



## Key Ideas for Engaging with Your Mentee

- Use a notebook to record mentee interactions.
- Meet in person when possible. The Induction Ceremony is particularly useful because the parents and mentee are available for mutual discussions.
- Make every effort to meet with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade mentees in person for the 6 additional required meetings before high school.
- Share your life experiences with your mentee to get acquainted.
- Have an agenda for each Mentor Meeting, with both the mentor and the mentee contributing to its creation.
- Read the Mentor Toolkit workbook lesson "What Interests Us?". It is particularly helpful for getting to know each other.
- Meet during mentee's lunch break at school when possible. Champions scheduled Zoom calls are an alternative for those who may not have this option.
- Maintain positivity and be sensitive to the mentee's situation.
- Keep reminding mentees of the importance of maintaining schedules (using phone calendar) of Champions Zoom sessions, lunchtime meetings, school club activities, sports, etc.
- Schedule summer sessions if you want to get a head start on your Mentor Meetings.
- Be on the lookout for Champions emails about upcoming mentor meetings, events, and workshops, including CCPS events.
- Try to subtly ascertain the mentee's home conditions to better understand their attitude and point of view.
- Get permission from parents or guardians to attend school events, sports activities, plays, etc. where the mentee is participating. This will count as a mentor meeting if the mentor and mentee can spend at least 20 minutes together.
- Reenforce the benefits of mentee volunteering and the value of the Bright Futures scholarship.
- Get to know other mentors who have mentees in the same school to share experiences. Champions can help with these introductions.

- Utilize the Mentor Toolkit. An electronic copy can be found in the Resources section of Champions' website (*championsforlearning.org/volunteer-resources*). A hard copy of the Mentor Toolkit is available upon request.
- Always remind the mentee of important actions (exams, meetings, volunteering, etc.) which may need their attention.
- Find shared interests, sports teams, favorite books, etc. Use the Mentor Toolkit exercises to help with ideas.
- Be sensitive when discussing negatives with your mentee, (e.g., grades, home situations, personal problems). Gaining trust is key to making these discussions fruitful.
- Buying a take-out lunch for your mentee is a good practice and allows more time for discussion, as opposed to having mentee get lunch from cafeteria.
- Familiarize yourself with the Mentor Resources section on the CFL website for helpful content (*championsforlearning.org/volunteer-resources*).
- Attend mentee labs and events sponsored by CFL with your mentee to better understand their viewpoint, and to get mentor meeting credits.
- Remember to follow up if your mentee attends a lab with a different mentor or a CFL College and Career Coach because you may be able to log a mentor meeting for your mentee.
- Attend "Service Days" with your mentee (e.g., Botanical Gardens, Meals of Hope). You will receive meeting credit, and mentee gets volunteer hours toward Bright Futures qualification.
- Review repeated communications from CFL to make sure the important tasks and schedules are not missed.
- Purchasing a student's lunch is permitted, but giving gifts is prohibited.
- Make sure you and your mentee understand all the benefits Champions has to offer in addition to the Take Stock in Children scholarship.
- Gain the TRUST of your mentee. This is most important in maintaining a productive relationship.
- Seize the opportunity to change your mentee's life.