

City of Lewiston Press Statement May 11, 2022



Lewiston Recreation is proud to launch **AIM: All-In Mentoring**, connecting Lewiston at-risk youth with positive community members, while exposing them to new experiences and supporting healthy interests. Both mentees and mentors will participate in monthly group events, open program time at the Lewiston Armory, and special trips and programs. The program's logo is attached.

Recreation Director Nicole Welch notes, ***"We are excited to begin promoting our recreation-meets-mentoring style program. AIM experiences are youth driven, and AIM staff and mentors support students' interests and help them navigate the journey towards meeting their goals."***

The mentoring initiative began to take shape in 2021 at Lewiston Recreation after input from city leaders, police, school department, coaches, non-profit leaders, and other community partners.

Mayor Carl L. Sheline adds, ***"I'm excited about this novel blend of events and opportunities for mentorship, and I look forward to hearing about the many meaningful relationships that will develop through the AIM program."***

The grant for this endeavor was made possible through the support of the US Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile and Delinquency Prevention supporting youth impacted by the opioid crisis in New England and Appalachia. Planning has utilized the National Recreation & Park Association's youth mentoring framework, and funds will assist with program costs related to advertising and kick-off programs; staffing and mentor training and development; activities and initiatives for both mentors and youth; and creating an exciting in-house space. Lewiston Recreation also looks forward to mentors and mentees sharing what they have in common amidst the promotion of safe and healthy lifestyles.

Welch adds, ***“The grant is a good fit with Recreation’s focus to diversify recreation opportunities. AIM focuses on promoting a positive, supportive environment for kids to explore their personal interests, while also working on goal setting and trying new activities.”***

AIM mentors and mentees can expect to meet one to two hours per week over the course of a year, while also participating in group programs. For those interested in participating in AIM as a mentor or mentee, individuals may visit www.lewistonrecreation.com and print either the mentee or mentor application or call Lewiston Recreation at 513-3005.

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