

National Mentoring Summit Workshop Info Session

May 6, 2026



Agenda

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A blue-tinted photograph of two people climbing a set of stairs. The person on the left is wearing a dark blue shirt and dark pants, while the person on the right is wearing a white t-shirt and shorts. The stairs have metal railings. The background shows a modern building with a grid-like facade.

**Who is with
us today?**

The Summit, an Overview

Convened annually by MENTOR during National Mentoring Month, the National Mentoring Summit is an opportunity for mentoring practitioners, researchers, philanthropic investors, youth leaders, government and civic leaders, and Affiliates from across the country to **unite under the shared goal of driving positive change for young people**. Attendees have the opportunity to **learn from one another, form new connections, and explore best practices** for strengthening and expanding the youth mentoring movement.



The Summit, an Overview

- **Audience:** individuals representing the mentoring movement, including practitioners, researchers, philanthropic investors, youth leaders, government and civic leaders, and MENTOR Affiliates
- **How many attendees?:** ~ 1,000
 - You can expect your workshop to have a maximum number of 150 participants, with the minimum around 30 participants. Most workshops have around 40 – 60 participants.
- **How many workshops?:** 80-85
 - 5 workshop timeslots, about 15-17 workshops per timeslot.
 - 75 minutes long

Your Questions

- **Will speakers be responsible for their own registration, travel, and hotel accommodations?**
 - For each workshop, one speaker will be given a **complimentary registration code**, and one will be given a **discounted registration code**. Speakers are responsible for their own travel and hotel accommodations, though MENTOR will release information in the fall about our discounted hotel room block at the Westin D.C. Downtown.
- **Are international experiences/approaches accepted?:** Absolutely! We had several international presenters last year.
- **Is there AV equipment available?:** Yes, a list of what is offered to everyone is on the [application page](#). Other requests will be on a case-by-case basis.
- **How are rooms set up?:** All rooms will be set up in theater style (rows of chairs) or in rounds (round tables that fit about 8 people each). If you have a specific request for either or a different set-up, it must be requested in the application.

Room Set-Ups



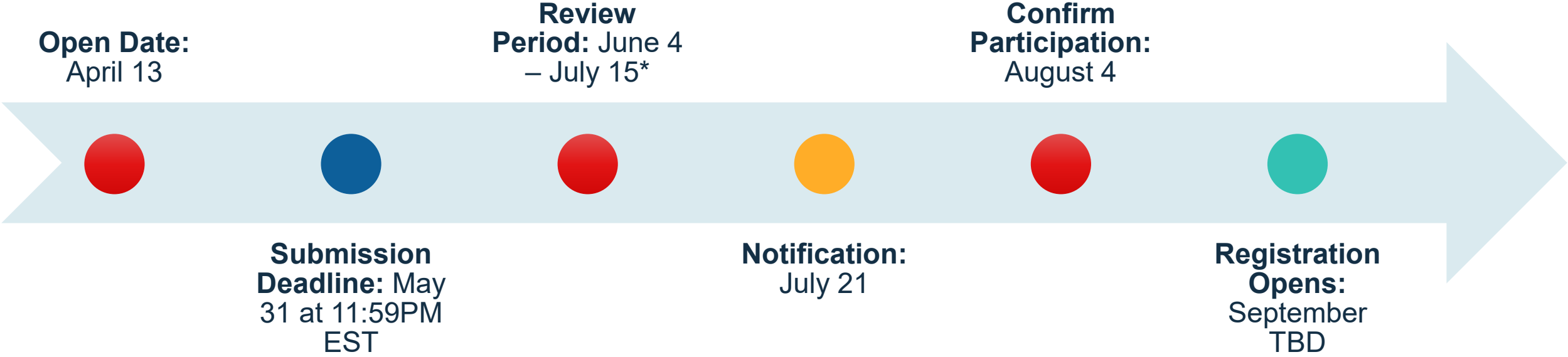
Your Questions, continued

What topics do attendees want to see more of? / What are the most popular workshops?

There are no serious trends based on registration; all types of workshops get selected quickly. Based on our surveys, Summit attendees have expressed particular interest in the topics below for future Summits:

- 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

Request for Proposal Process Overview



* Your application will be reviewed by two members of the Summit Workshop Review Committee (comprised of MENTOR National staff from all departments, MENTOR Affiliates, and other partners).

A photograph of two women sitting at a table in a classroom, looking at a laptop screen. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter. The woman on the left has blonde hair and is wearing glasses and a light-colored hoodie. The woman on the right has dark hair and is wearing glasses and a dark jacket. In the background, there are educational posters on the wall, including one with the word 'LIVER' and another with 'FYIN'.

The RFP

Selection Criteria

- **Timeliness of Topic:** 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:** Provides actionable information, skills and tools that can be implemented in attendees’ work.
- **Informative:** Builds participants’ knowledge and expands their view of the mentoring field.
- **Aligned with MENTOR values:** Demonstrates an understanding of and commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.



