Mentor Information Packet

Thank for volunteering to be an ACE mentor.

Mentors are the lifeblood of the ACE Mentor Program. The program could not survive without the passion and dedication of the 2,500 mentors that volunteer their time to work with and inspire thousands of high school students.

This packet will give you useful information about the program and explain the expectations of mentors. Please take time to read this document and also to participate in the training session your affiliate will organize. Informed and trained mentors make a positive experience for all involved.

The ACE Best Practices Manual, available on ACE’s website, will help you prepare for team sessions and provide other helpful information about running a team meeting. The Manual provides suggested hands-on activities and other tools to assist you.

To access the Best Practice Manual, go to www.acementor.org. Click on the “ACE Behind the Scenes” link at the bottom left of the homepage.

Log In:
User Name: acenews
Password: newsace

This packet includes the following information:
1. An overview of the Program
2. Mentor Overview/Job Description
3. Mentor Checklist
4. Mentor Agreement From
1. ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Mission Statement

To engage, excite and enlighten high school students to pursue careers in architecture, engineering and construction through mentoring and to support their continued advancement in the industry.

The Rationale for ACE

• The construction industry is among the top sectors driving the U.S. economy in terms of jobs and wealth expanding activities.
• The A/E/C industry employs more than 7 million people.
• Baby boomers’ retirement in all parts of the industry is creating a serious workforce shortage.
• The current workforce pipeline is inadequate to meet current and future job needs.

Statistical Profile

• ACE currently operates 64 affiliates covering 40 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico and in more than 200 cities.
• Over 8,000 students and about 2,500 mentors participate each year.
• Almost 70% of students are minorities, and more than one-third are young women.
• Nearly one-half (43%) of ACE students come from families with income below the national median.
• ACE has awarded more than $14 million in scholarships to students.
• ACE Mentor firms have contributed more than $10 million worth of pro bono time.

Proven Outcomes

• 95% of ACE graduates enroll in higher education, and almost 70% enter majors linked to the design and construction industry.
• ACE students graduate high school at a greater rate than non-ACE participants.
• The large majority of students (72%) agree that the ACE experience increased their motivation to go to college or enter a skilled trades program.
• ACE increases the diversity in architecture, construction and engineering program enrollment.
• Female ACE participants enter college engineering programs at double the national rate of their non-ACE counterparts
II. Mentor Overview/Job Description

As a mentor, you agree to the following time commitment

- Meeting Time: Two hours every other week from October to May, or as the mentor’s affiliate schedules the program. Teams meet in schools or mentors’ offices, sometimes a mix of both.
- Prep Time: Varies
- Other Activities (Construction site tours, final presentation event, training, college night, etc.): Varies

Job Description

Mentors are vital to the ACE Mentor Program’s success. They establish a bond with individual students and with the team to which are assigned and serve as professional role models. Through hands-on activities and informal presentations, mentors engage students in learning about the integrated construction industry, and they inspire and guide student teams to complete and present their final design project.

During the program, mentors typically do the following:

- Engage students in hands-on activities as part of the mentor team or as a leader of the activity. ACE’s Best Practices Manual explains the curriculum and provides step-by-step guidelines to many proven activities. Mentors have the flexibility to create their own activities if they wish.
- Work collaboratively with other mentors on a team and by their collective interaction demonstrate how the different industry disciplines must integrate to design and build a project.
- Help plan and sometimes lead sessions
- Share with students their own career path and the requirements for entering their particular field.
- Make a sincere effort to attend all team activities and, if unable to do so in one or two instances, notify the team leader in advance and explain their absence to students.
- Devote their entire attention to students and mentor activities during each session and not be distracted by emails or other non-ACE communications
- May be asked to arrange and lead a job site tour (either a construction project or a professional office).
- Help the team keep in touch with students, reminding them of events and following up with those who miss sessions.
- Help students apply for any ACE scholarships offered by the affiliate.
- Advise students about college, including the application process and preparation of a recommendation letter, if asked.
- Help conduct any year-end program evaluation by students or by the affiliate or team of mentors.
Mentor Checklist

To become an active ACE mentor, he/she will need to complete the following steps:

____ Complete the online application.

- Go to [www.acementor.org](http://www.acementor.org) and click on the “Mentors/Volunteers” link at the top of the page.
- On the mentor page, click “Registration” on the left-hand side.
- Choose either New Mentor & Volunteer Application Form or Returning Mentor.
- Fill out and submit the application.

____ Pass a mandatory background check (for new mentors or returning mentors every 3 years).

- After your application has been received and reviewed, you will receive an email inviting you to complete a background check process.
- Follow the instructions to complete the background check. There is no charge to you. However, if you would like to financially assist your affiliate, you will be given the option to pay some or all of your background check fee. Payment for the background check is your choice.
- You and your affiliate will receive confirmation from the National Office when your background check has been approved and they will mark you as “active” in the ACE database.

____ Complete the online Mentor Training program.

- The mentor training is available at [www.acementor.org/mentors-volunteers/mentor-training/](http://www.acementor.org/mentors-volunteers/mentor-training/)
- Provide an electronic signature at the end of training.

____ Confirm team assignment and meeting schedule with your team leader.

____ Follow the instructions below to review the Best Practices Manual.

- Go to [http://www.acementor.org](http://www.acementor.org) and at the top click “ACE Behind the Scenes.”
- Log in using - Username: acenews   Password: newsace
- On the left side of the page, click “Mentor Resources.”
- Click on a specific program for more information.

Enjoy your experience as an ACE mentor. Your enjoyment will contribute to students’ excitement about becoming an architect, engineer, or construction professional.
ACE Mentor Program Mentor Agreement

Please read the mentor agreement below. You will be asked to provide your digital signature indicating your agreement to abide by this policy.

As a mentor, I agree to:

✔ Commit to the day and time of the team meetings and attend the meetings
✔ Devote full attention to the students
✔ Listen with respect
✔ Portray a positive role model for the students by maintaining an attitude of integrity, courtesy and maturity
✔ Remain confidential – I understand that all information I learn or am told about students is confidential
✔ If any youth tells me something life threatening, I will report it immediately to my Team Leader or affiliate contact
✔ Respect diversity
✔ Limit physical contact to a handshake, pat on the back or "high five"
✔ Wear appropriate attire at all times

As a mentor, I agree **not** to:

✔ Conduct one-on-one meetings with students behind closed doors
✔ Attempt to serve as students’ psychiatrist, priest, minister, rabbi, etc.
✔ Give money or individual gifts to a student
✔ Share my personal information such as age, telephone numbers or address
✔ Discriminate against any student based on age, sex, ethnic or social-economic background, creed or sexual orientation
✔ Transport students in personal cars
✔ Smoke or use any tobacco products around students
✔ Use or possess illegal drugs
✔ Use, possess, or be under influence of alcohol in the presence of students