

## **Presentation on the Turkmen Mentors Program**

Script to go along with PDF Slides

**Slide 1:** Hi everyone, welcome to this presentation on the Turkmen Mentors Program. Let's get started!

**Slide 2:** In this short presentation, I'm going to tell you about three things. First, I will explain what the Turkmen Mentors Program, or TMP, is. Second, I will tell you how TMP can help you. Finally, I will tell you what you need to do as a TMP student and answer some frequently asked questions.

**Slide 3:** So, what is TMP? TMP is a 12- month mentoring program. It was started in May 2010 by the Turkmenistan Youth and Civic Values Foundation, or TYCVF. This is a non- profit organization in the U.S. that was created by a group of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers who served in Turkmenistan. The organization's mission is to develop and encourage international experience, civic values, and community engagement in Turkmenistan. It is the only organization that focuses exclusively on supporting Turkmen students.

**Slide 4:** What happens in TMP? In the first round of the TMP last year, 19 students from around the country were matched with mentors. This year, 50 students are matched with mentors. The TMP mentors are graduates of U.S. or other foreign universities who want to help students to achieve their goals. Mentors come from all walks of life and include Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, teachers, development workers, lawyers, and other professionals.

**Slide 5:** How can TMP help you? If you are interested in studying at colleges and universities abroad, your mentor will help you to identify your goals, research schools, and apply to them. As a TMP student, you also receive a free set of TOEFL and SAT preparation books, and your mentor will guide you through the exercises. When you prove to your mentor that you are ready to take the test, TMP will pay for your test registration fee. Each student is allowed to take up to 2 TOEFL tests and 2 SAT tests. Finally, you can ask your mentor all your questions about the U.S. and learn more about American culture. You can also share your experiences in Turkmenistan and your culture.

**Slide 6:** What do you need to do as a TMP student? The most important thing you need to do is to talk with your mentor. You must do this anyway you can, through email, phone, Skype, online chat, or any other way you can think of. If you do not have regular access to email, give your mentor your phone number and ask them to call you. All mentors can receive money from TMP to call their students.

Your mentor is here to help you, but you must tell them how. They are not mind- readers! If you do not talk with your mentor about what you need from them,

they cannot help you. You need to make friends with your mentor– ask them questions, get to know them, and also tell them about yourself. Build a relationship!

Your mentor should give you lessons and homework to complete. Do them! Each mentor receives a TMP Curriculum with lesson plans. If you are not getting lessons from your mentor, ask for them!

Prepare for the TOEFL or SAT by working on exercises in the test prep books. Your mentor also has copies of these books, so ask them questions about things you don't understand. You can also ask your mentor to identify exercises in the book that help with a specific area, such as Reading Comprehension, Writing, or Geometry. Tell your mentor what you are doing to prepare for the test. This proves to the mentor that you are ready for the test, and they can request your free test registration.

Reply to all email that you receive from your mentor and the TMP Program Managers. We understand that you do not have constant access to email, but you should make a special effort to reply within 2 weeks. It is very important that we hear from you. If we ask you to do something, please do it!

Most of your questions will be answered if you carefully read the TMP Orientation Packet that was emailed to you at the beginning of your match. Please read it! If you have other questions after reading it or need a new copy emailed to you, please email the Program Managers at [tmp@tycvf.org](mailto:tmp@tycvf.org).

**Slide 7:** I would like to introduce you to a current TMP mentor. His name is Tim, and he joined the Turkmen Mentors Program as a Mentor in 2010. He and his wife Dannette had previously hosted Turkmen FLEX students in their home and were eager to be involved in the life of another young Turkmen.

**Slide 8:** Tim was matched with Sabina, a high school student in Mary. Throughout the year, Tim mentored Sabina as she applied to university, studied for the TOEFL exam, and made plans for college. They communicate almost every other week, and Sabina is now preparing to study at a Language Institute in Belarus.

**Slide 9:** To finish my presentation, I'd like to answer some frequently asked questions about TMP. Remember- most of your questions are answered in the TMP Orientation Packet that you received by email, so read this first to find the answers.

**Question: How do I get money for the TOEFL/ SAT?**

**Answer:** You should tell your mentor what you are doing to prepare for the test and ask them for specific exercises to help with your weak areas. Your mentor may also ask you to take a practice test to see what level you are at. When you and your mentor both feel you are ready for the test, ask your mentor to email [tmp@tycvf.org](mailto:tmp@tycvf.org) to request the test. Give your mentor your full name, test name (TOEFL or SAT), test location, and desired test date. Requests must be received at least 3 weeks before the test registration deadline, as seats often fill up.

**Question: I don't have reliable internet access. What should I do?**

Answer: Although you do not need constant internet access to be a TMP student, you will need email access at least once every 2 weeks to communicate with your mentor. You can also give your mentor your phone number and ask them to call you.

**Slide 10: Question: What is the purpose of TMP?**

Answer: TMP matches Turkmen students with mentors who can help them apply to colleges abroad, study for tests, and learn more about the U.S. TMP also provides students with free TOEFL/ SAT prep books and test registrations.

**Question: Will participating in TMP get me into a college or university abroad?**

Answer: Several TMP students have been accepted into colleges and universities abroad. However, participating in TMP alone will not get you into college. Your mentor and TMP are resources to help you, but you must study and apply yourself.

**Question: Will TMP pay for my college application fees?**

Answer: Currently, we do not pay for college application fees.

**Slide 11: Question: I am having some problems with my mentor. What should I do?**

Answer: Talk to your mentor about the problem. It is easy to have miscommunications over email and different languages. Try asking your mentor to call you to talk about it. If this doesn't help, email the TMP Program Managers at [tmp@tycvf.org](mailto:tmp@tycvf.org), and we will do our best to help you.

**Question: I want to become a TMP student. What should I do?**

Answer: Great! We will be accepting student applications for the next round in January 2012. You will be able to get an application at your American Corner or online at [www.tycvf.org](http://www.tycvf.org).

**Question: I have other questions. Where can I find the answers?**

Answer: Most answers to common questions are in the TMP Orientation Packet that was emailed to you. You can also ask your mentor or email the TMP Program Managers at [tmp@tycvf.org](mailto:tmp@tycvf.org).

**Slide 12:** In conclusion, thank you very much for coming today. At this presentation, you learned what the Turkmen Mentors Program is. TMP is a 12-month program that matches Turkmen students with mentors abroad. You learned what TMP helps you with. TMP helps you with identifying your goals, applying to colleges, preparing for the TOEFL/ SAT, and test registration fees. And finally, you learned what you must do as a TMP student. You must talk with your mentor, complete all lessons and homework, prepare for tests, and read the TMP Orientation Packet. Thank you for your time, and may all of you reach your goals and dreams!