

WHALEWORKS

PUBLICATION SERIES

VOLUME I

SAFE HAVEN FOUNDATION

A Youth Development, Mentorship, and Wellness Framework

PART 04

Opportunity - Innovation - Community - Belonging

Publication Overview

WhaleWorks Community Innovation Campus

Chapter 1

Safe Haven Youth Center - The

Foundation of Every Pathway

Program Philosophy

Safe Haven is the entry point into the WhaleWorks experience. It provides a welcoming after-school environment where youth are encouraged to build confidence, develop positive relationships, complete homework, discover new interests, and connect with trusted mentors. The goal is to create a foundation of belonging before introducing participants to advanced educational and career pathways. A Day at Safe Haven Students arrive after school, enjoy a healthy snack, receive homework support, and participate in structured enrichment activities. Depending on the day, they may rotate through technology workshops, music production, entrepreneurship lessons, recreation, leadership exercises, or guest presentations from community partners. The day ends with reflection, goal setting, and family communication.

Program Schedule

Programming is designed for after-school hours, school breaks, weekends, and summer sessions. Flexible scheduling allows youth to participate regularly while providing additional enrichment opportunities during holidays and vacation periods.

Family & School Partnerships

Families are active partners in the success of every participant. WhaleWorks will maintain strong communication with parents and guardians while collaborating with the Ocosta School District and other educational partners to reinforce positive academic habits, attendance, and personal growth.

Mentorship Model

Volunteers and trained mentors provide encouragement, accountability, and guidance. Mentors introduce youth to career pathways, model leadership, and help participants build confidence. As students mature, they are encouraged to return as peer mentors, creating a sustainable cycle of leadership.

Implementation & Funding

Phase I (\$24,000): Launch pilot programming, recruit volunteers, purchase supplies, provide snacks, and serve 40-60 youth annually. Phase II (\$75,000): Expand staffing, increase family engagement, provide transportation assistance, and serve up to 200 youth annually. Phase III (\$250,000): Establish a permanent Safe Haven facility with classrooms, recreation space, technology access, and wellness programming.

Measures of Success Success will be measured through participant retention, family engagement, volunteer growth, homework completion, leadership development, school partnerships, referrals into additional WhaleWorks programs, and annual community impact reporting.