



# MENTORING THIS MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2025  
VOLUME 3, ISSUE 7

# September



**H**ello September! It's Friday Night Lights season, autumn "officially" arrives on 9/22/25, and we're entering the second month of the 2025-2026 school year. **By now, you should've had an opportunity to connect with your mentee in his or her school. If you experienced any issues with scheduling a meeting routine, please let us and your designated school liaison know.** We're here to assist!



MCOCP has arrived, and we are now on LinkedIn! We launched with our first post on 8/21/25. If you're on the platform, please follow us, like and share our posts, and invite your friends, family and colleagues to do so too.

Be sure to check out the "Mentor Reminders" segment on page two for general and grade-specific updates, upcoming events, and programming matters. Additionally, take a moment to peruse "News You Can Use" for articles on Gen Z, student mental health, policy changes to student loans, and so much more.

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2025 MCOCP Celebrating Success  
Dinner



**Top Left to Right:** MCOCP 15<sup>th</sup> Cohort group photo, MCOCP Executive Director Patrick Gill, MCOCP Alumna Rhyann Allen

**Bottom Left to Right:** MCOCP Scholars, Families, and Mentors; MCOCP Board Chair Tony Taylor



# SEPTEMBER DISCUSSION TOPICS

- What gift would you really like to get?
- What is the best surprise you ever received?
- If you named your city after your favorite food, what would it be called?
- If you could do any job in the world for one day, what would you choose and why?

(Sources for some questions: *Family Talk* game and Dayton Children's On Our Sleeves® conversation starter cards.)

For more information about the On Our Sleeves® initiative and other resources, visit:

- [The Kids Mental Health Foundation](#)
- [The Kids Mental Health Foundation Conversation Starter Resources](#)
- [Dayton Children's On Our Sleeves](#)

- **All-Class Mentors:** Please be sure to download the [Youth Transportation Release Form](#) (under the Resources heading) for future use. It can also be found in a [PDF](#) format. Remember, if you transport your mentee, you'll need to return a copy of this form -- **prior to each event** -- to Jenni and/or Kyra. It will be included in your mentee's files.
- **All-Class Mentors:** We have t-shirts for all MCOCP mentors. If you'd like one, please feel free to call or email Jenni and/or Kyra and provide your size. We'll leave it at the front desk in our offices for you to pick up.
- **All-Class Mentors:** Do you need to reach the MCOCP team? Here is their contact information: Patrick Gill, Executive Director ([937.225.9922](tel:937.225.9922) or [pgill@daytonfoundation.org](mailto:pgill@daytonfoundation.org)), Jenni Guanciale, Program Coordinator ([937.225.9957](tel:937.225.9957) or [jguanciale@daytonfoundation.org](mailto:jguanciale@daytonfoundation.org)), or Kyra Robinson, Student Support Specialist ([937.225.9935](tel:937.225.9935) or [krobinson@daytonfoundation.org](mailto:krobinson@daytonfoundation.org)). Please note that Kyra is part-time and in the office from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.
- **All-Class Mentors:** Did you know that the Dayton Metro Library provides Homework Help Assistants and volunteers to be of service to K-12 students? Homework Help Centers are available in branch libraries. And, no appointment is needed! More details can be found [here](#).
- **Freshman, Sophomore and Junior Mentors:** Kyra, Jenni and Patrick are visiting with underclassmen (freshmen, sophomores, and juniors) at their respective schools during the month of October to touch base and see how they're doing. School liaisons will inform MCOCP scholars when they'll be in each building.
- **Junior Mentors:** Patrick has sent out biennial background check renewal details to you via email. By now, Sterling Volunteers should have notified you. Please complete the process as soon as possible. If you did not receive the email from Sterling Volunteers, check your spam folder or reach out to Patrick.
- **Junior Mentors:** Miami University is hosting two [Fall Open House](#) events on Saturday, 9/27/25 and Friday, 10/31/25. Registration is open now for the Saturday open house. See the link above for more information. Per the website, "the September date offers an inside look at the academic divisions while the October date is designed for a 'build your own' schedule."
- **Senior Mentors:** Jenni is visiting with seniors (Class of 2026) as they begin the college application process. Please tell your mentees that their high school liaisons will notify them when she will be in their building. **Let them know that it is absolutely critical that they attend this meeting to learn about various Fall deadlines they must meet and other important information.**
- **Senior Mentors:** The 2026-2027 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is slated to open on 10/1/25. Students AND their guardian/parent should request their individual FSA IDs **now** so that they will have it on hand prior to completing the FAFSA. They can do so at this link: [FSA Create Account](#). Please remind your scholar about this crucial step.
- **Senior Mentors:** Any seniors interested in attending Miami University **MUST** attend the Fall Bridges overnight event at the university. It is **mandatory**. Jenni will share more details with the senior MCOCP scholars, but the **application** deadline is due 9/26/25. **NOW** is the time for them to start completing the application. Questions? Please reach out to Jenni for more information.
- **Senior Mentors:** The 2025 University of Dayton Flyer Promise Scholars College Promise Overview Night will be held on Thursday, 10/23/25 from 6-8 p.m. Students can learn more and register at this [link](#). Questions? Contact [Seth Jones](#), Assistant Director of Recruitment and Admission.



