20 Ways to Celebrate January, National Mentoring Month

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National Mentoring Month was created in 2002. Since that time, every January, individuals, businesses, government agencies, schools, faith communities and nonprofits engage in activities to create awareness of the importance of mentoring in the lives of young people of all ages. It is the perfect opportunity to recruit new mentors and thank those who have volunteered for agencies over the past years.

Here are twenty (20) ways to celebrate National Mentoring Month. Surely you can think of many more. We invite YouthBuild sites to take lots of photos of your events and share them with the YB family.

1. Secure and read President Obama’s Proclamation on www.mentoring.org
2. Honor mentors on Martin Luther King Day of Service. Have mentors and mentees carry out a day of community service. More information can be found on www.mlkday.gov
3. Invite mentees to send thank you notes to their mentors.
4. Mentor One Recruit One campaign during the month. Mentors are asked to recruit one more volunteer and celebrate at a Double the Numbers event.
5. Partner with other mentoring organizations for a community-wide celebration.
6. Hang a banner across the main street of your town: This is National Mentoring Month Make a Difference Mentor a Child (put your contact information on the banner).
7. Invite the Mayor or First Selectman to head a campaign and make sure they sign up to become a mentor themselves.
8. Honor school-based mentors at a Board of Education meeting during the month.
9. Thank your Mentor Day is January 17, 2013. This is a perfect day to send a card, e-mail or small token of appreciation. Youth may write “what my mentor means to me.”
10. Plan a Youth Mentoring Day at your State House and work with other programs across the state.
11. Invite your Mayor or First Selectman to write a local proclamation and appear at events.
12. Appear on local cable access channels and invite the press to cover your events. Highlight powerful mentor/mentee relationships.
13. Make sure the month and your plans are on your website and other social media.
14. Invite the media to run local stories every week throughout the month.
15. Make appointments for youth and mentors to visit legislators “on the hill”.
16. Ask mentees to record Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to air during the month.
17. Use the month to kick off a recruitment campaign with a goal (e.g. 30 mentors in 30 days!)
18. Print ads and billboards during the month create tremendous awareness of the need.
19. Game night at a basketball or football game in your area – secure free tickets.
20. Sign up to become a mentor! Many staff neglect to do so and they make terrific mentors.