Project SEED

How to Establish a New SEED Program or Join an Existing Site

Project SEED is a summer internship program for high school students from low-income households. This provides students with frequently fewer opportunities of access with a meaning technical research experience, exposure to scientists, and exposure to potential careers in the sciences. This is an opportunity for you to bring in a student from your community and serve as a mentor and role model. Students spend 8-10 weeks in the lab working on a project with a mentor and additional lab members. Over the course of this fellowship, mentors and coordinators discuss career and educational choices in chemistry and may provide additional professional development opportunities. Start a site or participate in one to be rewarded with the gratifying experience of using your research to positively influence a young person.

Coordinator Duties
- Project SEED coordinators are the primary operators of a Project SEED program and point of contact for the national Project SEED office
- Coordinators can also act in a dual role and mentor students at their site
- Below are examples of coordinator duties:

  Before the summer program
  - Responsible for identifying mentors
  - Recruiting students
  - Raising matching funds
  - Submitting project proposals for approval

  During the summer program
  - Ensuring students fulfill their duties and organizing activities such as orientation, luncheons, or field trips
  - Disperse stipend checks to students

Mentor Duties
- Provide a meaningful technical project designed for a high school student
- Manage day-to-day research and work directly with the student during the summer
- May rely on graduate students, undergraduate students, or other lab staff to help ensure that the SEED students are adequately supervised in the lab
- Below are examples of mentor duties:

  Before the summer program
  - Submit project proposals to SEED coordinators
  - Help with student recruitment

  After the summer program
  - May be asked to write letters of recommendation for scholarship and college applications

  During the summer program
  - Guide student research
  - Cultivate mentor-mentee relationships
  - Assist students in completing their final report and can support students in creating a research poster

Becoming a Coordinator
- Visit our website (www.acs.org/projectseed) to learn more about our program
- Reach out to potential mentors and identify suitable projects
- Create an account on ACS Reach (www.seed.acs.org) to submit project proposals
- Reach out to our office with any questions or to introduce yourself at projectseed@acs.org

Joining an Existing Site as a Mentor
- Locate SEED sites in your area using our locator tool online at www.acs.org/projectseed
- Contact coordinators and express interest in their program
- Reach out to our office with any questions at projectseed@acs.org

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