



2027 National Mentoring Summit Workshop Request-for-Proposals

MENTOR is seeking proposals for workshop presentations at the 2027 National Mentoring Summit scheduled for January 28 - 29, 2027 at The Westin Washington, D.C. Downtown.

Submission Deadline: Sunday, May 31, 2026, at 11:59 PM EST

The 2027 National Mentoring Summit

MENTOR's seventeenth annual National Mentoring Summit will convene individuals representing the mentoring movement, including practitioners, researchers, philanthropic investors, youth leaders, government and civic leaders, and MENTOR Affiliates. The National Mentoring Summit garners support from both the private and public sectors, including a group of national mentoring and youth-serving organizations who serve as supporting partners. This is an annual opportunity for the mentoring movement to advance a collective mentoring agenda, strengthen programs and practices, and collaborate to support positive youth development through mentoring.

The 2026 National Mentoring Summit hosted nearly 1,000 participants and featured over 80 competitively selected workshops.

What 2026 Presenters Said

"I've presented at several national conferences, and this was by far the most organized and best supported for applicants and presenters. The support and guidance was exceptional."

"The most meaningful aspect of being a presenter was the opportunity to engage directly with mentoring leaders from across the country. My workshop was highly interactive, and seeing participants actively reflect, share, and connect their experiences to the session content was incredibly powerful. It reinforced the importance of collaborative learning and national movement-building in the mentoring space."

"The overall presenter experience was very well organized and supportive. The MENTOR staff were responsive, professional, and thoughtful throughout the preparation and during the Summit itself. The communication leading up to the event was clear, and I appreciated the structure provided to help presenters prepare effectively."

"Providing the opportunity for attendees to interact with each other and answer each other's questions was really powerful. It felt like they not only got the chance to learn from me, but from others as well."

Workshop Information

The 2027 National Mentoring Summit will continue to explore how mentoring relationships are central to a young person's development and success. Workshops should provide attendees with practical tools and knowledge to bring to their own work. Please be mindful that Summit attendees represent a cross-sector set of stakeholders, noted above.

Popular among attendees:

- Interactive and experiential learning activities that get attendees moving, talking, or practicing
- Use of lived experience amongst the presenters, particularly from youth panelists
- Concrete examples of strategies, applications, and action items
- Data and data evaluation

- Workshops that incorporate DEI topics/frameworks into their presentations
- Templates, worksheets, or other tools

Workshop presenters are encouraged to focus workshops on the following themes:

- **Advocacy** and public policy work.
- **Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring™**, including best practices related to mentor/mentee recruitment, mentor screening, mentor/mentee training, parent and community engagement, matching and match support, and match closure. Includes foundational knowledge and practices for those looking to develop or start a mentoring program.
- **Innovations and Adaptations** to close the mentoring gap, including leveraging technology, everyday mentoring, integrating youth voice into programming, pivoting and adjusting virtual programming and engagement strategies, and private sector resources such as employee volunteerism, philanthropic investments, and/or in-kind support.
- **Mentoring and systems change**, such as creating college and career pathways, addressing poverty and truancy, focusing on youth impacted by justice involvement or substance misuse, and youth in foster care or aging out of foster care.
- **Mentoring specific youth groups**, including mentoring youth of color, youth with disabilities, 2SLGBTQIA+ youth, Indigenous and Native youth, and other specific youth groups.
- **Nonprofit Management**, including organizational governance, fundraising, administration, and leadership.
- **Philanthropic Partnerships, Innovations, and Engagement**, including examples of private sector investments, partnerships, or internal initiatives that have accelerated innovations, learning and/or scale within the mentoring field.
- **Research and Evaluation**, including new research findings, trends in data collection and outcome measurement and analysis, and research-based implications for practitioners and philanthropic investors.
- **Training and Facilitation**, including methodologies to engage adult learners, presentation or facilitation skills, various training modalities (virtual vs. in-person vs. hybrid), elements of instructional design, etc.

