

MENTEE TIPS

Be An Amazing Mentee: 10 Ways to Make the Most of this Opportunity

“There are two ways to acquire wisdom: you can either buy it or borrow it.”

Get a mentor to guide you with relevant knowledge and support for the role you now play in the fundraising world. People often regret what they **DID NOT DO**, not usually what they **DID DO**.

1 IT'S YOUR JOB — NOT THEIRS

The mentor's role is to facilitate your development—not do it for you. You must take the initiative and follow through with agreed upon goals.

2 SHOW UP FOR THE RELATIONSHIP

This is something a blog or book simply cannot offer. Be prepared before all meetings with anything agreed upon in advance or with an issue to discuss that is important to you.

3 GIVE BACK AND GET MORE

Sharing how a mentor has been helpful in the past gives the mentor guidance on how to be helpful in the future. Be sure to say a genuine *thank you* and you'll often find that the mentor will give more without you having to ask.

4 BE YOURSELF — WE ALREADY HAVE EVERYBODY ELSE

You needn't be exactly like your mentor. You are a unique person.

5 ARE YOU MOTIVATED?

A mentor wants to work with someone who is motivated to succeed. He or she will want to use their time on those who will *act* on the knowledge passed down.

6 IT'S RISKY, BUT IT'S HEALTHY

Mentoring is not meant to make you comfortable with where you are. It should challenge you—both professionally and personally. This cannot happen unless you're willing to take risks. What kind of risks? Whatever makes sense—things like discussing lack of confidence, challenging a mentor on an issue, and trying something completely outside your comfort zone are all examples. Taking risks is an integral part of growth and well-being.

7 BE READY TO GIVE EXTRA TIME TO YOUR MENTOR

Your job already keeps you extremely busy. However, you must be able to carve out sufficient time in your schedule for your mentor appointments.

8 CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

Be vocal on whether concepts are clear. You don't need to be a gifted speaker or have many opinions, but you need to be able to carry on a conversation.

9 WILLINGNESS TO LEARN

This is not the same as being motivated. Be sure you are ready to learn new information.

10 THINK COMMITMENT

In the very beginning, discuss together the preferences and guidelines of your partnership:

EXAMPLE: You run on a very tight schedule. You would prefer mentor/mentee appointments to be scheduled well in advance.

EXAMPLE: Maintain confidences that you each share (e.g., supervisor, co-worker, corporate issues that affect fundraising efforts).

