

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### Media and Public Contact:

Katie Lackler, 736-6078, [klackler@ccoe.k12.ca.us](mailto:klackler@ccoe.k12.ca.us) [calaverasmentoring.org](http://calaverasmentoring.org)

### **Craig Burton named October 2018 Mentor of the Month**

Calaveras County – October 1, 2018 – The Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program is honored to name Camp Connell resident Craig Burton as the October Mentor of the Month. “Craig is the kind of volunteer you can depend on, and an excellent mentor,” said Katie Lackler, coordinator of the Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program. “It has been a joy to see his commitment and authentic approach to his friendship with his mentee, Ben.”

Craig has been matched with 13-year-old Ben for over a year in the Mentoring Program. He came to an information session after speaking with another mentor, John Adams, who was matched with an 11-year-old boy in Murphys. “I was inspired by John. I didn’t know there was a program here, but after hearing about his experience I wanted to see how I could get involved.”

Previously, Craig lived in San Rafael, CA where he volunteered locally with Big Brothers, Big Sisters. He was matched with his Little for several years. “One of the values I live by is to contribute to the success of young people,” said Craig. “I’ll always feel the need to give back, and mentoring definitely fulfills that. If I can be of some help, I’m there!”

“He’s awesome,” said Ben. “He’s a nice guy and he makes killer barbecue sauce.” Craig and Ben go to the movies together, and they enjoy hiking, going on walks, sharing meals and seeing new things.

When asked what his favorite outing has been, Ben said, “Walking across the Golden Gate Bridge. It was a first-time experience and it was really cool.”

Ben’s grandmother, Laurie, is very happy with the match. “The best part of Ben’s friendship with Craig is that Craig is so dependable. They are always going on adventures,” said Laurie. They have great communication between them and Craig is always willing to go the extra mile for Ben.”

“Craig has definitely taught me some skills,” said Ben. “He taught me how to untangle a fishing line.”

“It’s a very good program,” Craig said about the Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program. “You need to be really ready to give of yourself and to be committed to a young person.” The Mentoring Program screens prospective volunteer mentors thoroughly, monitors all matches, and offers mentor trainings, counsel and field trips. “I wish I could attend all the things that are available!” said Craig.

The Mentoring Program is seeking volunteers in all areas of Calaveras County. “There are a number of ways to support the program,” said Katie Lackler, “such as suggesting a possible mentor, helping with fundraising, and getting the word out to the community.”

For more information about the Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program, call Katie Lackler, Coordinator of the Calaveras Youth Mentoring Program at 736-6078 or visit online at [calaverasmentoring.org](http://calaverasmentoring.org).