

122 Great Mentoring Activities

Visit a Local Attraction!

- **Gunnison Pioneer Museum.** Open from Memorial Day through mid September, the Pioneer Museum boasts one of Colorado's largest collections of antique cars! It is also home to many historic collections ranging from school memorabilia to extraordinary examples of clothing from the day. Visitors are welcome Monday – Saturday from 9-5 and Sunday's from 11-5. Adults pay \$7.00 and kids are charged \$1.00.
- **Gunnison Valley Observatory.** Opened for the 2009 summer season on April 3rd, the Observatory is open to guests every Friday evening starting at 7:30 pm until the 25th of September. One of Gunnison's newest attractions, and home to the biggest telescope in Colorado, getting to the observatory to view our majestic night sky is a must!
- **Archaeology: Tenderfoot Site.** Western State College has been doing archeological field schools in the summers since 1991. They offer free tours of the site during the summer. Call 943-2543 to set up a tour.
- **Gunnison Arts Center.** GAC offers the Gunnison/Crested Butte community a wealth of activities from classes in art, clay, dance, and theatre to live performances and art shows on a weekly basis. Call 641-4029 for a list of upcoming events.
- **Gothic.** The town of Gothic is a great destination for a summer afternoon. Once a mining boom-town and now a ghost town rich in science and summertime activities thanks to the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory. Located 8 miles north of Crested Butte.

- Work on a hobby together. (scrap-booking, collecting models, etc.)
- Play a sport together. (Frisbee, football, soccer, baseball, jump rope, etc.)
- Play catch.
- Challenge another mentor and mentee to two-on-two basketball.
- Go skateboarding.
- Play Ping Pong.
- Exercise together.
- Go swimming.
- Go fishing.
- Have a water fight.
- Jump on a trampoline.
- Help your mentee learn a new talent. (play a musical instrument, cooking, mechanics, woodcarving, etc.)
- Help your mentee practice a talent he/she already has.
- Check local highschool and college sports schedules; Choose an event to attend together.
- Check out lesser known sports like field hockey, rugby or lacrosse. Learn the rules and attend the event.
- Play on playground equipment together.
- Do ice cream sculpting with blocks of ice cream.
- Play kids games with your mentee and family or friends, such as "Red Rover," Dodge-ball, tag, hopscotch, marbles, jump rope and etc.
- Go sledding and drink hot chocolate.
- Dip pretzels in melted chocolate.
- Visit a city council meeting.

- Discuss the responsibilities of a good citizen.
- Learn about the constitution.
- Take your mentee to the library, help him/her sign up for a library card, check out some interesting books or videos. Use the library's web capabilities, with parents permission, sign him/her up for an email account and teach him how to check it (send an email right away from your own email account.)
- Check local college cultural events and choose an event to attend together.
- Learn to play a new game like chess or a card game.
- Go out to ice cream or to get a pizza and just get to know each other.
- Make cookies together and deliver them to someone that you know could use a little cheering up.
- Help your mentee do a chore or a favor around the house.
- Cook a meal together. Include your mentee in buying the materials, cooking and cleaning up.
- Take another mentor and mentee and build a bonfire at Hartman Rocks. Teach your mentee about fire safety and proper procedures for checking fire danger in the area, as well as the proper techniques for extinguishing the fire. In the meantime, have fun—have a hot dog roast, or make s'mores.
- Go to the community center and learn to climb the rock wall.
- Read a story together or watch a movie with a good moral and talk about the lessons learned.
- Have a personal show-and-tell. Bring some photos and items important to you and have your mentee do the same.
- Talk about your mentee's goals and dreams and what needs to be done to achieve them. Make a plan to achieve a short-term goal.
- Explore the community on bikes. Take a picnic lunch to eat in a park.
- Research information on political candidates who are running in local and national elections and get your mentee involved in campaigning.
- Bake bread, pastries, or other goodies from scratch.
- Fly a kite.
- Attend local fairs, parades, and festivals.
- Celebrate your birthdays, other holidays, or any other special day.
- Get creative and make cards for the mentee's family for birthdays, Mother's Day, Father's Day, etc.
- Feed the ducks.
- Skip rocks on the lake or catch bugs.
- Make a short movie together.
- Plant a flower or vegetable garden and help your mentee learn how to make it grow.
- Introduce your mentee to a variety of music with CD's, and attending concerts.
- Select books you can read aloud to each other.
- Pick your mentee up early, get a fast food breakfast and pick a beautiful spot to eat it and watch the sunrise.
- Take advantage of the seasons. Build a snowman or play in the snow, jump in a pile of leaves in the autumn or drive in the canyon to look at the new spring leaves or wildflowers.
- Dye Easter eggs, carve pumpkins, decorate a tree, make valentines...etc.
- Make a list of your own and your mentees hobbies, interests, and talents. Think of ways you can develop or share these. Show genuine interest in theirs.

