



2026 Summer Mentors Program

Be the person kids remember

Remember the camp counselor who made you feel like you could do anything? The librarian who got your sense of humor? The coach who saw something in you before you saw it yourself?

This summer, you could be that person

The Wyoming Enrichment Network Summer Mentors Program trains college students to work with kids in Wyoming communities—building relationships, sparking curiosity, and creating the kind of belonging that changes lives. You'll gain real skills, earn money, and spend your summer doing work that actually matters.



What's included

- 💰 \$600 stipend (on top of whatever your summer job pays you)
- 🎓 Professional training in youth development and relationship building
- 🤝 A statewide network of mentors doing the same work across Wyoming
- 📦 \$500 in materials/resources for your program
- 🌟 Experience that counts (meets undergraduate internship requirements)
- 💡 Plus, you'll have stories worth telling for years.



How to apply

Applications open on Tuesday, January 20. Email Emily, emilyv@wycf.org, to receive a notification when the application drops. Find details at wyoenrichmentnetwork.org/summer-mentors.



Emily Vercoe, Program Associate

Wyoming Enrichment Network: 307-721-8300 or emilyv@wycf.org



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Two Ways to Participate

Path 1: I Already Have a Summer Job

Terrific! Through this program, you'll build the skills to become like that camp counselor who made you feel like you could do anything. We will help you fill your personal toolbox in ways that help you see that special spark in young people, maybe even before they see it in themselves!

Path 2: I Need Help Finding a Summer Job

No problem! Apply first, and we'll help connect you with organizations in Wyoming communities that need summer staff. Past mentors have worked at:

- Boys & Girls Clubs
- Science camps
- Public libraries
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- School district summer programs



What You'll Do

Spring: Get Trained (April-May)

You'll get connected:

- One full-day workshop in mid-April (weekend, so it doesn't conflict with classes)
- Six required virtual sessions through May (60-90 minutes each, scheduled to avoid finals weeks—specific dates announced by April 1)

You'll learn practical skills like:

- Building authentic relationships with kids
- Asking questions that spark curiosity
- Creating a sense of belonging in your program
- Understanding how young people develop and thrive
- Leading hands-on activities that kids actually enjoy



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What Your Summer Looks Like

Summer: Put It Into Practice (June-August)

- Work at least 4 weeks with youth (K-12, depending on your placement)—any role where you're regularly interacting with and supporting young people qualifies
- Part-time or full-time works—whatever fits your summer
- Optional weekly hangouts with other mentors (if the group wants to keep meeting—past cohorts have loved this for sharing highs/lows, trying new activities, and staying connected)

End of Summer: Share Your Story (Mid-August)

- Final design studio (date and format announced by April 1) where you'll reflect on your experience and help shape the program's future
- Throughout summer: Brief reflections to help us tell the story of what's working (we keep it light—this isn't graded!)



The Timeline

January 20 — Applications open

March 23 — Applications close

April 1 — Training schedule and final program details announced

Mid-April — Full-day training workshop (weekend)

May — Six required virtual training sessions (scheduled to avoid finals)

June-August — Work in your summer program

Mid-August — Final design studio (date TBD)



Are You Eligible?

- ✓ You're a college student attending school in Wyoming (any college or university)
- ✓ You'll be working with youth (K-12) in a Wyoming community this summer
- ✓ You can commit to at least 4 weeks of work (part-time is fine!)
- ✓ You can attend the April training and at least 6 May virtual sessions

Your "community" is wherever you'll be this summer—your hometown, your college town, or anywhere in Wyoming where you'll work. If you're from Gillette but staying in Laramie for the summer, that's perfect. If you're from out of state, going to school here, and working here this summer, you're welcome too.



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Odds & Ends

Questions?

"When do I get paid?"

At the end of the summer. You'll receive your full \$600 stipend when you complete the spring training requirements and at least 4 weeks of summer work with youth. The \$600 is yours—separate from whatever your summer job pays.

"What about the \$500 for materials?"

That goes directly to the organization where you work, but you get a say in how it's spent (games, art supplies, outdoor gear—whatever makes your program better).

"I don't know where I'll be this summer yet. Can I still apply?"

Yes! Apply by March 23, and we'll start connecting you with organizations in your community beginning in February. We'll work with you through spring to find the right placement.

"What if I can't make all six virtual sessions?"

All six sessions are required to successfully complete the program—we want you to have a solid foundation in training before summer starts. Sessions are scheduled to avoid typical finals weeks, making this easier. If you need to reschedule a session, we can work with you.

"Does this count for credit?"

It meets undergraduate internship requirements. If you have one through your college, we can help you make sure this summer experience counts!

What Past Mentors Say

"Now that I have the experience and knowledge, I feel so much more confident than I did when my journey started this summer. I appreciate everything that you have given to us and I am excited to meet back up with everyone in August to share our summer experiences." — 2023 Mentor

"I like to think my best moments teaching are when I listen to my students. What is happening in their lives and how can I validate their experiences and navigation of the world. Every student's story is important and valuable." — 2024 Mentor

"Mentors will learn about really playing into young people's curiosity and asking questions based on what they're showing interest in." — 2023 Mentor

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