

## MENTOR PROGRAM

Mentorship refers to a personal and developmental relationship between a student and a professional adult, which serves to further the student's career skills and knowledge. It is a liaison that will help students to grow. Mentorship extends learning beyond the curriculum, develops self-esteem with career-related responsibility, opens access to community role models and demonstrates that career development is continuous. Mentorship challenges and enhances students' strengths talents and interests, thereby providing critical connections between education and careers.

Students gain access to highly skilled and motivated leaders, who are remarkably resourceful and demonstrate what will be expected of them, as they become contributing adult members of society. The mentors work in the various fields of knowledge that contribute to creating outstanding learning environments and healthy, vital communities: university students and professors, facility planners, architects, engineers, economic developers, city planners, green building advocates, construction managers, federal agency representatives.

The mentor's job is to promote and facilitate intentional learning by acting as a technical advisor. They can share their "how to do it so it turns out right" stories, as well as "here's how I fixed what went wrong." Successful mentoring means sharing responsibility for learning. The student's imaginations can run wild, so it is the job of the mentor to keep their plans based somewhat on reality. Most importantly, the successful mentor will encourage the students to have fun with their project.

Best of all, mentoring can be one of the most satisfying and rewarding experiences you will ever have. Volunteering as a mentor requires a significant commitment of your time and energy, but it is a fun and enjoyable experience. To create and facilitate the structures and opportunities for those kinds of powerful connections is a significant part of working thoughtfully with educational and social systems in which students are genuinely affirmed and encouraged to build self-confidence.

Flexibility is a key component for success. Fun is the glue that holds it all together.

## MENTOR & TEACHER CHECKLIST

Plan...be familiar with the criteria, curriculum and deadlines for the program. Encourage creativity! Be a great coach! Have fun! Refer to the timeline at [www.a4le.org](http://www.a4le.org) for specific dates.

### July - December

- Register online as a mentor
- Contact Regional Coordinators or A4LE if you cannot find a school in your area
- Contact your school to be assigned to a teacher
- Complete any required security procedures – this may take time!
- Meet your team of students to schedule your visits
- Download Google Sketchup

### July - December

- Assemble planning team and clarify roles – have students volunteer to work on different aspects of the project
- Assist students in assigning activities within the team
- Begin regularly scheduled team meetings
- Coordinate curriculum/classroom activities with teacher
- Explain competition rules and what is involved
- Brainstorm project and begin research
- Identify major tasks
- Document, document, document all activities
- Set mutual goals
- Introduce students to Google Sketchup
- Conduct surveys of school staff and students, community, local businesses
- Begin narrative, which must be written collaboratively by students
- Have students document their work as they proceed for the narrative
- Take photos and begin videotaping, photographing each step of the process
- Begin plans for building the project
- Follow schedules and be aware of deadlines

### September - February

- Invite guest speakers to further students' knowledge base and introduce them to various careers
- Continue working on project, narrative, video/Power Point
- Begin work on oral presentation, explaining and documenting the planning process and rationale for the project
- Determine method to select four (4) students who will represent entire team and give oral presentation to local, regional and national juries
- Document, document, document all activities

## MENTOR & TEACHER CHECKLIST

### **February - March**

- Complete all projects, narratives, videos/PowerPoints for submission to local and regional juries
- Finalize and rehearse oral presentation
- Have a team appreciation party – celebrate!
- School district juries convene
- Chapter and local juries convene

### **March - April**

- School district juries convene
- Chapter and local juries convene

### **March - May**

- Regional juries convene

### **May - June**

- National Jury

### **October/November**

- A4LE LearningSCAPES Conference