

ROCKLAND OMEGA ACADEMY (ROAD)

Fact sheet

Goals

To bring stability and direction to the lives of young African American/Latino boys by providing structure through mentoring. The formal mentoring process will take place monthly. We will supplement these monthly sessions with weekly contact with these young men through telephone conversations and special projects.

Type of Mentoring

We will do group mentoring. This does not entail much one-on-one but it will allow us to form group bonds with the boys. Other times we will break off into smaller or larger groups. We have to do this type of mentoring because we do not have the bodies to do one-on-one mentoring. Our hope is that each young man will eventually establish a contact and/or bond with one of the brothers. The mentoring should by no means be limited to just monthly Saturday sessions.

The Participants

The youngsters chosen for this initial program will be 6th to 8th grade boys chosen from a few schools in Rockland. This year's group will come from Pomona Middle School, Nyack Middle School, Lime Klim Elementary School, and Chestnut Ridge Middle School. The boys have been hand pick by school principals, guidance counselors, and brothers of Xi Lambda Lambda. Many are considered at-risk students and come from single parent homes.

Structure of Monthly Sessions

Each Saturday session will begin with a light breakfast followed by a speaker. We will bring in speaker to discuss issues pertinent to the boys and brothers alike. After their short speech their will be a question and answer session. This will be followed by a skills session. These skills sessions will involve but are not limited to computer skills, health and safety skills, etiquette skills, financial literacy, reading & writing skills, etc.). The last hour will be talk time. The mentors and mentees will discuss life and share stories of our experiences in small and large groups.

Program Venue

The mentoring program will take place at the community room (1st floor) of the Finklestein Library. The library has also given us access to the computer center and other areas of the facility when needed. The community room can hold 50 people comfortably and the library is centrally located making it easily accessible to the community, in particular our boys, many of whom can actually walk there.

Special Projects and Events

The boys as part of the academy will participate in a number of activities during the course of the year. This could include but is not limited to cleanup for the Adopt-A-highway program, Habitat for Humanity, hospital visits, and any other community activity we deem important to their overall development. They will also be expected to participate in some fashion in some of the Xi Lambda Lambda programs when appropriate. We will also bring them along on some of our jaunts to programs and activities of other worthwhile organizations.

Etiquette Training

We will also have etiquette training workshops in dining, dress, business, during the year. We will also attempt to introduce the boys to sports like golf, horseback riding, skiing when time permits.