Based on the feedback from the 2026 National Mentoring Summit, here are some commonly requested workshop topics:

- Navigating political climate within a mentoring program
- Mentoring practitioner professional development
- Executive leadership-level workshops
- Funding
- Group mentoring
- AI usage
- Trauma-informed mentoring
- Mentoring immigrant youth
- Mentor engagement
- Grassroots mentoring programs
- Rural mentoring
- Volunteer management

Workshop Format

Length: 75 Minutes

Size: Workshops will vary in size, but presenters should prepare for at least 30-60 attendees. If selected, presenters will be notified of their workshop size as the National Mentoring Summit approaches.

Audiovisual (A/V) Support: In the application process, presenters should indicate A/V needs. All rooms will have a screen, projector, gooseneck microphone attached to the podium, connection cords to Mac and PC computers, ability to play audio, Wi-Fi, a clicker to advance PowerPoint presentations, a flipchart and markers, and limited A/V

support. Presenters must provide their own laptop.

Room Setup: All rooms will be set up either theater-style or in round tables. If you have a preference between theater style and round tables, or a different set-up request, you must let us know in your proposal.

Attendee Engagement: Workshops should have multiple types of audience engagement, whether that be experiential learning activities, Q&A time, use of multimedia (handouts, video, etc.)

Additional Materials: Presenters can provide additional handouts, links to resources, etc. as a supplement for attendees to view after the workshop. Presenters must provide their own handouts if applicable.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed and selected based on the following criteria:

- **Timeliness of Topic:** The topic is relevant and addresses one of the topic areas described in the “Workshop Information” section above.
- **Expertise:** Presenters have clear expertise in the topic and experience in the mentoring field.
- **Methodology:** Addresses the needs of adult learners, having an intentional mix of interactive and presentation components.
- **Practicality:** The session provides actionable information, skills and tools that can be implemented in attendees’ work.
- **Informative:** The session builds participants’ knowledge and expands their view of the mentoring field.
- **Aligned with MENTOR values:** The session demonstrates an understanding of and commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

Selection Process and Timeline

Due Date: Sunday, May 31, 2026, at 11:59 PM EST

Review Process: Proposals will be reviewed according to the criteria outlined above by a workshop review committee made up of MENTOR National staff, MENTOR Affiliates, and other partners.

Notification Date: Monday, July 21, 2026

If selected, presenters agree to:

- Finalize title and public workshop description by August 4, 2026.
- Register for the National Mentoring Summit by November 20, 2026 with knowledge that each selected workshop will be entitled to one complimentary registration and one discounted registration.
- Notify MENTOR by November 20, 2026 if you need to cancel your workshop for any reason.
- Secure roundtrip travel and lodging during the National Mentoring Summit (reduced rates apply at The Westin Washington, D.C. Downtown)
- Do not sell or market products or services to attendees. For more information on being an exhibitor at the 2027 National Mentoring Summit, please contact Gabriela Castillo at gcastillo@mentoring.org.
- Attend a presenter training session hosted by MENTOR prior to the Summit.
- Submit PowerPoint slides and any other materials to the Speaker Resource Hub by January 27, 2027 so that participants can access slides prior to and following the Summit.

Questions?

Please contact Jake Sullivan at summitworkshops@mentoring.org with questions related to this Request for Workshop Proposals.

Application

Note: Whoever completes this form will be designated as the Lead Presenter and will be assumed to be the main point of contact for this workshop unless otherwise specified. This means they will receive key communications, and are responsible for ensuring that the information is distributed to their co-presenters. **This PDF is just for your review. [You must still submit your application through the portal to be considered.](#)**

Presenter Information

- * First Name:
- * Last Name:
- * Email Address:

Pronouns:

- * Organization:
- * Title:

- * Phone:

Organization's Website:

LinkedIn URL:

- * Profile Image:
- * Biography (5,000 characters):

Co-Presenter Information

Please add any other people who will be presenting. There is a maximum of four recognized presenters per workshop. One presenter will receive complimentary registration, and if applicable, a second presenter will receive a discounted registration rate. All other presenters, including panelists, will be expected to pay full price. All presenters must register for the National Mentoring Summit by November 20.

If selected, which presenter will receive the complimentary registration, and which will receive discounted registration?

