



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM
ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

ACE Mentor Program of Washington FAQ for Mentors

What is ACE?



The ACE Mentor Program of Washington is a non-profit organization dedicated to introducing high school students to the disciplines of architecture, construction and engineering (ACE) with the hope of increasing the supply of candidates in the design and construction industry. ACE pairs high school students interested in these fields with local professional mentors. Groups of 20-25 students meet every other week for 8 months (paralleling the school year) to learn about the disciplines involved.

For the first part of the year, students visit the offices of each design discipline and learn the roles the various fields play in project design. For the second part of the year, the students – under the direction of their mentors – develop an actual project design on paper. ACE’s culminating event is Presentation Night, when the students present their designs to their families, friends, administrators, and other ACE teams.

The program has had great success. While it began in 2001 with 8 mentors overseeing just 11 students, more than 130 mentors guided nearly 165 students through the 2015-2016 program.

What are the benefits of mentoring with ACE?

- Provides an opportunity to “give back” to the community
- Enhances your company’s image, within the industry and also in the community
- Provides networking opportunities with other mentors
- Provides community service hours to interns for licensing requirements
- May provide a connection for your firm to talented and motivated students, and potential future full-time employees

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PO Box 6248

Edmonds, WA 98026

www.acementor.org/seattle * 425-450-4522 * SeattleWA@acementor.org

Career Directions for Students in Architecture, Construction and Engineering



What happens during the season?

There are several types of activities that take place during the season:

- Mentoring sessions with the students (including in-office teaching sessions, site visits, etc.)
- Special events for the students (such as the Kickoff Event after registration and the end-of-year presentations)
- Special events for mentors only (such as mentor orientation and a “happy hour” thank you event)
- Industry Leaders Reception (scholarship fundraising event)



What sort of commitment is involved?

- **Time:** The main commitment a mentor makes is time. The commitment is for 2 hours every 2 weeks from October to May. This is usually 15 sessions. Sessions typically take place from 4 PM to 6 PM. In addition to attending the group sessions, mentors will need to spend time planning. A recent survey conducted by ACE among past Seattle mentors indicated the majority of mentors spent between 35 and 50 hours total on ACE activities during the 8 months.
- **Leadership:** Each of the 8-10 ACE “teams” has a designated leader or two co-leaders. If you are interested in leading a team, you will spend additional time for the purpose of being the main point person for the students and coordinating the schedule and activities of the year. Leaders are generally architects, but other disciplines have successfully lead groups in the past.
- **Meeting space and hosting sessions:** Each mentor will “host” at his/her firm 3-4 sessions. A conference room for 20–25 students will be needed for each meeting. Ideally, each firm would have such a space available for those sessions that it hosts. But if a firm does not have such a space, arrangements can usually be made to “borrow” another team member’s facilities. In addition to the space, hosting includes providing dinner to the students and mentors, usually in the form of “can’t-go-wrong-student-favorite” – pizza. This costs approximately \$80-100 each session.
- **Optional:** Some mentors/firms choose to supply incidental tools and supplies (scales, straightedges, etc.) to the students.

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How can I get involved with ACE if I cannot commit to being a mentor for the full year?

- **Lead a Field Trip:** Provide access to a construction site or another interesting destination. Field trips are always in high demand and the students enjoy them tremendously. Transportation, if needed, can be arranged by the chapter.
- **Give a Seminar:** If you have special knowledge of a subject, perhaps you would consider putting on a “one-time” seminar for an ACE team. Examples of topics that might be of interest are Designing Green Buildings, Presentation Skills, Model Building, etc.
- **Provide an Assembly Space:** A few events, particularly those that involve multiple teams, require a large space, such a large cafeteria, an auditorium, or other assembly space.
- **Spread the Word:** Talk to your firm, colleagues, friends, or professional organizations about ACE.
- **Assist in Student Recruitment:** This involves visiting schools in the areas and giving talks about what you do and the ACE program.



- **Assist in Mentor Recruitment or Program Planning:** Getting ACE off the ground each year is a big task. We can always use help in this area.

- **Contribute to our Scholarship Fund:** Seattle ACE students have received more than \$210,000 in scholarships since 2001, with all of those funds coming from local A/E/C firms.

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What qualities make a good mentor?

Ideal qualities for mentors are enthusiasm and the ability to develop a rapport with the students.

Young mentors often can relate to the students more readily, but mentors of all ages have been successful. Also, we have found that the closer the diversity of the mentors matches that of the students, the easier it will be to form strong relationships.

There will be several opportunities for mentor training, both online and in person, which can help mentors develop positive mentoring characteristics.



How is ACE organized?



