



Buddy Up Program

Inclusion and Disabilities and EntryPointDC

The **Buddy Up Program** aims to create friendships between young adults with and without disabilities. Young adults without disabilities who want to build peer relationships with young adults with disabilities can participate as a drop-in buddy or year-long buddy. Training on working with those disabilities will be offered for all those that would like to participate in the Buddy Up Program.

Drop-in buddies may sign up to attend any of our programs, held throughout the month, such as cooking, bowling, and game night when your schedule allows, and a year-long buddy will focus on building one-on-one relationships and will be asked to attend a certain number of social programs and correspond with individuals on a regular basis.

Buddies will interact with attendees by socializing, making conversations, and generally being a warm and welcoming face at events.

Please complete the information below:

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact Name & Phone: _____

Emergency Contact Email: _____

Are you currently in school? ____ If so, please name school: _____

Are you currently employed? ____ If so, please name job: _____

I am between the ages of (circle one):

16-18

18-23

23-28

28 -35

35 and older

Please describe your educational background:

Have you worked with individuals with disabilities? If so, describe your experience.

Why are you interested in being a buddy?

Do you have previous experience being a buddy? If so, describe your experience.

What impact do you hope to impart on your buddy?

Do you have any questions about your role as a buddy or about the program?

Goals of Buddy Up Program:

- Develop peer relationships
- Create inclusive opportunities for individuals of all abilities
- Create engaging social experiences for individuals of all abilities
- Provide organic opportunities for relationships to develop

Objectives for Buddies:

- Develop a trusted relationship
- To attend and support buddy in social, vocational, and educational experiences
- To help buddies connect with other peers in a meaningful, positive way
- Develop a friendship with buddy

Criteria & Expectations for Buddy:

- In person or Phone conversation with EDCJCC staff prior to experience
- Attend 1-2 social programs with buddy each month
- Communicate with buddy to arrange for monthly programs
- Communicate with buddy to enhance the friendship
- Inclusivity
- Set positive examples for others
- Become acquainted with other young adults attending programs group
- Establish positive relationships; promote interaction between young adults of all abilities
- Encourage a sense of individual responsibility within buddy
- Encourage independence for you buddy
- Proactive follow up with buddy

In submitting this application, please agree to the following statements by checking them:

I, _____ declare that:

- I understand that as a Buddy, my buddy will lean on me and communicate with me outside of the intended meeting dates.
- I understand the objectives and goals for the program, and will strive to help achieve those goals.
- I will attend 1-2 programs with my buddy.
- I will attend a training prior to working with a buddy
- I agree to a background check.
- I have never been convicted of a misdemeanor, felony, or crime.

BUDDY SIGNATURE:

Date: / /
(dd/mm/yyyy)
