



FORGE

Facilitating Opportunities for Reentry, Growth & Empowerment
A Peer-Led, Evidence-Based Mentorship Program at Dooly State Prison

What FORGE Is

FORGE is a peer-led, evidence-based mentorship program designed to develop and prepare incarcerated individuals to become peer mentors who will go on to facilitate evidence-based programs in other dorms and housing units at Dooly State Prison.

At its core, FORGE exists to strengthen the human infrastructure that evidence-based programming depends on. Programs such as RISE and Pathfinders require trained, credible mentors to function safely and consistently. FORGE was created to prepare those mentors—men who can lead responsibly, model accountability, reduce conflict, and support rehabilitation efforts beyond their own living area.

FORGE is built on a simple but demanding principle: **leadership is responsibility, not authority.**

Evidence-Based Programming and the Stakeholder Model

Evidence-based programming refers to approaches grounded in research—programs shown to reduce harm, change thinking, and improve outcomes during incarceration and after release. FORGE builds on this approach by developing mentors capable of sustaining and expanding peer-led evidence-based programming.

FORGE treats incarcerated individuals as stakeholders in safety and rehabilitation. While no one wants to be incarcerated, those living inside the facility recognize that safety and stability are shaped daily by behavior and peer culture. FORGE channels that influence into structured, accountable leadership.

Simulation-Based Mentor Training

FORGE uses simulation-based learning to prepare mentors for real-world situations they will encounter inside the prison environment. These simulations mirror common dorm conflicts, escalation triggers, ethical decision points, and reentry-related stressors. Practicing these scenarios improves judgment, communication, and safety.

Role Boundaries and Safety Alignment

FORGE mentors operate within clearly defined boundaries. They do not investigate incidents, impose discipline, or replace staff authority. When safety risks arise, mentors are trained to disengage and refer appropriately. This alignment ensures FORGE mentors support institutional safety rather than undermining it.

Measuring Results

FORGE is committed to accountability and transparency. Program outcomes are evaluated using incident trends, mentor participation and retention, engagement metrics, and qualitative feedback from staff and participants.

Closing Perspective

FORGE is not about control—it is about responsibility. By preparing incarcerated individuals to serve as peer mentors and stakeholders in safety, FORGE strengthens rehabilitation efforts and contributes to a safer, more stable environment at Dooly State Prison.

Leadership is not assigned. It is forged.