



BOYS TO MEN - Minnesota

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What is the BOYS To MEN Mentoring Network?

The Boys To Men Mentoring Network of Minnesota is a nonprofit organization created by men for the specific purpose of mentoring boys 13-17 years of age through their passage into manhood. We believe it is the responsibility of the men in the community to guide our boys into integrity, accountability, emotional literacy, truth and mission. In doing so, these boys will get more essential tools to get through puberty, that epic transition into adult life. We have developed a life transition guidance program with four main support options:

The Rites of Passage Adventure Weekend (RPAW)

We have a three-day adventure training that empowers boys to discover who they really are and what they want to become. We will work with your community or circle to custom design an adventure that uniquely fits your values and processes. The transformations possible for boys (and men) are amazing! Many boys come into a passage adventure emotionally shut down. Often, the only emotion that has been okay for them to show externally is anger or “flatness.” We have simple processes that put them in touch with all of their feelings and emotions. We set up situations that let them experience their anger, fear, sadness and joy. We let them decide for themselves what values they want in their lives. We teach and model accountability and integrity. We dig with them as they discover a mission to guide them in their everyday actions. A key part is playing games that build connection and intimacy. Most importantly the weekends are intensives wherein boys play and do deep work with mature men forming & deepening bonds that are the foundations of healthy individuals and communities.

- *If we do not initiate the boys, they will burn the village down* - African proverb

Community Activities

Boys To Men hosts regular events which can be an introduction to or follow up support for a Passage Adventure. We also work with other community organizations that have ongoing activities to integrate their specialty programs seamlessly with our program and activities. We’ve found that much of a boy’s real transformation occurs in these ongoing circles where trust and depth are always available for boys and men. In short, we come together every two to four weeks to play, eat, and talk about what’s going on in our lives. Many of the young men who complete an RPAW participate in the community activities. This tells us that the BTM activities offer something that young men want in their lives. We have a lot of fun! We play a lot of games, go camping and learn wilderness awareness skills. Together we do community service work that ranges from arbor care to animal rescue to building & maintenance. We’ve played special “teaching” versions of splat ball that were led by veterans who’ve come to abhor combat. We rented Minneapolis’s largest skateboard and bike park for a day of ramps & jumps with rollerblades, bikes and boards. Everyone has a chance for fun and to feel the fulfillment of service work. •• Our Journeymen (boys who have completed their RPAW and are then on their journey to manhood) staff other initiations around the country too. ••

Peer Processing Groups

Boys To Men of MN specializes in creating safe circles where boys can talk about the events, emotions, and experiences of their lives. Every BTM event concludes with a peer discussion group for the boys. It is a place where Journeymen get to practice being fully alive and communicative among men. Perhaps the simplest way to integrate the Boys to Men into your already successful program is to invite Boys to Men facilitators and teenage staffers to create a peer circle in conjunction with one of your activity times. We have a full menu of questions, activities, and exercises to stimulate adolescent boys into fun and meaningful sharing.

- *It's easier to build strong children than to repair broken men* - Frederick Douglass

The Mentor Program.

Boys To Men of MN is a Twin Cities based mentoring organization. Thus, any eligible boys that come into our program have the option of being matched up with a trained mentor. There are many kinds of mentor match-up possible ranging from group mentoring to one-to-one mentor matches. Boys To Men has developed it’s own transformational 3 day mentor training weekend called “Reclaiming Your Teenage Fire.” Men who take this special RYTF training learn at a deep level how to listen, accept, admire and love their young men and to be there for them. They also get to address their own teenage issues from their youth.

How to Get Boys - and Men - into the BOYS TO MEN Mentoring Network of Minnesota.

It’s easy. • If you have a boy who might be ready, call Kristin Brown at 651-235-1245 kamberbrown@msn.com

• If you are a man who is willing to experience the fullness of mentoring an unfolding young man, we will support you in the wonderful experience of giving and receiving - for surely - as much as you give, you will also receive in return. Our Enrollment Coordinator for Big Buddies & Mentors is Steve Anderson 763-432-5172 steve@boystomenmn.org