ACE is made up of chapters across the nation. Each chapter serves youth within a certain city or region. Seattle has had an active chapter since 2001. In 2016-2017, we anticipate 11 ACE teams – 6 that meet in Seattle, 3 on the Eastside, and 2 SouthSound teams to serve South King County and Tacoma. Each team is organized similar to a project team: it will typically include representatives from architectural, mechanical, electrical, structural and civil engineering firms, and a general

contractor. Various other disciplines are usually added on an “as needed” basis depending on the design project selected by the team (e.g., landscape architects, owner/developers, transportation consultants, etc.).

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What local firms have provided mentors in the past?

Firms that mentored for ACE in Seattle for the 2015-2016 year include:

Affiliated Engineers, Inc
Barker Landscape Architects
Bassetti Architects
CallisonRTKL
CollinsWoerman
Coughlin Porter Lundeen
Freiheit & Ho Architects
FSi Consulting Engineers
General Services Administration
GLY Construction
Howard S. Wright, a Balfour Beatty
Construction Company
KPF Consulting Engineers
Lease Crutcher Lewis
LMN Architects
Lydig Construction
Magnusson Klemencic Associates
margaret mazurkiewicz design
McKinstry

McMillen Jacobs Associates
MG2
Miller Hull Partnership
Mithun
Mortenson Construction
Notkin Mechanical Engineers
Perkins+Will
Prime Electric
PUBLIC47 Architects
Sellen Construction
Skanska
SRG Partnership
Stantec
Strata Architects
Swift Company
W.G. Clark Construction
Wood Harbinger
WSP Group
ZGF Architects

How can I join ACE as a mentor?

The ACE season parallels the school calendar, so mentors are recruited in the late summer/early fall in preparation for starting the groups in October. When possible, individuals are encouraged to visit and observe groups in progress during the year to get a better idea of how the program works and to be prepared for the next year. If you are interested in becoming a mentor please contact:



Pete Maslenikov at Skanska, pete.maslenikov@skanska.com, 206-494-5461

**For additional information please visit us at www.acementor.org
or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SeattleACE**

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ACE Mentor Program of Washington Mentor Sign-up Instructions

If you are a New Mentor:

1. If your firm is participating in ACE, notify your ACE contact that you want to mentor.
2. Email Pete Maslenikov that you are going to mentor this year: pete.maslenikov@skanska.com
3. Fill out New Mentor Application on ACE Website: <http://acementor.org/mentors-volunteers/>
4. Complete a background check from Verified Volunteers. You will receive an email link from Verified Volunteers shortly after you register; please complete this in a timely manner (takes 10 minutes to complete).
5. Complete the online ACE Mentor Program training. You will receive an email link from ACE shortly after you register; please complete this in a timely manner (takes 5 minutes to complete).
6. Plan on attending a Mentor Orientation the week of October 17.
7. Plan on attending a Student/Mentor Kickoff Event the week of October 24.

If you are a Returning Mentor:

1. If your firm is participating in ACE, notify your ACE contact that you want to mentor.
2. Email Pete Maslenikov that you are going to mentor this year: pete.maslenikov@skanska.com
3. Log In as a "Returning Mentor" on the ACE Website: <http://acementor.org/mentors-volunteers/>
4. If you filled out the Background Check *last year* (2015-2016) you do not need to do this again. They are good for 3 years. The only valid background check is through Verified Volunteers. If so, skip to Step #6.
5. Complete a background check from Verified Volunteers. You will receive an email link from Verified Volunteers shortly after you register; please complete this in a timely manner (takes 10 minutes to complete).
6. Complete the online ACE Mentor Program training. All new and returning mentors are asked to complete this training. You will receive an email link from ACE shortly after you register; please complete this in a timely manner (takes 5 minutes to complete).
7. Plan on attending a Mentor Orientation the week of October 17.
8. Plan on attending a Student/Mentor Kickoff Event the week of October 24.

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ACE Mentor Program of Washington Calendar 2016-2017

Week of Oct. 17	Mentor Orientation
Week of Oct. 24	Student/Parent/Mentor Kickoff meeting
Week of Oct. 31	Team meeting No. 1
Week of Nov. 14	Team meeting No. 2
Week of Nov. 28	Team meeting No. 3
Week of Dec. 12	Team meeting No. 4
Week of Jan. 9	Team meeting No. 5
Week of Jan. 16	Team meeting No. 6
Week of Jan. 30	Team meeting No. 7
Week of Feb. 13	Team meeting No. 8
Week of Feb. 27	Team meeting No. 9
Week of Mar. 13	Team meeting No. 10
Week of Mar. 27	Team meeting No. 11
Week of April 3/April 10	Team meeting No. 12 (spring break)
Week of April 17	Team meeting No. 13
Monday, April 24	Scholarship applications due
Week of May 1	Team meeting No. 14
Week of May 15	Team meeting No. 15
Week of May 22	Final Presentation Night
Early June (TBD)	Scholarship Event – Date/Location TBD
Late June (TBD)	Mentor Appreciation Happy Hour

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