

EnvironMentors Mentor Role Description

2021-22 School Year

Westinghouse, Environmental Charter High School, Sto Rox Resilient Minds Youth Development and City Charter High School

Chatham University, Eden Hall Campus, K-12 Programs

EnvironMentors is a national college access program with a mission to mentor and motivate high school students from communities underrepresented in the sciences as they plan and conduct environmental research and acquire skills that will allow them to build careers and become more active stewards of their communities and the environment.

Mentors are the foundation of the EnvironMentors program. Mentors are paired on a 1-to-1, 1-to-2 or 1-to-3 mentor-to-student ratio with high school student participants in the EnvironMentors program. Mentors will provide their student-mentees with the knowledge, guidance, and support to develop and complete an inquiry-based science project based on an environmental topic of the student's interest. Mentors working with multiple students will be supporting one group project, not multiple projects.

To this end, EnvironMentors asks its mentors to commit to the following fundamental expectations of the program.

Mentor Expectations

- Accompany your student to the EnvironMentors regular programming every other week (for sites that meet once a week for 1.5 hours) and every week one day per week (for sites that meet twice a week for 45 mins). Accompany your student to field trips, and other scheduled events when possible.
- Meet with your student(s) at a time determined between you outside of the scheduled program time once-per-week, or at least three times per month
- Stay in contact with assigned student via phone, e-mail, and the EnvironMentors Community between in person (synchronous virtual) meetings.
- Work closely with your student to elicit a research topic based on the student's personal interests and concerns about the environment.
- Provide guidance and support for your students to develop the background research, design and conduct the experiment research, analyze the data, and develop conclusions for the project.
- Help assigned student best prepare for presenting at a local project showcase event.
- Assist students as they consider various future college and career options with an emphasis on opening doors to environmentally-related college degree programs and professions.

We are looking for 10 mentors for each of the below locations with specified availability:

- Westinghouse High School - must be available Thursdays from 1:30-2:15pm (Jan - June)
- Environmental Charter High School - must be available Wednesdays from 3-4:30pm (Feb - June)
- Sto Rox Resilient Minds Youth Development after school program - must be available Thursdays from 3 - 4pm (Mar - June)
- City Charter High School - must be available Tuesdays from 3:45-4:45pm (May - July)

Pay rate: \$750 stipend per site (Mentors are welcome to express interest in multiple sites)

Hours per week: about 2 total with 1 hour during a regularly scheduled program and 1 flexible hour scheduled just with your mentee(s) per site

Duration: Varies by site (see above). For most sites, starting in January or February through end of the academic school year for Pittsburgh Public Schools (week of June 13th)

Preferred Qualifications:

- Environmental, sustainability or social change professional with preferred residency and/or employment in the Homewood, East Liberty, Larimer, Hill District and Garfield neighborhoods or Sto-Rox preferred
- Comfort with conducting research projects, including familiarity with the scientific method and/or social science research methods
- Cultural competence and a high degree of personal understanding of their race identity. This program is designed to serve students historically underrepresented in the sciences. Most, if not all, high school-aged participants and community-based mentors will be Black, Latinx, mixed race or other students of color. Mentors with these same racial identities are ideal for program success and student mentoring.