Timeliness of Topic



Questions to Consider:

- How can I clearly articulate why this topic is important for attendees to learn about in 2027?
- What makes this topic particularly relevant to current trends or challenges in the mentoring field?



General Tips:

- Explain why this topic is important now, and how it address emerging needs or gaps.
- Don't be afraid of data and statistics!

Expertise



Questions to Consider:

- Am I the right person to be presenting on this topic?
- How can I pull in my lived expertise alongside my academic/professional expertise?
- How can I demonstrate my expertise in the application?



General Tips:

- Include co-presenters with complementary expertise and/or presentation styles. Bonus points for youth engagement/voice!
- When relevant, interweave your own story throughout the application (and workshop).

Methodology



Questions to Consider:

- How can I address different learning styles?
- Why am I asking participants to do a certain activity? How does the activity itself align with the content?
- What specific methods or activities will I use to engage learners and ensure a balance between presentation and interactivity?



General Tips:

- Be specific in how you'll engage participants.
- Include time allocations (even if estimates) to provide a clear plan.
- Don't use ChatGPT to write your answers for you – we can tell!

Practicality



Questions to Consider:

- What actionable tools, skills, or resources will participants take away from my session? What can they use in the next week, month, year?
- Have I tested these tools or strategies in real-world mentoring contexts?



General Tips:

- Consider providing actual templates, checklists, or tools participants can use in their work (just mention these in the application).
- Use real-world examples or scenarios throughout to illustrate your points.
- Avoid focusing too much on your own program.

Informative



Questions to Consider:

- Are my learning objectives achievable within a 75-minute workshop? If not, how can I align them more closely with my content?
- How will my workshop expand participants' knowledge or perspective on my topic? What unique insights or data can I offer?



General Tips:

- Don't be afraid to go beyond the basics.
- If you are presenting a common topic, consider how you can approach it from a different angle.

Aligned with MENTOR Values



Questions to Consider:

- What nuances or complexities have I not thought to include in my workshop presentation?
- How can I make sure my session addresses systemic inequity and promotes inclusive practices within the mentoring field?



General Tips:

- Highlight strategies and perspectives that center marginalized groups.
- Make accessibility core to your presentation (consider how participants with different abilities can engage in your activity, for example).

Questions?

Example Application #1

- **Workshop Title:** Reclaiming the Narrative through Art Expression: “Our Stories” Zine Workshop
- **Objectives:** Attendees will learn 1) I Am Why’s approach to uplift youth voice through art and writing; 2) how to develop authentic narrative within a group/peer mentoring space through conversation, group engagement, and a series of writing and art activities; and 3) how to build their own “I Am Why” statement.
- **Practicality:** Ownership of Voice: Participants will gain a practical understanding of how I Am Why’s workshop curriculum can be used to support youth in taking ownership of their voice in a dynamic group/peer mentoring setting.

Building Safe Spaces of Group Mentoring through Organic Discussion: Our art and writing activities can support navigating deep and sensitive topics around the effects of oppressive policies and systems. These activities also create the space to build a bond and community by focusing on intent rather than impact—there are no expectations in art on where to end up; we focus on process, not product.

Example Application #1

■ Workshop Outline

- **Check-in:** Essentializing the Self: A 12-word autobiography allowing folks to take ownership of voice, ending in one final quality that will support building an I Am Why statement.
- Loop Writings: Participants are guided through **short interrupted writing sprints** that provide a skeleton of their perspective and voice. This skeleton supports creation of their vision for how they will add value to system change.
- Designing Our Zines: **This activity allows participants to create a self-guided tool that is a visual expression of their self and voice.** The zines are personal art- and narrative-based tools designed to be used as a cost-effective resource to express authentic, real and credible visions for justice. **Zines allow youth to express their self-determination and power**
- **Materials:** I Am Why journals Magazines, collage supplies, Acrylic paint, watercolor, Zine template, Glue, Scissors
- **Presenter Roles:** -Lead facilitator will introduce I Am Why, lead some activities, support attendees with activities, and ensure we stick to our agenda timeframe. -Support facilitators will lead some activities and provide one-on-one support to attendees as they complete activities and create their art and writing.

Example Application #1

- **Public Workshop Description**

- This workshop will introduce participants to I Am Why's mini-zine workshop and group/peer mentorship approach. I Am Why uses writing and art to increase the individual and collective power of young women and gender-expansive youth impacted by disruptive systems. By engaging in our zine workshop, participants will learn first-hand how our curriculum can be used to support youth in taking ownership of their voice, and how these activities can help youth navigate sensitive topics around the effects of oppressive policies and systems. In this workshop, participants will learn by doing, and will create and share their own zines.

Example Application #2

- **Workshop Title:** It Takes a Village to Raise a Child: Building Collaborations for Sustainable Mentoring
- **Objectives:** 1. **Develop** strategies for collaborating within your organisation and with external partners to strengthen and sustain your mentoring programme 2. **Understand** how to collaborate at every stage of the mentoring process 3. **Identify** actionable steps toward greater sustainability and impact
- **Practicality:** 1. Strategic Collaboration Map: **Participants will be able to identify gaps and opportunities** for engaging internal and external stakeholders, which they can use to enhance the impact and sustainability of their programmes.

