



**UNION LEAGUE  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**

**'Mentor for a Day'**

This year the Union League Boys & Girls Clubs is taking an initiative to educate our youth on career options available to them. We feel if together we educate our youth on the career options they have, they will be able to set logical and attainable goals in their future and be one step closer to becoming caring, responsible and productive adult citizens. We are looking to incorporate opportunities for our youth to take short educational career-focused fieldtrips to various organizations.

The typical 'Mentor for a Day' event consists of:

- A facility tour in a large group
- (The youth often become shy when in a new environment, this allows them time to acclimate)
- A closed off area where volunteer staff from the host organization share their career journey with the group; what challenges they faced along the way (paying tuition, finding interview outfits, learning interview skills), what actions set them up for success, etc. During this time some host organizations serve a meal or beverages.
- Then in pairs or small groups, the volunteer host staff talk to youth about what a day in their career looks like (being honest) so that youth gain a realistic perspective on what they will be experiencing if they pursue this field. This 'day in the career' speech is followed by a question and answer session.
- The group comes back together and a large group question answer session takes place. This can be done by having another volunteer host staff asks questions mentioned in their small groups to a panel of host staff employees to get the session started. In the past companies have shown movie clips (pursuit of happiness has been shown) following the large group question answer panel.
- Conclusion of the trip.

The program is flexible to the various work fields; the goal is to allow our youth the opportunity to be in the actual working environment (after all if they are never comfortable enough to walk in a resume, the career cannot even begin), gain working knowledge of what a career would be like and what it will take for them to get there, understanding that many of our youth are from low-income single parent families, having an employee that can relate to their challenges is ideal so they can imagine themselves being able to pursue the career. However, if no such employee exists having the youth in the environment and gaining the

knowledge on what it is actually like to work in the field is still a meaningful and important experience.

If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact Jen Boza at 312.765.0085 or [j.boza@ulbgc.org](mailto:j.boza@ulbgc.org).