IRIS
Interschool Research
Investigation Symposium

Mentoring

Value of this position: Many students get stuck at some point in the science research process and don't know where to get help. By meeting with students and helping them with their project, this position allows students to reach higher levels of mastery and complete a valuable science fair project.

Position Goals

- Support participants; be guide for them
- Show participants how to approach scientific research
- Help participants reach higher levels of science - and enjoy it!

Location: This is an online volunteer role. Mentors will meet on zoom with their student and offer any aid.

Qualifications:

This position might be perfect for you if you…

- Are a professional in your field interested in supporting young students in their scientific endeavors OR are a highschooler 15 years of age or older.
- Are patient and don't easily get frustrated.
- Like science/math/computer science/engineering and are comfortable working with students of various ages and skill levels.
- Have compassion and understanding for kids, and understand that students may get frustrated or lose attention easily

Prior experience:

- Student mentors need to have taken at least one science class in the subject they are interested in assisting students with, or have done an independent project in that area.
- Professionals do not need any prior experience they don't already have, but can only be a mentor in their field.

Time Commitment:

Schedule: Weekly zoom meetings with assigned students for as long as they need help. During the week mentors should be open to emails from their students.

Duration: Until the fair day, mentors should be available to their students by email, even if students no longer need help. Mentors can request to assist another student if their first student no longer needs them.

Job Duties:

- Guiding fair participants through the scientific research process
- Answering any questions students have
- Helping students choose a testable scientific research question - if applicable
- Supporting students in their investigation and helping them form such investigation - if applicable
- Mentors helping higher level students may also meet with their students at a public library or get hands on with the student in a lab. However, this must be coordinated and approved by the participant's parents first

Service Hours:

- Student mentors may get service hours for their work, but must first get approval from their school
- Once approval has been granted:
    - The student must clarify their wish to receive service hours on their application form or email admin.iris.sciencefair@gmail.com to let us know.
    - Students will then be sent a service hour tracking sheet, and will receive one hour for every hour spent working with their student.
    - The tracking sheet will ask for the names of the student mentor and the mentoree at the top. The student mentor will need to record information for every meeting. This will include the dates and hours of each meeting and information about what was discussed.
    - Interested student mentors will receive more information after applying.

Still have more questions?

Contact us at: admin.iris.sciencefair@gmail.com and we will be happy to help.