

UVM DREAM Mentor Survey Results

Spring 2003

Summary

If you take a look at these results, you could learn: How do mentors feel about the program, and how has it changed their lives? What should change? What should stay the same? Take a few moments to look through these responses. Don't forget to read your responses to the open questions in the second half of the survey- there are a lot of good ideas in there!

A few major trends included:

- a strong feeling of empowerment among mentors: we are realizing our ability to make a positive impact on the lives of DREAM'ers.
- a desire for more 1-on-1 time during Friday meetings
- more discipline and organization for Fridays and in general
- need for faster matching-up of new mentors with kids
- more variety of DREAM activities (Fridays and otherwise)

Use this info to generate new ideas for DREAM, and to imagine a better DREAM in the future. Good luck!

*The numbers preceding some responses indicate how many times that same response appeared.

1. How did you hear about DREAM?

- 19 Friends
- 11 Other
- 4 Posters
- 3 Info sessions
- 1 Class

2. What made you join DREAM?

- 32 To interact with kids
- 26 To get involved in the community
- 19 To gain community development experience
- 18 To connect with other college students/social aspect
- 18 I share the philosophy/goals of DREAM
- 18 To gain leadership experience
- 10 To compliment my academic studies
- 1 Other

3. In your opinion, to what extent:

have you had a positive influence on your mentee's life (attitudes/behavior, etc.)?

1-----2-----3-----**X**-----4-----5
none very little some a lot very much (3.8)

have you had a positive influence on the DREAM kids in general (as a group)?

1-----2-----3-----**X**-----4-----5
none very little some a lot very much (3.74)

have you had a positive influence on our group of mentors?

1-----2-----3-----**X**-----4-----5
none very little some a lot very much (3.41)

4. How easy or difficult is it for you to:

take leadership roles in DREAM

1-----2-----3-----**X**-----4-----5
very difficult difficult neither hard or easy easy very easy (3.47)

talk to strangers about DREAM

1-----2-----3-----4-----**X**-----5
very difficult difficult neither hard or easy easy very easy (4.35)

communicate with other mentors?

1-----2-----3-----4-----**X**-----5
very difficult difficult neither hard or easy easy very easy (4.23)

apply DREAM experiences or ideas to your academic work (or vice versa)?

1-----2-----3-----4**X**-----5
very difficult difficult neither hard or easy easy very easy (4.0)

express your opinions to other DREAM mentors?

1-----2-----3-----4**X**-----5
very difficult difficult neither hard or easy easy very easy (4.03)

5. To what extent do you feel motivated to:

come to Friday DREAM

1-----2-----3-----4-----**X**-----5
not at all a little somewhat/neutral very extremely (4.56)

call or write letters to your child outside of Friday time, or during breaks or vacations?

1-----2-----3-----**X**-----4-----5
not at all a little somewhat/neutral very extremely (3.89)

go to Elm St. or visit with your child outside of Friday time?

1-----2-----3-----**X**-----4-----5
not at all a little somewhat/neutral very extremely (3.79)

go to the Mentor Retreat each semester?

1-----2-----3-----4-----**X**-----5
not at all a little somewhat/neutral very extremely (4.26)

go to All-Mentor meetings

1-----2-----3-----**X**-----4-----5
not at all a little somewhat/neutral very extremely (3.79)

join a planning committee (ex Homework Helpers, community service)?

1-----2-----3-----4**X**-----5
not at all a little somewhat/neutral very extremely (4.02)

participate in fundraising activities for DREAM or High Adventure (ex. bottle drives)?