2. Mentoring Journey Collaboration Plan: **Participants will be able to develop a plan** to integrate collaborative efforts at each stage of their mentoring programmes, from recruitment and screening to ongoing support and evaluation, ensuring continuous support and resource sharing.

Example Application #2

▪ Workshop Outline:

#1 Duration: 10 mins

Activity: Welcome, Introductions, and Objectives Description:

- Participants will get to know the presenter(s) and one another, to foster a conducive and safe space for learning and sharing.
- The presenter will also reinforce the objectives of the session so participants know what to expect and work towards over the next 90 mins.

#2 Duration: 20 mins

Activity: Strategic Collaboration Map Activity Description:

- Participants will be seated in a circle, and will each receive a different card that represents a type of stakeholder (e.g. School, Non-profit Organisation, Government Agency, Local Business).
- A ball of yarn will be thrown around/across the circle, and each time participants catch the yarn, they will introduce themselves and their stakeholder type. - Participants will then have to think and share how their type of stakeholder could collaborate with the previous participant's type. - This process goes on until everyone has a turn. - Eventually, the yarn will create a web of connections. This helps participants to visualise and start thinking about the potential partnerships and strategies for sustainability. - Participants will now have to create a map of existing and potential stakeholders relevant to their programmes.
- Materials: Ball of yarn, stakeholder cards, handout templates for stakeholder mapping, PowerPoint slide to show instructions

Example Application #2

- **Public Workshop Description:**

Community collaboration is a powerful driver of sustainable and impactful mentoring programmes. This workshop explores practical strategies for engaging diverse stakeholders and integrating collaboration throughout the mentoring journey. Participants will gain insights and best practices from a Singaporean/Asian context, and develop actionable plans to enhance programme sustainability and effectiveness. This workshop is ideal for mentoring practitioners, programme coordinators, and organisational leaders seeking to build robust community partnerships and ensure long-term success for their mentoring initiatives.

2026 Summit Attendee Feedback

Strengths:

- Presenter energy (openness, inclusive, etc.)
- Case studies or personal experience amongst presenters, especially youth
- Creative and interactive activities that engage audience
- Concrete examples of strategies, applications, etc.
- Data to support claims
- Group work and discussion
- Blueprints, templates, worksheets

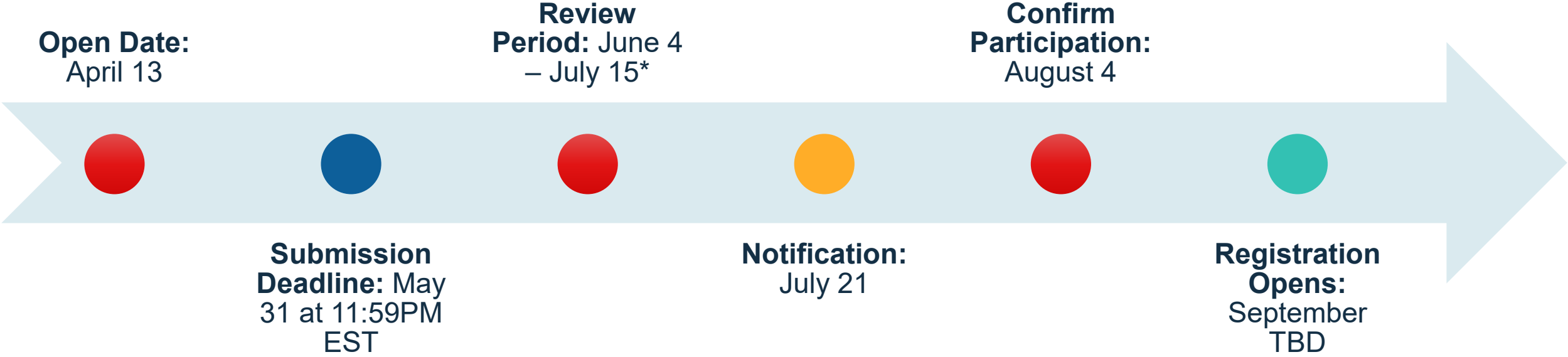
Needed Improvement:

- Workshop pacing – not enough time planned for discussion activities, too much lecture, etc.
- Public descriptions/titles of workshops were not representative of the workshop itself
- Not enough examples, clarity, specificity, how to adapt to different contexts
- Not enough tips on how to start small
- Too much self-promotion

After You Submit

- **Notification Date:** July 21
 - *Accepted:* Please confirm your participation, and finalize your title, description, and presenter information **by August 4.**
 - *Waitlist:* We will let you know by **December 4** if you have been selected.
 - *Rejected:* We thank you for taking the time to submit, and hope to see you at the Summit.

Request for Proposal Process Overview



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Next Steps

For more information, please visit
our website at:

mentoring.org/summit

OR

Email Jake Sullivan at
summitworkshops@mentoring.org



Questions?

summitworkshops@mentoring.org