- Reverse trick-or-treat. Knock on neighbors doors and give them candy.
- Talk about your work, you major in college, or your classes.
- Invite you mentee to shadow you at work if possible, or visit a job that he/she is interested in.
- Take your mentee to some of your classes or let them participate in some interesting homework projects you are doing.
- Take your mentee to visit WSC campus and talk about what they'd need to do to get into college. For a formal tour of the campus, call 943-2363.
- If your mentee is interested and if you have permission from his parent or guardian, take them to your church activity or offer to attend a church activity with them.
- Help your mentee get involved in an appropriate organization, such as scouting or little league.
- Whenever possible, involve your mentee in activities with your family or your friends.
- Teach your mentee life skills. Take them grocery shopping, wash your car together, change the oil in your car, sew something.
- Work on learning another language together.
- Have a game night.
- Do activities with the mentee's family—game night, celebrate birthdays, cooking dinner.
- Learn how to make beaded bracelets or decorate sunglasses with jewels or sequins.
- Hike Hartman Rocks, W Mountain, or anywhere around the area. Use this as an opportunity to teach about hiking safety.
- Take pictures of your activities together.
- Scrapbook an event that the two of you did together.
- Invite friends or family over and cook a meal for them.
- Help your mentee decorate his/her room. You can brainstorm and decorate together.
- Go to the library to do research for school projects.
- Have a beauty day, doing each other's hair, nails, etc. Experiment with different hair styles.
- Teach your mentee about good hygiene.
- Have an etiquette dinner.
- Learn about good posture, speech, dress, etc.
- Learn how to fix something—help your mentee tune up his/her bike.
- Go on a scavenger hunt. Make a list of things to search for.
- Check out a book on origami and try to make some of the designs.
- Take the bus to an activity in Crested Butte. (Or, if you are in Crested Butte, take the bus to an activity in Gunnison!)
- Miniature golf.
- Laser tag.
- Ice skating.
- Get your mentee involved in your local 4H program.
- Write letters to armed service members or missionaries you know.
- Build sometime using toothpicks and gumdrops.
- Learn to hula hoop – you can build your own! (Look online for instructions on how to build your own hoop, then go to a hardware store to buy the supplies.)
- Have a paper airplane building contest.

- Get supplies to make small boats. Have contests with the finished boats—the fastest, the strongest (whose can carry the most pennies without sinking) etc.
- Support you mentee by attending a school activity that they've participated in—athletics, or performances.
- Attend special occasions in your mentee's life—baptisms, scout Court of Honor, Little League games, soccer games, concerts etc.
- Go to the dollar store and see who can get the coolest thing for one dollar.
- Involve your mentee in a service project. Help them feel the positive feelings that come from doing something with no thought of the reward. (Volunteer at the food bank, read or play games with residents of the local nursing home, shovel a neighbor's walkway or pull weeds from their yard, make thank-you notes for special teachers.
- Ask your mentee what he/she is looking forward to most during the school year and to describe the one thing she most wants to accomplish. Tell her what you want to accomplish during the same time period.
- Build a birdhouse or bird feeder.
- Do a pretend job interview.
- Discuss with your mentee the idea of a dream vacation. Share your dream vacation and allow your mentee to share hers.
- Plan a week's worth of meals.
- Talk about balancing a budget, balancing a checkbook, talk about credit cards.
- Find out what your mentee would like to do for a first job. Tell your mentee about your first job.
- Make homemade play dough, string beads; take turns painting faces.
- Keep a journal of your relationship. Share entries you both have made on special occasions.
- Eat lunch with your mentee at school.
- Make a calendar of the big events of his/her upcoming year.
- Check out a tree identification book from the library and discover which ones are in your neighborhood.
- Build a log cabin together with popsicle sticks and glue.
- Using play money, teach your mentee how you spend the money you earn.
- Learn CPR together.
- Paint an old piece of furniture together.
- Learn 10 new words in a foreign language.
- Whack golf balls at the driving range.
- Assemble a model car, plane, train etc.
- Work on home improvement projects together—painting, wallpapering, remodeling. Provides a great time for talking.
- Give your pet a bath together.
- Find something your mentee has never tried—an activity or a food, and experience it together.
- Read the newspaper headlines out loud and have your mentee invent what he/she thinks the story is about.
- Create a secret code and then write in code to one another.
- Write a letter to a favorite famous person.