



MINDS MATTER

COLORADO

Minds Matter Volunteer Role Description

Program Mentor

This position is the **heart** of Minds Matter Colorado. It requires empathy, teamwork, consistency, and kindness. This is extremely rewarding as you build relationships within your 2 mentees and co-mentor and as you cultivate a community with the other mentees and mentors in your class.

Success in this role looks like building a supportive relationship, offering guidance, and sharing your experiences and expertise over students' 10th, 11th and 12th grade years. You will play a crucial role in empowering and guiding mentees from low-income backgrounds on their journey to and through college.

SUMMARY

Overall Description of Position:

Mentors ground their mentees in the Minds Matter Monday night experience. Supported by volunteer program leaders who facilitate a prepared curriculum, Mentors engage in conversation and connection building while drawing from [our shared goals](#). Mentors don't need to be experts in the following topics – they need to be willing to show up consistently and work through the prepared activities together.

- Establish a Mentoring Relationship: Build a trusting and supportive relationship with your assigned mentee(s). Establish regular communication channels, including in-person meetings, phone calls, or virtual sessions. Create a safe and inclusive environment that encourages open dialogue and active engagement.

- Academic and College Guidance: Help your mentee set academic goals and develop strategies to achieve them. Support your mentee in applying to and attending on-campus summer experiences. Provide support with college exploration, applications, essays, and financial aid resources.
- Personal and Leadership Development: Support your mentee's personal growth by fostering self-confidence, resilience, and self-advocacy skills. Encourage participation in extracurricular activities, leadership roles, and community service opportunities. Help them identify and build upon their strengths, interests, and career aspirations.
- College Readiness and Transition: Assist your mentee in researching and selecting colleges that align with their goals and interests. Support them through the college application process, including creating a timeline, completing applications, and understanding admission requirements. Offer support on how to transition from high school to college, addressing challenges and providing resources.
- Attend Training and Program Events: Participate in training sessions provided by Minds Matter Colorado. Commit to growing and learning as a mentor in collaboration with other mentors and staff members to enhance the mentoring experience.

ROLE DETAILS

Years in Position: 3 year commitment (2 if starting with Juniors)

Supported by: Volunteer Site Director + Program Team Leads

Day to Day Roles & Responsibilities:

Weekly responsibilities:

- Show up to Monday night sessions ready to engage and be present
- Connect with mentees and co-mentor occasionally between sessions via text (or other communication method)

Time Commitment: ~26 Mondays from 6:30-8:00 pm during the school year (September through May)

Mentoring typically involves a commitment of approximately 8 - 10 hours per month during the academic year. Minds Matter Colorado does not host programming during the summer or whenever school is out of session (winter break, spring break, etc.). The long-term time commitment is 2-3 years. We're asking students to commit to 3 years of the program, so a matching commitment of support from caring adults is what we're looking for.

SKILLS NEEDED

Skills Required:

- A Bachelor's degree from an accredited university
- A genuine commitment to empowering and supporting high-achieving, low-income students.
- Communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to actively listen, empathize, and build rapport.
- Strong organizational and time management skills to effectively support your mentee(s) and meet program commitments.
- Respect for diverse cultures and backgrounds, promoting inclusivity and equality.
- An understanding of the importance of college-access, or the willingness to encourage your mentee(s) to a 4-year university
- (Preferred, not required) Experience working with youth, mentoring, tutoring, or counseling.

**Alignment with
MMCO Values:**

We Value Community

- We cultivate deep, lasting, and inclusive relationships
- We engage diverse perspectives
- We build consensus through collaboration
- We lift each other up

We Value the Whole Person

- We honor and learn from each others' lived experiences
- We respect the fullness of everyone's lives

- We create space to express our authentic selves
- We commit to inclusivity and equity, and stand strong against discrimination

We Value Growth

- We provide and receive thoughtful feedback
- We pursue learning opportunities
- We set audacious goals and celebrate accomplishments
- We are creative and innovative

We Value Commitment

- We champion MMCO every chance we get
- We prioritize cause over ego
- We invest time, money, energy, and connections
- We are resourceful and come prepared to succeed

We Value Joy

- We take the mission seriously, but not ourselves
- We celebrate each others' successes
- We prioritize having fun!

