



OUR MISSION: Women and Youth Supporting Each Other empowers young women by providing the resources and support necessary to make positive life choices and create community change.

Who Is a Role Model?

Mentor Training Component: 3. The Role of a WYSE Mentor

Overview: Mentors should keep in mind that as mentors they may be perceived as role models by their mentees. It's important to understand how the expectations for a role model come into play and for mentors to identify who they see as their own role models.

Role models come into young people's lives in a variety of ways. They are educators, civic leaders, mothers, fathers, clergy, peers, and ordinary people encountered in everyday life. These top five qualities were the leading factors that identify role models for young people.

Passion and Ability to Inspire

Role models show passion for their work and have the capacity to infect others with their passion.

Clear Set of Values

Role models live their values in the world. Children admire people who act in ways that support their beliefs. It helps them understand how their own values are part of who they are and how they might seek fulfilling roles as adults.

Commitment to Community

Role models are *other-focused* as opposed to *self-focused*. They are usually active in their communities, freely giving of their time and talents to benefit people.

Selflessness and Acceptance of Others

Related to the idea that role models show a commitment to their communities, students also admire people for their selflessness and acceptance of others who were different from them.

Ability to Overcome Obstacles

As Booker T. Washington once said, "Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which one has overcome." Young people admire people who show them that success is possible.