

Loong Kong Youth Group

Mentorship Program



What is the Loong Kong Youth Group?

The Loong Kong Youth Group (LKYG) is part of the Loong Kong Tin Yee Association, located at 924 Grant Avenue, 4th floor, San Francisco, CA 84108. The Youth Group consists mainly of a young mix of members ranging from youngsters to college students and beyond with the surnames of Lew, Quan, Jung, and Chew (including variations of the spellings of the surnames, such as Liu, Kwan, Cheung, Chiu, etc). The Youth Group was originally formed in 1981 to cater to the needs and activities of the offspring of the elders of the Association and to perpetuate their heritage through successive generations of new youthful members.

What is the LKYG Mentorship Program?

The LKYG Mentorship Program is designed to connect youth group members (those entering high school or college) with mentors (youth

group members who are college graduates and professionals) in a one year mentoring relationship. The LKYG Mentorship Program assists the youth group member in successfully matriculating through high school and/or college.

Mentees: High school students and college students.

Mentors: College undergraduates, graduates, and professionals.

The LKYG Mentorship Program provides a positive one-on-one mentoring relationship between mentees and mentors in areas that focus on:

1. Personal, cultural, academic and daily life issues.
2. Career planning, networking, advising and development.

The LKYG Mentorship Program's objectives are:

1. To recruit and effectively match youth group members (participants) with LKYG mentors in a mentoring relationship.
2. To establish positive individual mentoring relationships between mentor and mentees, so that program participants can recall their experience as significant to their experiences in college.
3. To prepare youth group members for a successful graduation and life beyond college.

4. To develop activities and events that assist in facilitating the relationship among all participants while exploring topics of interests and issues of concern in a safe and comfortable environment.
5. To increase participants' knowledge of high school/graduate/professional schools as well as professional life and career settings.

What is a mentor?

The word "Mentor" comes from the Greek language and has its roots in the terms "steadfast" and "enduring." The term originates from Homer's epic *The Odyssey*, in which Ulysses is getting ready to fight the Trojan War and realizes that he must leave behind his heir, Telemachus. Ulysses recognizes that he would not be around to coach and teach Telemachus and that he must get someone to complete Telemachus' education. He chooses his trusted friend named Mentor to be the tutor because Mentor is both wise and sensitive. The term mentor has become synonymous in Western thought with one who is a teacher, a guide, and a friend, typically a wise and experienced person helping a younger one with the transition to adulthood.

Mentors are helpers. They do not, however, guarantee success. Mentors play contradictory roles - at times offering friendship and support, while at other times posing tough challenges and sharing critical insights. To be productive, this delicate balance requires a reciprocal, trusting relationship. This relationship takes time to achieve and is rare, but when it occurs, it is the third most powerful personal relationship influencing human behavior (after family and

love relationships). The relationship between the protégé and mentor changes over time and, in fact, the roles of mentor and protégé may reverse at times over the course of their involvement.

What is "Mentoring?"

"Mentoring" (Cornell University, Cornell Alumni Association. 1997) refers to a recognized set of behaviors that people practice to achieve success through a relationship with a more experienced facilitator, coach, or guide. It is based on the well documented phenomenon that people who are just starting out need three things to succeed: a dream (goal, vision, plan), determination (ambition, perseverance, ability), and someone who believes in them and can help them shape their dream into reality.

"The two types of mentoring are natural mentoring and planned mentoring. Natural mentoring occurs through friendship, collegiality, teaching, coaching, and counseling. In contrast, planned mentoring occurs through structured programs in which mentors and participants are selected and matched through formal processes"

What does a mentor do?

Mentors provide guidance on a variety of issues, such as personal development, academic planning and preparation, graduate school options and opportunities, and career choices. By sharing personal experiences with the mentees they serve, experiences that contributed to their own successful graduation from college, mentors will directly contribute to a mentee's

personal and professional development, as well as offer a source of support.

Program Flexibility

The LKYG Mentorship Program is designed to cater to the needs of both its mentors and mentees. Mentors have the option of choosing to contribute as much time as they desire to the mentee and the program. Mentors also do not need to live in the Bay area to participate. Mentees are allowed to select their own mentor. They also communicate with their mentor as much or as little as they wish.

One-On-One Mentoring

The LKYG Mentorship Program is founded on the principle that the best determinants of a positive mentor-mentee relationship are, in fact, the mentor and mentee involved; hence, the most beneficial and satisfying aspect of the program comes from the one-on-one relationship that the mentor and mentee develop for themselves. Communication between the mentor and mentee can be in the form of direct mail, email, phone calls, meetings, or LKYG events (Annual Picnic, Ice Cream Socials, Movie Nights, Cultural Field Trips, etc). The LKYG Mentorship Program tries to facilitate communication and contact by planning activities for mentors and mentees to participate in together.

Matching Process

The matching process is designed so that mentees select their own mentors based on the

profiles that potential mentors have completed. This promotes the best possible experience within the Mentorship Program. Mentees are the best judges of their preferences and needs. In addition, mentees can feel more responsible for their relationship with their mentor and more involved with the program.

The LKYG Mentors complete a Mentor Registration/Biography, which asks for information intended to familiarize mentees with the academic, career, and personal interests of that mentor. In addition, mentors indicate their reasons for becoming a mentor, and the type of services they are able to provide. Mentees review those biographies (through profiles on the LKYG website or from the mentor binders available at LKYG mentorship events) and select three possible choices for their mentor, ranking them in order of preference. The LKYG Mentorship Program staff confirms their match, and sends a copy of the Mentor Registration/Biography form to the mentee. The mentor will also receive a copy of the mentee profile that was completed.

How do I become a mentee?

Becoming a mentee is very easy. Please fill out the LKYG Mentee Application and submitted it to the LKYG Secretary. You can also request the application via email at lkygsf@yahoo.com, fill it out and submitted through email. For more information, contact the LKYG Secretary, Dave Lau, at 510-551-7774.