



## **Jump Start at the Illinois Youth Centers**

*a program of the Literacy Volunteers of Illinois and School District #428 of the  
Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice*

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

*How safe is it being a volunteer in the Illinois Youth Centers ?*

Because these are secure facilities, service in the Centers is very safe. In fact, we've never had anything happen to one of our volunteers since we began our program in 1995 and have not heard of anything ever happening to other Center volunteers (the IYCs have a lot of volunteers in prison ministry).

*What type of time commitment do you seek from Jump Start volunteers ?*

We ask our tutors to commit to coming in once a week for an hour to an hour-and-a-half for, preferably, a one year period.

*What if I can't commit to a year ?*

We're willing to discuss a shorter period of time, based on your circumstances.

*Are there set times for tutors to come in ?*

The hours are flexible between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., but we ask that a specific time be chosen during those hours and that it remain the same for the most part each week. In northern Illinois, IYC-Warrenville is open to having tutors come in the evenings and Saturdays; IYC-St. Charles allows for Wednesday evening tutoring.

*What if I'm sick or will be going out-of-town for vacation or otherwise ?*

Time off is okay. We don't have a policy regarding missed time, all we ask is if you know there are times that you can't make it you let us know as soon as you can. We also understand that people get sick and that there could be other schedule clashes. Again, we ask that you give us as much notice as you can, should those occasions arise. The system and program can deal with missed sessions more than the youth can, as they really look forward to seeing their tutor.

*Do the youth volunteer for the tutoring or is it required ?*

While student referral usually comes from the teachers, all of the youth participating in the Jump Start program elect to attend the sessions. If at any time they are not cooperative they are dropped from the program as there is always a waiting list of youth eager to work with a tutor.

*Is any training or orientation offered or required ?*

Because our program is "learner-centered" instruction, we require all volunteers before they are matched with a youth to go through program orientation and initial tutor training where we cover tutoring techniques and provide other important information on the youth and working in the "system". The Centers often require volunteers to attend one of their orientations also. Beyond the initial training, periodic training sessions are offered that are open to all tutors, but usually not required.