1-----2-----3-----**X**-----4-----5
not at all a little somewhat/neutral very extremely (3.91)

6. In general, how would you rate the success of:

Friday group time

1-----2-----3-----**X**-----4-----5
not successful at all extremely successful (3.61)

Friday one-on-one time

1-----2-----3-----4-----**X**-----5
not successful at all extremely successful (4.5)

All-mentor meetings

1-----2-----3-----**X**-----4-----5
not successful at all extremely successful (3.76)

Our email list-serve

1-----2-----3-----**X**-----4-----5
not successful at all extremely successful (3.85)

Open questions

7. *What would make Friday meetings more fun for you?*

- 9 More 1:1 time
- 7 More organization
- 4 Nothing!
- 4 Variety of activities
- 2 \$ to spend on kids
- 2 More information about what activities are available on/off campus
- 2 More time
- 2 Gym access
- 1 If my kid showed up more often
- 1 Not having to drive
- 1 Snack time
- 1 More discipline/rules for kids
- 1 More group time
- 1 More outdoor activities
- 1 Different mentors leading group act. Each week
- 1 Less group time
- 1 Planning 1:1 activities ahead of time

8. *What would make Friday meetings more fun for the kids?*

- 3 More 1:1 time
- 3 Planning ahead
- 3 Variety of activities
- 2 Less group time
- 2 Group activities split up by age groups
- 1 Access to the gym

9. *What has DREAM taught you about yourself?*

- 8 I can actually make a big difference in someone's life!
- 7 I love kids!
- 4 Leadership
- 4 What I want to do with my future/career
- 2 Confidence
- 1 How to handle stressful situations
- 1 I want kids!
- 1 Creativity
- 1 Working in groups
- 1 Community development is great

10. *What else has DREAM taught you?*

- 10 Patience
- 3 Responsibility
- 2 Small pleasures/ the little things are what count in life
- 1 Appreciate what I have

- 1 Student-run organizations are challenging to run, but worth the work
- 1 To think like a 6-year old
- 1 How to love perfect strangers
- 1 Cooperation
- 1 To mediate chaos!
- 1 Love
- 1 Communication
- 1 Organization
- 1 Speaking
- 1 Networking
- 1 Advocacy
- 1 Discipline
- 1 To deal with other people's problems
- 1 To have fun with good people
- 1 Human nature is essentially Good
- 1 I want to be a kid again!

11. *Vague question: To what extent are you happy you joined DREAM?*

1-----2-----3-----4-----X---5
 pissed and bitter extremely happy (4.79)

12. *What would you change about DREAM for next Fall? This can be anything!*

- 9 More 1:1 time
- 9 More variety of activities- group & 1:1, on & off campus
- 6 More organization
- 4 More communication
- 4 Responsibilities more evenly shared by mentors
- 3 Better discipline/rules for the kids
- 2 Program goals defined
- 2 Faster matching of partners
- 2 Fewer emails on the list serve
- 2 Keep the program growing
- 1 More pot lucks
- 1 Less condescending leaders
- 1 Equality between mentors
- 1 More non-Friday events
- 1 Longer Fridays
- 1 Snack time
- 1 Better get-to-know-you games at Retreats
- 1 Professional development day for mentors
- 1 Keep the seniors

****In addition:*

There were some responses that caught my eye as being important and/or hard to sum up:

“Match ups sooner- I know this is a tough process, but I think it’s important for pairs to have time to form a good trusting relationship before the year/semester ends.”

“Sometimes I feel the social aspect of DREAM between mentors is inappropriate. Overall though I love DREAM because of the kids and the families are awesome, too.”

“I feel like there is a closed circle within DREAM. I feel like some real active mentors don’t really give the “just Friday” mentors as much respect as they deserve!!”

“DREAM has taught me...that a lot of cool people do stuff like this, and there are so many amazingly motivated people that it intimidates me sometimes.”

“...Potlucks etc should continue because you can see the passion for DREAM change when mentors become close, too.”

“As much as the kids love to just hang out...they’re psyched when you open their minds to other experiences...they usually just don’t know what they’re missing!”

DREAM’ers: I hope this survey was worthwhile for you. Thanks for giving your opinions to the group!

If there are any questions about the survey questions or results, contact me:

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