



**COLLEGE ACCESS MENTOR PROGRAM
VOLUNTEER MENTOR
POSITION DESCRIPTION**

This is *your* opportunity to help turn dreams into reality. By volunteering for the **College Access Mentor Program (CAMP)**, you will empower under-represented students and make a lasting impact on their future. At Ocean Discovery Institute our operating premise is simple: by receiving high-quality science learning opportunities, kids in low-income neighborhoods develop a passion for academics and research, stay in school, go to college, and gain the skills and experience they need for success in high-paying fields where they make a difference.

Your role is to help them in the biggest and most important step. As a CAMP Mentor you will be paired with a high school senior to support their exploration of higher education – a process that ranges from considering post-secondary options and applying to college, to understanding financial aid and earning scholarships.

Our students are on the path to becoming first-generation college students. They envision entering fields like biotech, engineering, environmental consulting, marine biology, education, and public policy. The job of a CAMP mentor is to help map out this journey: where to apply, what majors to pursue, potential careers, possible pitfalls, and options they may not have imagined.

For more information on our mentor and volunteer opportunities visit www.OceanDiscoveryInstitute.org/volunteer/
For a look at what we do, check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3O_fnQ-uWM

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Meet **weekly** with mentee from September to June.
 - Due to COVID-19, meetings will take place virtually until it is determined safe to meet in person again.
- Coach mentee through decisions, allowing them to critically think about their higher education plans and empowering them to take action.
- Create accountability for students to complete CAMP checklist items, and regularly communicate progress on pathway decisions and applications with College and Career Coordinator.
- Explore student’s career interests through job shadows and connecting students to personal network.
- Arrange *at least* 1 field trip opportunity per semester to strengthen the mentor-mentee relationship.
- Attend *all* CAMP events and track volunteer hours monthly. See time commitment below.
- Must pass fingerprinting / background check and adhere to Ocean Discovery’s risk management policies.

TIME COMMITMENT

This program requires a high level of commitment to your mentee. It is a 1-year relationship, where we begin training in June and formally close the program the following June, with an average work load of 5-10 hours per month. Outlined below are all the required CAMP events and activities.



QUALIFICATIONS:

- Enjoy working with youth toward achieving life goals.
- Patient with student performance and open minded to the multiplicity of pathways available after high school.
- Embrace challenges that arise as opportunities for student empowerment.
- Act with awareness, appreciation, and sensitivity towards low-income and multicultural youth and families.
- Proficient in computer software to include Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, typing.
- Comfortable interacting with youth in a virtual manner (provided guidelines by the organization).
- Experience in STEM fields preferred; ability to communicate in Spanish helpful.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact Christina Contreras, College and Career Coordinator at ccontreras@oceandi.org, for more information about how to apply!