



American Planning Association
Minnesota Chapter

2019-2020 Mentor Program

Organized by the Young Planners Group

Overview

The mentor program offers young professionals the opportunity to engage, interact, and learn from APA Chapter's senior leadership through three planned events and at least four individual meetings. Participants will gain industry knowledge, improve their skill set, and build professional relationships over an eight-month period.

Events

The mentor program includes three scheduled events throughout the year to give participants the opportunity to meet others in the program. Further details including dates and times for the second and third events will be provided after the program kick-off.

- **Event #1: Program Kick-Off with Speed Networking**

Thursday, October 10, 4:30-6 p.m. at WSB
701 Xenia Ave S suite 300, Golden Valley, MN 55416



- **Event #2: Mid-Point Check-In Lunch Event with AICP Credit**

TBD in January

- **Event #3: Program Wrap-Up Event**

TBD in April

Individual Meetings

Mentors and mentees are responsible for scheduling individual meetings and should plan to meet at least three times throughout the program. Suggested meeting times include:

- November
- February
- March

Suggestions and Advice for Success

- **Commitment** - Attending meetings, arranging calendars to accommodate meetings, coming prepared, and participating with vigor and enthusiasm are essential for the experience to be successful.
- **Goal Setting** - Discuss what each person would like to walk away with at the end of the mentorship program. Set goals and plan creative and fun ways to achieve the goals.
- **Confidentiality** - Participants must have assurance that matters discussed will remain confidential. It is essential that participants respect confidentiality and create an open, non-judgmental atmosphere for meetings. This will allow for a greater depth of discussion.
- **Meetings** - After you've had a chance to get introduced and set goals, create a focus for each subsequent meeting as you see fit. Ideas for meeting agendas include career development, an evaluation of skills, discussing challenges in the workplace, site visits to share their projects, or discussion on topics that participants share an interest in. Many, many other possibilities exist. Be creative, switch it up, and learn from each other!