

NLC Mentors – Information Sheet

[Teens: Please give this to an adult you would like to have as a mentor. The mentor application is online at the DiscoveryBound website: <https://www.discoverybound.org/get-involved/volunteer/nlc-mentor/>]

Program Introduction – National Leadership Council

The National Leadership Council (NLC) is a multi-year leadership program dedicated to fostering spiritual growth, leadership qualities, and a service approach to life. In the process, NLC is developing a core group of young people who will be active in church, DiscoveryBound chapters, at CS camps, and throughout the country and world demonstrating the efficacy of Christian Science in their personal, educational, and career pursuits. “Our watchwords are Truth and Love; and if we abide in those, they will abound in us, and we shall be one in heart, – one in motive, purpose, pursuit.” (Mis. 135:5) The goal of the NLC mentor is to support and encourage a teen on this journey.

For the teens, NLC requires monthly teleconference calls, a 10-14 day CS camp or adventure/service experience each summer, community service, and training in the qualities and actions of effective leaders. Teens also work toward achievement levels of The Congressional Award, created by Congress to promote and recognize achievement, initiative, and service in America's youth (www.congressionalaward.org). NLC is a quality program run by experienced professionals dedicated to offering a meaningful and positive experience for high school Christian Scientists.

Adult Christian Scientists serving as mentors must be local, over 25 years of age, same gender, and not a family member. Mentors are paired with teens to offer support and guidance throughout the four-year program. Teens choose a mentor once they are selected into the National Leadership Council program. Changes in mentors may be required as circumstances change, but we hope mentors and teens form meaningful relationships that last throughout the program and beyond.

All NLC mentors receive an NLC Mentor Handbook and take part in monthly conference calls with class leaders and other mentors.

The Mentor Philosophy

Jesus had a strategy for developing his followers into individuals who would become leaders in fulfilling his mission. Jesus called them to himself, taught them, modeled a lifestyle which he wanted them to follow, cared for them, and held them accountable. He also involved them in learning experiences.

The NLC's philosophy of mentoring follows this Biblical model, established by Jesus. The mentor is an integral part of the teen's support and training for leadership. It requires a strong partnership between the mentor and the NLC member to provide meaningful learning experiences.



Mentoring Requirements

To become a mentor, you must be asked by a teen or by the DiscoveryBound NLC staff to participate. In addition, we ask that you meet the same moral and ethical standards that we ask of our DiscoveryBound Chapter volunteers, noted on the [mentor application](#).

Expectations of a mentor include the following:

- Meet at least twice a month with your teen – a time for reflection, evaluation, and encouragement. Each time together is usually 1-2 hours, ideally in person.
- Help your teen with project/event management (e.g. community service project and senior capstone event), writing and speaking assignments, and completion of The Congressional Award levels of achievement, minimum of the Bronze Medal by graduation (for information go to <http://www.congressionalaward.org>)
- Find ways to help your teen deepen his/her relationship with God and understand the healing effectiveness of Christian Science.
- Receive communications from DiscoveryBound HQ to include emails, phone calls, and occasional mailings. There are monthly conference calls (usually on a Sunday evening) with all mentors of a particular class.
- Debrief with your teen when he/she returns from one of the summer experiences and ACR.
- Have a conversation at least once every two months with your teen's parent or guardian. (Parents enable the student to participate in the NLC and can help facilitate your relationship with your mentee.)
- Fill out a minimal amount of paperwork showing your teen's progress, particularly with the Congressional Award.
- Provide prayerful support for NLC programming and special class requests.

We look to you to support your teen based on your talents and resources. Minimum interaction should be twice a month (with once a week recommended) and could include activities such as an afternoon together, multiple phone conversations, or a dinner in which you go over the latest progress the teen is making in his/her commitments to the program.

Thank You

Mentoring takes a certain amount of commitment and time and we want you to know how much we value the investment that you are willing to make with our Christian Science youth. If you want to know more about DiscoveryBound, check out our website at <http://www.discoverybound.org> or <http://www.adventureunlimited.org> (our parent organization). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the NLC Director at DB Headquarters, (888) 416-7348 x134 or e-mail nlc@discoverybound.org.

“The true leader of a true cause is the unacknowledged servant of mankind. Stationary in the background, this individual is doing the work that nobody else can or will do.” – Mis. 266:9