Presenter's Background Information

Please describe your (and that of your other presenters, if applicable) affiliation with the youth development and/or mentoring fields. Please also share a little about why you are choosing the topic you are presenting on.

Are you and/or your co-presenter employed by or otherwise affiliated with a MENTOR Affiliate? If so, please describe.

Will you have youth presenting with you? Please note that if yes, we may contact you to share details of programming specifically for youth.

Are you a philanthropic partner (corporation, foundation, or individual philanthropist) or will you have a philanthropic partner presenting with you?

Have you authored a book that you would like to highlight at the Summit?

Have you and/or any of co-presenters/panelists presented at a previous National Mentoring Summit? If so, list the workshop name(s) and year(s).

Workshop Information

The Review Committee will review the below information to select workshops for the 2027 National Mentoring Summit, so we recommend including detailed information about your proposed workshop. Please refrain from heavy AI usage as you prepare your application, as we want to hear your unique perspective on your topic and how you plan to convey your knowledge at the Summit.

*** Workshop Title (In title-case, please):**

*** Workshop Topic** (Select the top two topic areas that best describe your workshop's topic):

- Advocacy
- Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring (EPPM)
- Mentoring and systems change
- Mentoring specific youth groups
- Nonprofit Management
- Philanthropic Partnerships Innovations & Engagement
- Research and Evaluation
- Training and Facilitation

*** Workshop Audience** (Select up to three relevant roles of attendees who would benefit most from your workshop):

- Administrative/Operations Staff at Nonprofits
- College Professionals
- Corporate Representatives
- Educators and School Leaders
- Foundation Representatives
- Law Enforcement Professionals
- Program Staff at Mentoring/Youth Development Programs
- Professionals looking to start a Mentoring Program
- Researchers
- Senior and Executive Leaders of Mentoring/Youth Development Programs
- Young People/Youth Leaders

*** Workshop Objectives** (List three learning outcomes for attendees):

*** Workshop Practicality** (List two ways participants will be able to implement learning into their work. For example: ideas for modifying recruitment plans, goal-setting plans, how research can specifically inform practice):

*** Workshop Outline** (Provide a detailed outline for your workshop's structure or format, including any materials, activities, and if applicable, a description of each presenter's role in the session):

*** Public Workshop Description** (Provide a concise, clear, and accurate description of no more than 100 words of your workshop. If selected, this would be published on the National Mentoring Summit website and used in the registration process. This description should include overall goals of the workshop, what attendees will gain from your session, and what type of attendee would most benefit from your workshop):

* We are considering offering a few longer, more in-depth workshops at future Summits to enhance learning and skill development for interested attendees. Please check this box if you are interested in potentially presenting one of these. Checking this box **does not commit you to participate; it simply indicates your interest, and we will contact you with more information if there is a potential match.**

* **Workshop Tags** (These will be used to sort workshops into categories to assist attendees with selecting workshops. Please select only the most relevant three tags.):

- Peer mentoring
- Group mentoring
- E-mentoring
- Youth-adult one-to-one mentoring
- Everyday mentoring
- Workplace mentoring
- Identity-specific mentoring (LGBTQ+, BIPOC, etc.)
- Onboarding (Recruitment/Screening)
- Mentor/Mentee Training
- Family Engagement
- Matching & Match Support
- Match Closure
- Program Administration
- Evaluation
- Funding
- Community Engagement
- Youth Voice
- Partnerships
- Grassroots Programs
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging
- Technologies

Audio, Visual & Set-Up Needs

All workshop rooms will have the following:

- LCD projector & screen
- Projector connection cords for Mac and PC
- Gooseneck microphone attached to podium
- Internet access
- Ability to play audio
- Clicker to advance PowerPoint slides
- Flipchart and markers

*** Please note: You will need to bring your own laptop.**

*** Room Setup:** All rooms will be set up in theater style or in rounds. If you have a specific request for theater style, rounds, or a different setup, **it must be requested here.** Please specify your request and we will try to accommodate your request.

- Theater Style
- Round tables
- Other (Please explain):



