



May 2024 Newsletter



Mount Si Mentor Brooke and her Buddy

Mentor

I joined Athletes for Kids in my sophomore year of high school, and it has been a very meaningful experience that I will forever cherish. I knew my buddy and I would be a perfect match when I saw that she loved music and dancing. I always look forward to listening to Taylor Swift in the car with her, going to the park, or doing an art activity together. She brings out the creative side of me and I always love trying new things together. I love how energetic and heartwarming she is, and I can always count on my buddy to make me smile. Spending time with my buddy is something I look forward to every week. I feel so grateful that my buddy and her family have welcomed me into their home and have given me this opportunity. I have no doubt our friendship will last well beyond high school.

Mentee Parent

AFK did the seemingly impossible. They matched Brooke with our daughter, and in doing so, blessed our entire family. Witnessing the bond blossom between Brooke and our daughter over the past two years has been an absolute privilege. Brooke's unwavering patience and support were nothing short of extraordinary. It all began simply with Brooke following our daughter around the house as she paced and watched videos. Today, their relationship has blossomed into something truly beautiful. They share outings for treats, walks together, and cuddle on the couch, enjoying their favorite movies. Brooke's kindness and compassion are truly unmatched, and we are eternally grateful for the transformative impact she, and AFK by extension, have had on our daughter's life and on our family.

Upcoming Events

Special Services and Learning Differences Committee Presents...

Community Day

MAY THE FOURTH

ALL FAMILIES WELCOME

TOUCH A TRUCK
Come meet first responders and community helpers and check out police cars, fire trucks, and an electric school bus!

CELEBRATE BELONGING AND INCLUSION WITH US!

ADAPTIVE BIKES
Adolescents with special needs can get outdoors for all and ride one of their specialized adaptive bikes!

RESOURCE FAIR
Learn more about services and opportunities for kids with special needs- from summer camps to swim lessons to therapy services and everything in between!

JUMP
There will be a bounce house for kids. Let's work out some of their energy!

FOOD TRUCK
Incredible Texas Style food from Outsider BBQ food truck!

PHOTO OPPS
In honor of May the Fourth, Star Wars costumes are welcome and photo opportunities are available!

With Support from
Mercer Island School District
May 4, 2024 11-3pm
Northwood Lower Parking lot
4030 86th Ave SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040

This event is free and open to everyone!
Any questions?
ssald@mptacouncil.org

Sponsored by: Rotary Club of Mercer Island

Mercer Island Community Day

All families are welcome to attend Community Day on Saturday, May 4th from 11 AM to 3 PM. Participate in fun activities, get some Star Wars themed photos, learn about resources for kids with special needs, and more!

Northwood Lower Parking Lot, 4030 86th Ave SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Presented by the Special Services and Learning Differences Committee and the Rotary Club of Mercer Island. Note that this is not an AFK sponsored event. No registration required.

It's a Park Day!

What: Come join us for a day in the park! Walk, talk, hike, and play!

When: Sunday, May 19th from 1:00 - 2:30 PM

Where: Luther Burbank Park, 2040 84th Ave SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Who: Mentors, buddies, and siblings

AFK Youth Mentoring ★★

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[Click Here to Register](#)

2024
Senior Mentor Celebration

AFK Youth Mentoring



Skyline High School

Thursday | June 6th | 6:00 to 8:00 PM

[Click Here to Register](#)

Senior Mentor Celebration

Join us to celebrate our 2024 Mentor graduates! Dinner and desert will be provided. Free admission for all graduating mentors. Family members are welcome for \$10 per person. Click the image above to register!

GiveBIG 2024



We are participating in Washington Gives' annual statewide GiveBIG campaign! On May 7-8, thousands of people are going to show their support for their favorite Washington nonprofits during GiveBIG. On that day, your donation will help us advance our mission to **impact lives, one mentorship at a time.**

Early Giving is now open! Click the button below to donate and help us reach our goal. We can't wait to celebrate the difference your generosity will make when you GiveBIG!

Visit our GiveBIG Page

With Gratitude



Thank you Col Tab

We are so thankful for the support of our corporate sponsors! This month, a big shoutout to Col Tab Inc., based in Portland, Oregon. Col Tab (which stands for Collating and Index Tabs) became a critical in-kind sponsor at our 20th Anniversary Gala in 2022 and our 21st Anniversary Gala in 2023. Col Tab furnished the top-notch printing, collating, and binding for the 350 live auction catalogs enjoyed by every guest at the event.

Established by John and Janet Landstrom in 1984, Col Tab continues to be a family-owned business to this day. Their attention to detail, investment in quality, and exceptional customer service (and corporate generosity!) is greatly appreciated by our organization.

Thank you! Visit their website to learn more: <https://www.coltab.com>

AFK Moments





Knowing that someone looks up to me makes me want to be a better person and a better friend.

-AFK Mentor

As we look back on a month of memories, we look forward to more friendship moments and choosing kindness, acceptance, and inclusion every day.

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Thank you to our 2023 AFK Gala Sponsors!



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