



**Boys to Men Mentoring Network of Virginia, Inc.**

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Local website: [www.btmva.org](http://www.btmva.org) National web site: [www.boystomenusa.org](http://www.boystomenusa.org)

On behalf of Boys to Men Mentoring Network of Virginia we hope you and your family are staying healthy and safe during this unprecedented time.

We recognize the impact and uncertainty that the COVID-19 pandemic is creating in our communities. This is a fearful time for our boys who miss their friends and lack the structure of a school day. As always, the health and mental well-being of our BTMVA family – our boys, their parents/guardians, our mentors and our staff - remain of utmost importance to us.

In response to the closure of all schools in the greater Richmond/Hopewell area for the rest of the 2019-20 school year, we must adapt our program to continue to provide a safe space and a place of belonging for our at-risk boys. Ensuring that every boy still feels that sense of belonging, within the confines of social distancing, is at the heart of our mission.

Here are the changes we are implementing to our program in order to continue to fulfill our mission, which is more critical during this period of isolation than ever before:

1. Our lead mentors are currently engaging weekly with every boy and parent through voice calls and SMS text messaging.
2. We are working toward implementing an on-line community platform, with a secure, virtual environment, in which our boys and mentors can continue to share and gain strength from one another in this time of uncertainty. This will be in place within the next 10 days. Our weekly circles will resume in September 2020.
3. We have implemented Zoom for internal meetings regarding daily operations.

In addition, the ROPAW (Rite of Passage Adventure Weekend) scheduled for April 24-26, 2020, has been postponed until a later date, and the scheduling of all in-person community events and trainings have been suspended.

During this period of isolation, we remain committed to keeping our boys connected with their BTMVA community of peers and mentors. We thank you for sharing our mission and ask that if you are able, to please support us with a [monetary donation](#).