



What is BITS?

Business in the Streets (BITS) is a youth-driven organization which helps low-resource emerging entrepreneurs focusing on youth and under-served populations by providing business training, micro-financing, and ongoing business supports.

What does BITS do?

Currently, BITS offers two core educational programs: Y.C.E.O (Youth Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) and the BITS Boot Camp. BITS also provides financial assistance to successful program graduates through our financing programs: \$500 Business SPARK Grant, BITS Tuition Offset and BITS Bucks Microfinance Program.

Who is a BITS Mentor?

An enterprising young business professional, senior business student or recent graduate who keeps business in mind and community at heart. If BITS was a car then Peer Mentors would undoubtedly be the engine. You help BITS to succeed by allowing our educational programs to be tailored, interactive and applicable to our participants.

What does it mean to be a BITS Mentor?

It means to be a role model, a significant part of someone else's learning experience. The role encompasses many aspects which include, but are not limited to coaching, teaching, questioning, motivating, researching, leading, challenging and listening. It is a big responsibility, but it is also a hugely rewarding experience.

Watch the video featuring BITS mentors: <http://businessinthestreets.com/our-mentors/>

What will I get out of BITS Peer Mentorship?

- Enhanced hard skills; business planning, leadership, communication, marketing, research and financial planning to name a few.
- Expanded professional and peer networks through your engagement with guest speakers, other Peer Mentors, panelists and participants.
- For our Rookie Mentors: a token of appreciation and a letter of reference when you volunteer with BITS for the first time. The Peer Mentor is a volunteer position; however, we do strive to provide compensation and employment opportunities whenever we can.
- For BITS Certified Mentors: an honorarium. In order to become a certified mentor, one has to volunteer for one full program cohort + receive positive evaluation from mentees and our program facilitator.
- Potential part-time opportunities with BITS.

BUSINESS IN THE STREETS

Am I the right fit?

- Possess strong technical business skills including business planning, marketing, research and financials skills;
- Complete at least 2 years of formal business training or practical equivalent;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills;
- Coaching, mentoring and tutoring experience is an asset;
- Passionate about sharing knowledge and making a difference;
- Resourceful, positive and enthusiastic.

How much time am I expected to commit to the role?

It depends on your availability. Here are your options:

- Y.C.E.O. Program: 3 hours per week for approximately 6 - 8 weeks (18-24 hours)
- BITS Boot Camp Program: 5 hours per week for approximately 8 weeks (40 hours)

Below is a breakdown of the role based on our on-going core programs:

	Y.C.E.O	BOOT CAMP
Program length	Six to eight, 3-hour sessions on weekly basis => usually run on Weekday evenings or Saturdays morning or afternoons	Eight 3-hour session on weekly basis typically on Saturdays + up to 4 hours/week for individual sessions with your mentees
Applicants profile	16-34 with a business idea or interest in entrepreneurship	16-34 with a tested idea, product or service and some business training
Program goal	Teach basic business skills by applying it to participants idea; provide a feasibility assessment and develop a business idea proposal	Develop business idea into an actionable plan based on the template provided; teach essential business skills
Time commitment from mentor	18-24 hours;	40 hours
Mentee: Mentor Ratio	3:1	2:1
Peer Mentor Role	Attend and co-facilitate all sessions (missing no more than one). Help participants apply business concepts to their idea in small groups of 3. Less hands-on, more directive approach.	Attend and co-facilitate all sessions (missing no more than one). Help participants develop their ideas into an actionable business plan. More hands-on, less directive approach.

More questions? Contact us at: info@businessinthestreets.com



How to Get Involved

Step 1

Complete an on-line [Peer Mentor Intake Form](#) and attend a **BITS Orientation Session** or schedule a one-on-one session with a BITS representative.

Step 2

BITS representative will contact you to perform an interview over the phone or in person.

Step 3

Once you are accepted as a BITS Peer Mentor, you will be added to our database.

Step 4

You will receive an e-mail notification when BITS is looking for Peer Mentors for any upcoming programs and events

Step 5

Complete program-specific training and orientation, read and sign a Peer Mentor Agreement prior before the program's start date.

Step 6

Familiarize yourself with all the relevant program/project materials which will be provided to you ahead of time.