



2021-22 Drawing & Truth (DAT) Mentoring Group Overview & Description

What? DAT Mentoring Group is a social group facilitated through the Womankind (Formerly New York Asian Women Center) STAR (Strength, Trust, And Reconnection) Children & Youth program.

Who? DAT is comprised of mentors and mentees. All parties are referred to as “participants” or “members.” DAT typically has a ratio of 1.5 Mentees per Mentor – with a maximum of 15 Mentees enrolled per DAT cycle.

Mentors: Mentors are the backbone of the program. Mentors are in charge of selecting, planning, and facilitating the activities of the DAT meetings. DAT mentors are volunteers recruited through Womankind Managers and STAR Advocates and through word-of-mouth referrals from current or past Mentors. DAT Mentor applicants are selected through an application process including an in-person interview. Selected candidates must successfully complete a background check prior to start of volunteer position.

Mentees: DAT is open to any youth who meet the following requirements:

- are in Middle School or High School, and/or are 13-18 years of age
- have witnessed, experienced, or had a family member experience domestic violence, sexual abuse, and/or human trafficking.

Factors that are **NOT** a consideration for DAT eligibility:

- Race
- Gender Identity
- Culture/Nationality
- Immigration status
- Sexual Orientation
- Language Ability

Staff: One Womankind staff member – a Counselor from Womankind’s STAR Children & Youth Program – is present at all DAT meetings to provide clinical and logistical support. This Staff is responsible for selecting Mentors and Mentees.

Why? The goal of DAT is to create a community where all members:

- are safe to exist, explore, and express themselves freely in a group setting,
- learn and practice a variety of skills,
- have opportunities for self-reflection and self-growth,
- gain awareness about community and social issues, and
- learn, experience, and practice healthy relationships with others.

How? DAT is unlike typical Mentoring programs where Mentor & Mentee are assigned as pairs. Instead, DAT works through deliberately selected activities to promote many levels of interaction - individual self-reflection, paired work, small group work, and work that develops the group as a whole. DAT meetings are structured intentionally to provide a sense of safety that allows participants to feel like a part of a community where members can experiment with different interaction styles and different dynamics.

Programs: Each DAT meeting will be an opportunity for mentees and mentors to grow closer together through group activities and occasional smaller groups for deeper conversations. Additional programming to compliment DAT will be offered throughout the year and the participation to these programs are option for DAT mentors including: Monthly Book Club*, College prep workshops, and High School Tutoring Services



When? One DAT cycle occurs from Mid-October to end of June, for a total of about 25 weeks. During this period, DAT meets on Saturdays from 12pm to 4pm. *Special events and outings may have different start/end times depending on the activity planned for that day.* The DAT calendar typically includes one week off per month, including breaks corresponding to school recesses as per the NYC Department of Education academic calendar.

Where? DAT meetings take place Saturdays from 12 – 4 pm at Womankind’s Manhattan Community Office located at: 9 Mott Street, Suite 200, New York, NY 10013

DAT 2021-2022 Expected Timeline		
DATE	DESCRIPTION	NOTE
Sunday, September 20	Application Deadline	Send an application and resume to DAT@iamwk.org
TBD This maybe covered during the DAT mandatory training	Volunteer Orientation	1-4pm WK Headquarters 32 Broadway, 10 th fl., NY 10004
Saturday, October 9	Mandatory Training & Initial Coordination	12-4pm Manhattan Community Office
Saturday, October 16	First DAT meeting	12-4pm, Lunch provided
October 16- December 18	Fall Semester (8 meetings)	No meeting- Nov 26, Dec 25
January 8- June 18	Spring Semester (17 meetings)	No meeting- Feb 26, Apr 16, 23
June 25	DAT Graduation Ceremony	Manhattan Community Office
July - September	Summer Period (monthly DAT fieldtrips)	Dates: TBD

Mentors are recommended to absent no more than 3 in Fall and 4 in Spring to ensure consistency and quality of the program.

*Book club dates (last Saturday of the month): Oct 30, Nov 27 (TBD), Jan 29, Feb 26, March 26, April 30, May 28