



# Near-Peer Mentoring Program

## Program Description

**2021-22**

For the second year, Peak Education will offer a Near-Peer mentoring program, connecting current 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders with college-enrolled Peak Ed Scholars like you who have completed at least their first year of college. We believe (and research shows) that young people who have strong mentors in their lives are more likely to attend and engage in school programming, enroll in and complete postsecondary programs, and invest in their own communities as adults.

### Why should you be a mentor?

You remember those early years of high school... You've been where these students are now, recently enough to relate to their experiences. You can provide them with another layer of encouragement and support--another ear to listen, another shoulder to lean on--as they transition into high school and move through their sophomore year. You can help them set goals, pick classes, share your time management and study tips, and encourage them to get engaged in activities outside of class. You can show them how to build resilience, to keep going even when they hit roadblocks and experience failure. Your positive but real example will help them stay motivated and engaged with Peak Education programming. You can help them make the most of it and see its value from your perspective. And you can share information about college life and help them stay on track to achieve their educational and career goals. What a great leadership opportunity! And this is a chance to give back to Peak Education. (Remember the pledge?)

Not to mention... in recognition of your valuable role as a mentor, you will receive approximately **\$250** per student, per semester (\$500-\$1000/year). You can choose to mentor one or two students, depending on your time and interest and our sign ups. You should plan to spend approximately 3 hours per month per mentee. If you are in town, this would be a combination of in-person and online contact. If you attend college out of town, your participation would primarily be virtual.

## Mentor Expectations

- Attend a training session on **Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm** before reaching out to your mentees.
- Attend an orientation/meet & greet with mentees and families. **Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> @5:30 pm**
- Reach out via text or email to your mentee(s) **at least once every two weeks.**
- Respond to Peak Ed's texts and emails regarding NP consistently and in a timely manner
- Schedule **monthly** one-on-one meetings/phone-calls/video conferences with your mentees. Peak Ed will send out suggested topics that will roughly coincide with our monthly programming, as well as other suggested activities/resources you can use to get conversation going if needed.
- Do your best to attend one of several Peak Ed hosted NP events spaced throughout the year with your mentee (Pizza and movie night? Community service opportunity? Other ideas?)
- Attend a final celebration in May (in person if possible)
- Fill out a program evaluation at the end of the school year
- Reach out to Peak Ed with questions and concerns along the way

## Program Timeline 2021-22

July: Applications submitted by July 26<sup>th</sup>

Pairs matched by Peak Ed Staff;

Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm Mentor Training/Orientation at Peak Education

Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm: Full Group Pairs Match Meeting (in person)

October-April: Individual pairs meet (in person or virtually via Zoom or other technology)

Possible additional events: Community Service activities; Pizza and movie party

Monthly topics and suggested activities will be shared at the September meeting.

May TBD: Full Group Celebration (in person)

## Applications Due by July 26<sup>th</sup>