



September 2024 Newsletter



Issaquah Mentor Blake Blumenthal

Mentor

I've known my buddy for almost a year now and I have gained so much from our relationship. I love watching him grow and work through challenges that may be difficult for him. I now think constantly about how I need to set a good example for other children so they can look up to me and hopefully learn something useful in life. When I first met my buddy, I quickly realized how energetic and fun he was. He was extremely curious about everything, his interests were varied, and his questions kept me on my toes. He is friendly and outgoing, and he brings a smile to every person's face that he meets. He has some challenges, but I feel privileged to help him through them. My buddy's family is also such a blessing. They are thoughtful and fun to be around and great communicators. I hope I have made an impact on my buddy's life; I will continue to work for that. Every time I get to hang with him, there's never a dull moment. I only wish I had signed up to be a mentor with AFK earlier!

Mentee Parent

Blake is AMAZING! He is the sweetest, most amazing young man and we are so blessed to have him in our lives. He texts me to set dates and times and is always on time. He's never in a rush to leave and our son always looks forward to hanging out with Blake! Blake brings games and ideas for the two of them to do together. They've baked a gingerbread house, brownies, played cool board games and have gone to the park. Blake is a blessing in our lives, and we have nothing but praise for him!!

Upcoming Event



BACK to SCHOOL
Meet and Greet

When: Saturday, September 14th
11:30am-1:30pm

Where: Ebright Park
23107 SE 44th St
Sammamish, WA 98075

Who: Mentors, buddies, and siblings too

What: Join us for an afternoon of fun, games, and connecting with friends

AFK Youth Mentoring

Back to School Meet and Greet

When: Saturday, September 14th,
11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Where: Ebright Park, 23107 SE 44th
St, Sammamish, WA 98075

Who: Mentors, buddies, and siblings

What: Join us for an afternoon of fun,
games, and connecting with friends.

[Click Here to Register](#)

With Gratitude



Thank you to Ready Set Tennis!

During the months of July and August, many families have taken advantage of the amazing and fun-filled tennis sessions offered by **Ready Set Tennis**. Founded by ECHS alumni Alyssa Bulai, **Ready Set Tennis** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide opportunities for youth with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities to learn the sport, without the worry of having to find equipment or coaching. Alyssa and her crew of awesome volunteer coaches have provided multiple evenings of tennis instruction for

volunteer coaches have provided multiple evenings of tennis instruction for mentors, buddies, and parents as well. There have been so many smiles, many laughs, and a lot of new tennis player converts. Alyssa, thank you for your vision, patience, and dedication. We can't wait for next year!

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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