

# CHESAPEAKE YOUTH INITIATIVE

## Call for Mentors



Today's youth are increasingly active participants in their communities as advocates for social and environmental issues. Despite their important and fresh perspective, they have historically had few opportunities to engage in state and regional policy conversations in meaningful ways. This is particularly true for youth from marginalized communities.

The Chesapeake Bay Program has a great opportunity to harness this energy and enthusiasm to advance our work! To help, the Education Workgroup in partnership with the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office and the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office is planning a Youth Initiative that will culminate in a Youth Forum. This initiative will pair high school students with mentors from the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership to learn more about the issues facing the Bay and have their voices included in the conversation -- after all, it will be their responsibility in just a few short years.

To make this a success, we need your help! **We are seeking mentors to share their knowledge and expertise with these committed and thoughtful students to help prepare them to articulate and share their ideas and perspectives with regional leaders.**

Join us for this exciting mentorship opportunity that will empower students to have their voices heard on how local issues are affecting their watershed communities!

## How to Participate

- **This is a volunteer-based mentorship program** to support and educate students on the Chesapeake Bay Program and its work. You will be expected to communicate the goals and outcomes of your workgroups and facilitate discussions with students on topics of relevance. Students will then participate in a Youth Summit to communicate their perspectives on how local issues are affecting their watershed communities.
- **Mentors should be knowledgeable about the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement** and have a career in the environmental space. We will place two mentors with each student group. Experience with students, young adults, and or youth is encouraged, but not required. Training will be provided.
- **There will be 7 potential independent groups based on the goals of the Watershed Agreement:**
  - Sustainable Fisheries
  - Water Quality and Toxic Contaminants
  - Vital Habitats & Species
  - Conservation, Development, and Public Access
  - Tree Canopy and Forest Buffers
  - Climate Resiliency
  - Environmental Literacy

Policy and Stewardship should be incorporated into all of the mentoring sessions.

- **Time commitment:**
  - 1 Introductory Mentor Orientation Training.
  - 3 networking opportunities of 1-2 hours each on a bi-monthly basis.
  - 4-5 Mentee Meetings, 60 minutes each from June to October, between the hours of 3:30-6pm; Mentors will work with program coordinators to propose useful content for mentees.
  - 1 collective Youth Forum to be held in Fall 2021.
  - Mentors can expect to spend no more than 40 hours mentoring over the course of 5 months.

- **Collaboration:**

In consultation with Mentors, program coordinators will organize agendas and resource material. Each Mentee Meeting will be guided by the Mentor. Mentors should be prepared to share their expertise and lead discussions with youth.

**To participate, please register your interest here: <https://tinyurl.com/5ym9e9s7>**

*Mentor recruitment will end on May 21, 2021*

*For more information, contact:*

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