



June 2024 Newsletter



Mercer Island Mentor Nikesh Woerner

Mentor

I've been matched with my buddy for almost a year and a half and every time I see him it's the highlight of my week. When I get to his house, he is always excited to see me and ready to go play outside. One of our favorite activities is making our own YouTube videos based on his favorite YouTuber, Dude Perfect. Most weeks he is ready with a video idea in mind and on our walk to the park he tells me exactly how the video should go. My buddy always says that one day Dude Perfect will make a video with us. I have loved being a part of AFK and being my buddy's "second best friend" (Hopefully one day I'll be number 1.) 😊 Every week I get to see not only him grow but see myself grow as well. Although I am sad our mentorship will close soon, I am grateful I got the opportunity to be friends with my buddy.

Mentee Parent

Our son was thrilled to be matched with Nikesh in 2023. When he joined third grade in a new school, he was a little intimidated. But his strong bond with

grade in a new school, he was a little intimidated. But his strong bond with Nikesh provided emotional support and knowing that he had a meeting with Nikesh every weekend reassured him that he had a friend.

Our son always felt connected and deeply flattered by a "cool big kid" spending time with him. The role of mentor can provide a tremendous confidence boost for a kid who struggles socially with peers. Nikesh's enthusiasm also inspired our son to be interested in new topics and sports, like following the Mariners and joining little league.

All weekend, our son would ask "Will I see Nikesh? When? Yay!" They did so many things together: visiting playgrounds, playing catch, getting ice cream, and going to AFK events. Most memorably, Nikesh made a series of videos starring our son as a funny sports hero, which our son treasures and shows to his friends to this day.

Thank you so much to Nikesh for his generous spirit and all of the happiness he brought to our son. This year of fun and memories will always have a special place in his heart.

Upcoming Events



Join AFK for a fun day at...

PADDLE PALOOZA
PICKLEBALL FOR A PURPOSE

The Partners Group, a renowned insurance and benefits broker in the Pacific Northwest, has chosen Athletes for Kids to be a beneficiary of their inaugural fundraising event in Washington, **Paddle Palooza!**

Wednesday, June 12
3:00 PM to 7:00 PM

The Partners Group
1111 Lake Washington Blvd N
Suite 400
Renton, WA 98056

AFK will be one of the two nonprofits receiving funding from the event!

Use code "AFKFREE" to register a team for free!
(Limited to first 10 teams)

TPG Paddle Palooza

AFK has been selected as a beneficiary of The Partners Group's first annual Paddle Palooza fundraising pickleball tournament on Wednesday, June 12th! All are welcome to participate and enjoy a fun day of pickleball with friends, family, or colleagues.

Use code **"AFKFREE"** to register a team for free!

[Info and Registration](#)



Summer Park Day!

What: Summer is here! Come join us for a fun afternoon in the park.

When: Friday, June 21st from 12:00 - 1:30 PM

Where: Perrigo Park
9011 196th Ave NE
Redmond, WA 98053

Who: Mentors, buddies, and siblings

School's Out for the Summer Park Day

What: Summer is here! Come join us for an afternoon in the park. Pack a picnic lunch, bring a ball, and mix and mingle with other mentors and buddies, and of course, siblings are always welcome.

When: Friday, June 21st, 12-1:30 PM

Where: Perrigo Park, 9011 196th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98053

[Click Here to Register](#)



Please support our friends at the Rotary Club of Snoqualmie

SipFest 2024:

A Wine and Cider Sipping Event

Saturday, July 13th

5:00 pm-8:00 pm

Snoqualmie Railroad Park at Downtown Historic Snoqualmie
7971 Railroad Ave SE, Snoqualmie

The 8th annual SipFest Snoqualmie is Saturday, July 13th outdoors in the picturesque Snoqualmie Railroad Park. Enjoy the open air and abundance of space in a healthy, safe environment to stroll about, sip, mingle, munch, and listen to live music by Nick Mardon. Two food trucks will be on site. This is a 21+ event so children may not be able to attend.

Advance purchase web site price: \$45

Price at door (if available): \$55

Designated Driver (Free soda/no wine or cider): \$10

Buy your tickets here:

[SipFest Snoqualmie in Snoqualmie at Railroad Park \(tickettomato.com\)](https://www.tickettomato.com)

With Gratitude



Thank you 2024 Graduates!

This month we recognize and celebrate our 65 Athletes for Kids graduates. Between them they have accumulated 6,300 hours of mentoring! They have offered friendship and kindness to their buddies, they have supported the program in countless ways, and they have grown as individuals. On behalf of the entire organization, thank you and good luck in the future!

AFK Moments



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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