up and annual partnership fees, based on your church's size.



2 CHOOSE A DIRECTOR

The church appoints a program director to lead volunteers and serve as the point of contact with the school. The program director serves as the key liaison with the school, providing supervision and support for volunteers.

To prepare for their role, the program director completes comprehensive online, self-paced training course with the support of Kids Hope USA staff.

Responsibilities of a program director include:

- Ensure all mentors are screened and trained.
- Make sure all files and information are organized and tracked according to Kids Hope USA guidelines.
- Match students with mentors, in coordination with school contact.
- Supervise, monitor, and support mentor-student relationships, including reviewing weekly progress reports and connecting with school staff and mentors regularly.



"It is so great to hear from school staff what a great influence the mentors are having with their students. Students look forward with such energy for their mentor to come each week."

-Kids Hope USA Director

3 RECRUIT, SCREEN, & TRAIN VOLUNTEERS

The church and program director recruit mentors and prayer partners to serve and support students at their local school through this transformative mentoring program. Kids Hope USA provides numerous resources to help you recruit your members to serve.

All prospective mentors are required to complete an application, interview, pastoral review, and background check required for child safety. Once mentors are approved, they will move through mentor training, provided by Kids Hope USA. This training equips mentors to develop relationships with their students and helps shape a mentor's motivation and goals coming into the relationship. Child safety is a key component to the Kids Hope USA program.



4 MATCH MENTORS & STUDENTS

The program director and the social worker or school contact collaborate to pair mentors with selected students. Matches may be made based on personalities and experiences or simply due to schedules. Engage your prayer partners by inviting them to pray for the matching process.



5 BEGIN MENTORING!

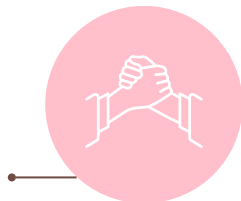
Mentors meet with their student for one hour each week at school, during the school day. At their mentoring time, they focus on building relationships. Activities can include things like games, crafts, reading books, and other fun opportunities. While they may engage in academic work, the emphasis should be on building relationships rather than tutoring. The Kids Hope USA portal also houses numerous resources for mentors to find games, activities, and other ideas for how to spend the mentoring hour.



SUMMARY: CHURCH PARTNERSHIP JOURNEY

SUPPORT

Continue your program with ongoing support, regular updates and encouragement. Strengthen your network of support and make connections with other program directors.



INVITATION

Engage in conversations as we learn what matters to your church. We'll share an overview, our mission and the opportunity to partner with Kids Hope USA.

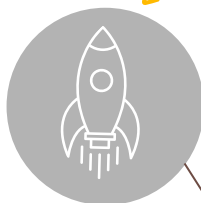
AFFILIATION

Review responsibilities, identify leadership and what to expect as you begin this ministry at your church.



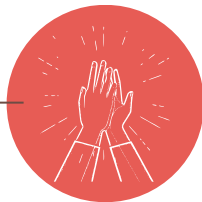
TRAINING & LAUNCH

We will equip you to run your program as you build a relationship with your school. We'll share best practices and walk alongside you as you recruit, screen and engage your volunteers to serve as mentors and prayer partners.



MENTORING

Celebrate this milestone as mentors begin to build relationships with students. This is the beginning of creating a lasting difference in the lives of children.



NEXT STEPS

Begin your Kids Hope USA program today! Connect with our Partnership Growth Team to start your next steps.

partnerships@kidshopeusa.org

