



AFSF Online Mentoring Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) 2022

Expectations and Recommendations for guiding youth remotely

Thank you for mentoring AFSF youth! Our students consistently say that personal interactions with design + build professionals is the most impactful aspect of our programs. You will have a profound effect on how they see a future for themselves in whatever they choose to pursue.

I. When would I mentor?

A. For Summer 2022, we are seeking mentors for the following programs:

1. **Summer Design Institute**: June 13 - July 1 + July 11-29
 - mentor a student **twice a week**
 - two 3-week sessions (**6 weeks total**): a different student each session.
2. **AFSF Build Antioch Summer Program**:
 - July 25 - August 12: **once a week for 4 weeks**

B. Each session is...

1. one hour, online
2. scheduled to match your availability with that of our participating students
 - a) Evenings and weekends are possible.

II. Who can mentor? *Anyone in the design + build world*

- A. We welcome any professional working in architecture, engineering, construction trades, construction management, landscape architecture, interior design, graphic design or related fields.
- B. Mentors can work individually, in pairs, or as a team.
 1. Most mentors work alone
 2. We ask everyone to introduce their student(s) to some of their colleagues.

III. Who are these students?

- A. AFSF participants are typically high school students aged 14-18.
 1. Spring Session and Summer Design students are high school students, mainly from the SF Bay Area. Some participate from across the US and around the world.
 2. AFSF-MYEEP and Future Grads interns are enrolled in SF high schools, and are from underserved communities.
 3. AFSF-Antioch participants are East Bay teens or transitional-aged youth (18-24) in high school, community college, or pre-professional programs.

IV. What will I do with them? Mentoring a high school student with AFSF entails the following 3 (or 4) components:

A. Share your own professional experiences:

1. the field you're in, the scope of work you do
2. what a typical year / week / day looks like for you
3. the arc of your education and career
4. how you made your choices, lessons learned along the way

B. Introduce your intern to the specifics of your work and your firm

1. samples of projects you've completed and ones you are working on
2. samples of specific tasks / products
3. show / share tools (digital and otherwise).
4. scope and arc of project work within your firm
5. virtual tour / site visit of work space, work sites, completed projects
6. introduce others at the firm

C. Provide feedback on work the intern is doing with AFSF

1. digital designs
2. research projects
3. compiling their portfolio

D. OPTIONAL: Assign a small project or task(s) they can complete for you

1. work with images or files, labeling, etc.
2. graphic design, flier, map, etc.
3. design / sketching / modeling practice

V. How will mentoring take place?

- A. Mentoring will occur remotely, like all aspects of AFSF programming.
- B. Connect with your intern via the online platform you regularly use for work
 1. Zoom, Meet, Skype, BlueJeans, etc.
- C. You will send your student a link for them to connect with you.

VI. What other expectations are there?

- A. Model professional habits and behavior
 1. Communicate consistently with your student
 - a) e.g. if you need to reschedule a session
 2. Maintain professional and school-age-appropriate language & decorum
- B. Keep us updated on your student's progress
 1. Complete a SHORT weekly survey on their participation
- C. Show up to your student's final presentation, if you can
 1. Mid/late April: TBD
- D. Spread the word! We're always looking for more mentors for our youth.