

Expectations, Norms, and Safety Procedures

Getting to Know Your Mentor and Mentee:

These question prompts can be used to guide a conversation between mentor and mentee to get to know each other and be a starting place to build the mentorship agreement. Use the questions below as a foundation for your initial conversations.

Remember that people have different comfort levels around “personal” information, so as mentors, focus on subjects related to science, research and academics unless your mentee volunteers more. That said, don’t be afraid to talk about yourself as more than a scientist. If you’re comfortable sharing a little bit about yourself that makes you more “human” it helps break down the idea that scientists are somehow different from “normal people.”

Questions to ask your mentor	Questions to ask your mentee
How did you get into this field?	What got you interested in science?
What got you interested in science and research?	What have been your favorite topics in college?
What do you enjoy most about your work?	What matters to you?
What do you find most challenging in your work?	What drives you?
How do you spend your day?	Why are you choosing to do research?
What do you enjoy doing outside of work?	What part of being a scientist appeals to you?
What do you wish someone had told you before you became a scientist?	What appeals to you as a career?
	What are your next steps?
	How would you like to be celebrated?
