

### **Program Overview:**

COPY connects safe and appropriate adult mentors with children who have an incarcerated parent/caregiver. There is no cost for a child to participate. Mentors commit to spending a few hours per week with a child for a minimum of one year. Common activities include sports, arts, academic assistance, and attending community events.

### **Program Requirements:**

- The child should be between 5 and 15 years old.
- The child and family should live in or near Deschutes County.
- The child needs to have an incarcerated parent/caregiver.
- The child and family must be willing to be involved in the COPY program.

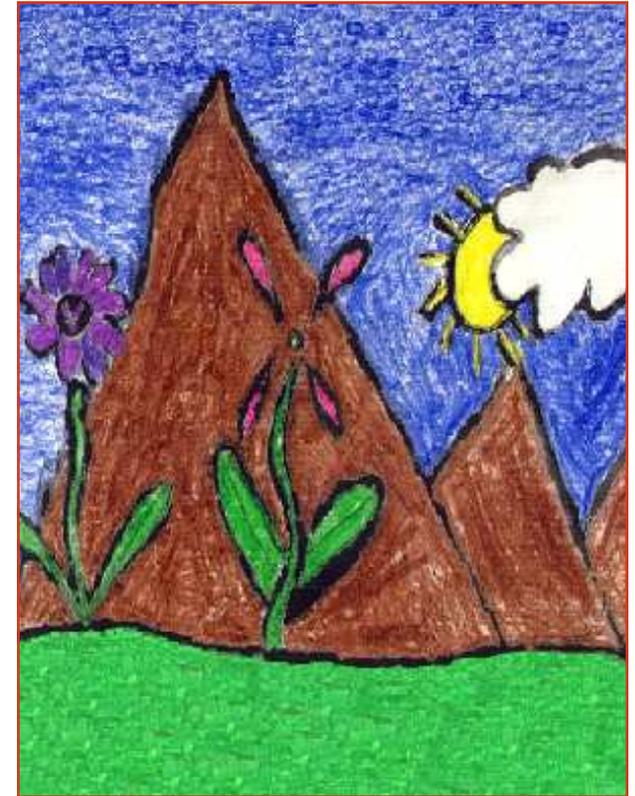
### **Getting Involved:**

Simply call 388-6651 or email [COPY@deschutes.org](mailto:COPY@deschutes.org). A COPY staff person will tell you about volunteer resources in your community and help fill out the required application.

Central Oregon Partnerships for Youth  
63333 West Highway 20  
Bend, Oregon 97701

# Central Oregon Partnerships for Youth

## C.O.P.Y.



Mentors for  
Children of Prisoners

(541) 388-6651

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63333 West Highway 20  
Bend, Oregon 97701

### **The Situation:**

On any given day in Deschutes County, over 350 children are impacted by having an incarcerated parent/caregiver. Research and experience have shown how disruptive this can be on children and families. Children commonly struggle with anxiety, anger, depression and often times withdraw and become socially isolated. Many struggle with school and in relationships with their peers.

The remaining caregiver often struggles with the day-to-day challenges of paying rent, utility bills, food bills, and other necessary items. As a result, the parent/caregiver is often not able to spend as much time with a child as they would like.

### **How COPY Can Help:**

The Central Oregon Partnerships for Youth or COPY program was developed to connect a safe and appropriate adult as mentor for a child with an incarcerated parent/caregiver. Mentors do not replace the parent, but provide additional support in a time of need.

Time and time again, research shows mentoring programs improve school performance, reduce negative behavior, improve self-worth, build social skills, and provide consistency when the parent/caregiver is away. Most importantly, children involved with a mentoring program are less likely to become involved in the criminal justice system as adults.

Volunteer mentors agree to spend a few hours a week with a child for a minimum of one year. This time is often spent attending community events, participating in sport and recreation activities, and some volunteers provide academic assistance or help develop reading skills. For some volunteers and kids, it is simply a chance to talk about how things are going while eating a slice of pizza.

While each mentoring experience is different, some common activities include riding bikes, playing at parks, art projects, going to the movies, fishing, swimming, bowling, roller-skating, listening to music, cooking, going to the library, hiking, and many others...

Often times COPY volunteer can provide a link to additional community support. Volunteers work with COPY staff who are often aware of scholarship opportunities, youth enrichment programs, and other resources that assist kids and families in succeeding.

### **Getting Involved:**

To get a child started in the COPY program, simply call 388-6651 or email [COPY@deschutes.org](mailto:COPY@deschutes.org). A COPY staff person will talk with you about available volunteer resources in your community, help you fill out the required application, and learn about the specific needs of the child. There is no cost to participate in the COPY program.

In addition to contacting COPY, many schools, FAN offices, mental health office, and

social service providers in Deschutes County can assist in getting a child enrolled or answer questions about the program.

### **Program Requirements:**

For a child to become involved with the COPY program they need to be between 5 and 15 years of age, have an incarcerated parent/caregiver, and the child and family must live in or near Deschutes County and be willing to participate.

### **Child Safety:**

All COPY mentors attend a training class on emergency procedures, program policies, communication skills, developing a successful mentoring relationship, and understanding the common struggles families encounter when a parent/caregiver is incarcerated. Volunteers are required to pass a background check that includes having a safe driving record, proper insurance, reference letters, and an in-depth interview. All volunteers must complete a statewide and national fingerprint-based background check. Volunteers are not allowed to have the child in their home and all activities take place out in the community.

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