

How can I end this year's mentoring in a meaningful way?

As the school year closes it only seems natural to want to have fun during your last few visits with your mentee and celebrate! By acknowledging your year together in a creative way, your mentee will have fond memories of your time together, until next year.

- **Make a “Best Memories of the Year” chain** - Using strips of paper, write down your favorite moments together on each one. Make loops of each memory strip and staple the loops together. Your mentee can take it home as a decoration.
- **Make cards for each other** - Draw pictures, and write a heartfelt message to your mentee that will keep your connection alive over the summer.
- **Decorate a cupcake** - Bring cupcakes, icing and toppings to bring out the “ace of cupcakes” in your mentee. Have fun being creative together!
- **Take a selfie** - Take a picture of you and your mentee together, print it, frame it, and give it to your mentee to remember you over the summer.

We applaud mentors who want to plan a special end-of-the-year gift for their mentees. We want to help by offering a list of great ideas that can be meaningful, age-appropriate, within program guidelines, and provide good resources and memories for your mentee's summer and beyond.

Fun Activities

- A large zip-lock bag with age-appropriate fun activities: coloring books, connect-the dots, word search, crayons or markers, stickers, glue sticks, bubbles, etc.
- Playing cards: Old Maid, Uno, Blink, or a regular deck (for Crazy 8, Battle, Go Fish, Solitaire)
- Sports equipment: basketball, Frisbee, colorful all-purpose ball, football, swimming goggles, or a cool water bottle

Reading Support and Encouragement

- Assemble a “Bag of Books”: Visit Half Price Books, Recycled Reads (recycledreads.org), Wal-Mart, garage sales, etc. to shop affordable books.

Inscribe one of them with a memorable message. Ask the school librarian for recommendations, or see <http://library.austintexas.gov/youth>.

- Encourage your mentee to visit his neighborhood library where there are exceptional summer programs available for no cost.

<http://www.austinlibrary.com/mapapp/gmap.cfm?zipcode=all>

Writing Support and Encouragement

- Provide your mentee with a nice journal with a special note written inside. Suggest that he/she write in that journal anything special or interesting or important that happens over the summer. Let your mentee know that you will be very interested in reading any parts of the journal that the mentee might want to share when the two of you reconnect in late August.