



# Marin Academy

## Research Collaborative

### *Information for Mentors*

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Mentoring young people in science can be a powerful, positive influence on their motivation, their success in school, and possibly their career choices.

Science Mentors:

- share their passions
- get to know their mentee(s) and their interests and strengths
- develop a positive relationship of mutual respect with their mentee(s)
- help young people

With the guidance of a mentor, students:

- explore topics in which they express interest
- develop meaningful questions related to those topics
- develop realistic strategies to answer questions
- develop communication skills to share their ideas and research results
- develop confidence in their abilities to do science

As a volunteer mentor, your commitment would be approximately one hour, every other week. Mentors are asked to help students narrow down and refine their topics of interest into one meaningful, testable question on which to focus. Mentors will help students develop a plan, using inquiry, to investigate the question and set realistic goals and timeframe for completing work. Mentors also provide feedback and concrete ideas for areas needing improvements. All mentors are invited to attend the MA Science Symposium where their mentee will present the work completed over the course of the program.

During meeting times, mentors should have a conversation with the students about their proposed research and discuss what scientists do, what skills they use, and different processes in which they engage such as:

- defining problems and asking questions
- predicting and developing hypotheses
- developing and using models
- making observations
- making connections
- planning and carrying out investigations
- analyzing and interpreting data
- classifying
- measuring
- making inferences
- using math and technology
- communicating