## September Fun Facts and Dates to Remember

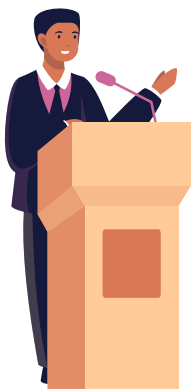
September has been designated National Hispanic Heritage Month, National Preparedness Month, and National School Success Month. Searching for other unique days to observe this month? Take a look below:

- National Red Velvet Cake Day, 9/18/25
- International Day of Peace, 9/21/25
- International Day of Sign Language, 9/23/25
- National Chocolate Milk Day, 9/27/25
- National Good Neighbor Day, 9/28/25
- World Heart Day, 9/29/25
- Time for Yoga Day, 9/30/25



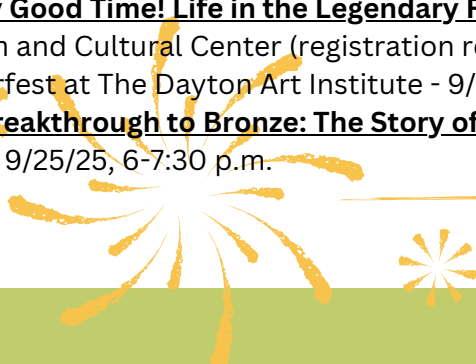
## OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL...

Below, please find some **suggested** ideas for activities to do with your mentee in the coming weeks. **Note that outside events aren't mandatory, but rather optional.** The following searchable websites provide a more comprehensive listing:



- [Dayton Local.com](http://DaytonLocal.com)
- [Dayton Daily News Dayton.com](http://DaytonDailyNewsDayton.com)
- [Downtown Dayton Partnership](http://DowntownDaytonPartnership)
- [Destination Dayton](http://DestinationDayton)
- [Dayton 937](http://Dayton937)
- [Dayton Metro Library](http://DaytonMetroLibrary)
- [Five Rivers MetroParks](http://FiveRiversMetroParks)
- [DO STEM Near Me](http://DOSTEMNearMe)

- Scene 75 Entertainment Center, Dayton – Ongoing
- Sky Zone Trampoline Park, Dayton – Ongoing
- National Museum of the United States Air Force – Ongoing
- Skateworld of Vandalia or Skateworld of Kettering – Ongoing
- Level Up Pinball Bar (and Arcade) – Ongoing
- Great Escape Game – Ongoing
- CozyMelts – Ongoing
- Carillon Historical Park – Ongoing
- Cowvins Corny Corn Maze at Young's Jersey Dairy – Now through 11/2/25, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rubber Duck Regatta at RiverScape MetroPark – 9/20/25, 4-5 p.m.
- Hispanic Heritage Festival at RiverScape MetroPark – 9/20/25, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
- **A Funky Good Time! Life in the Legendary Funk Lane** at the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center (registration required) – 9/20/25, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Oktoberfest at The Dayton Art Institute - 9/27/25, Noon-11 p.m. & 9/28/25, Noon-7 p.m.
- **From Breakthrough to Bronze: The Story of a Paralympic Champion** at the Main Library, 9/25/25, 6-7:30 p.m.



## BREAKING NEWS

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

**General & Miscellaneous Education**

- ["I've Taught Gen Z for Almost a Decade. I'm Split on the So-Called Gen Z 'Split'"](#) (*EdSurge*)
- ["U.S. Public Trust in Higher Ed Rises From Recent Low"](#) (*Gallup*)
- ["How ZIP Codes Determine a Child's Future — and What We Can Do to Fight Back"](#) (*EdSurge*)
- ["What the 'One Big Beautiful Bill' will change for students, schools and colleges"](#) (*NPR*)

**FAFSA & Financial Assistance**

- ["What the new student loan rules mean for current and future borrowers"](#) (*PBS NewsHour*)
- ["What borrowers should know about student loan changes in the One Big Beautiful Bill"](#) (*NPR*)
- ["The FAFSA officially opens on Oct. 1—but you can apply for aid now"](#) (*CNBC*)

**College Value & Affordability**

- ["Why College Tuition Keeps Climbing—And Who's Really Driving It"](#) (*Forbes*)

**Student Mental Health**

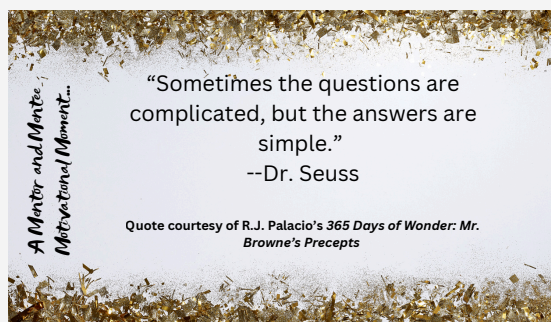
- ["Opinion: College affordability is undermining student mental health. We can't address one without the other."](#) (*Youth Today*)

**First-Generation College Students**

- ["Opinion: A college degree opens doors, but only when we remove obstacles for young people"](#) (*The Hechinger Report*)

**Podcasts & Interviews**

- ["The Revenge of the Humanities"](#) (*College Uncovered*)
- ["The Old College Try"](#) (*College Uncovered*)
- ["Uncertainty, Disruption and Campus Mental Health"](#) (*The Key with Inside Higher Ed*)



"Sometimes the questions are complicated, but the answers are simple."  
--Dr. Seuss

Quote courtesy of R.J. Palacio's 365 Days of Wonder: Mr. Browne's Precepts



- [Tuition Tracker](#) (from *The Hechinger Report*)
- [Student Basic Needs Coalition \(SBNC\)](#)