



Kevin Dammen Mentorship Returning Mentee Application

The Kevin Dammen Mentorship Program started as a memorial to an outgoing young man who loved the outdoors and helped support his community in many ways. Today, our program continues to help youth develop their passions and grow their personal and professional skills.

Returning mentorship positions are open only to 2nd year mentees. Mentees may help with and participate in a variety of activities, including classes, programs, canoe/kayak rental, etc. Mentees will be awarded a portion of the Kevin Dammen Mentorship fund proportional to their number of hours worked against the total number of mentorship hours.

Application is due by 5 pm on Monday, April 7th, 2025.

Failure to complete and return application by this time will disqualify you from the program.

Parent/Guardian information

Parent/Guardian's first and last name(s): _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone number: _____ Cell Home Work

Email: _____

How do you prefer to be contacted? Phone call Text Email

Mentee information

Mentee's first and last name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone number (if applicable): _____ Cell Home Work

Email (if applicable): _____

Gender: _____ Grade: _____

Birthday: _____

Mentee information continued

Please list any health concerns, such as allergies, mental health conditions, or other concerns.



You will be helping during the weekdays, weekends, and Nature Play Thursdays. How many days a week will you be able to commit to the Nature Center vs. other summer activities?

Can you reliably get to the Nature Center for work when needed? _____

What is something you struggled with previous year(s)? _____

What do you feel you need more training in to be successful in the program?

What goals do you have for the mentorship program? What do you hope to gain from your experience? _____

Is there anything else you would like us to know about you? _____

After providing all the above information AND reading the expectations page, please sign below.

By signing this page, I confirm my interest in and commitment to the Dammen Mentorship Program.

Mentee's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

By signing below, I confirm my child's interest in the Dammen Mentorship Program and my commitment to help them be successful in the program.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Mentorship Expectations

1. **Be punctual and dependable!** We rely on the help our mentees provide but understand that schedules change. If you will be unable to make it to your shift, please inform Nature Center staff as soon as possible.



- This includes remaining at your assigned station or activity during your shift, though you can always leave for bathroom breaks, more materials, emergencies, etc. We depend on you staying where you are and engaging visitors.
2. **Take initiative.** There may be small things staff do not notice that can be done around the center. If you notice something, please check in with staff and be willing to help.
 3. **Be presentable.** Often you will be helping with larger events, and how you act can change how people view the center. Avoid swearing and inappropriate behaviors.
 - You may have your picture taken! There are cameras all over the center and we often take pictures at events. This means there is a good chance you will be in pictures that may be used for a variety of things!
 4. **Work as a team.** You will rarely be the only person working on something and will often have to work together on tasks. If you have any issues with another mentee or a staff member, please let a staff member know what the issue is.
 5. **Be engaged!** You will often be helping with classes and activities that you should participate in or help with as much as possible. You will need to communicate with the teacher about what duties you will be expected to perform for that class. Please let a staff member know if you are unsure what you should be doing or are uncomfortable performing a task.

6. **Required attendance for the following training and special events:**

Choose one to attend: May 23, May 28th, May 30th from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Nature Center orientation and training, canoe/ kayak rentals, critter feeding, snake handling, class responsibilities and more.

Required Mentee team-building event on Thursday, June 5th, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

This team-building event is meant to introduce you to each other, start building teamwork skills, and allow you to ask any questions you may have. It is **MANDATORY** for all selected mentees unless otherwise stated by staff. Scott Hanna is the presenter/instructor.

Required Dammen Day- Saturday, July 19th; 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This is a fundraiser for the Kevin Dammen Mentorship program of survival-themed games and challenges like archery, throwing an atlatl, mini-games, and more in this enjoyable family fun day event! The event runs 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Complimentary lunch and games on Friday, August 15, 12 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mentee hours will vary. You may be scheduled for morning, afternoon, or evening shifts throughout the week including weekends. We schedule around your available dates.

Mentorship Guidelines/Rules

1. Mentees are responsible for filling out their time sheets in the Nature Center office.
2. Dress appropriately. We will provide you with a mentorship T-shirt at the beginning of the summer to wear during your shift.

1304 21st St NE
Austin, MN 55912



Phone: 507-437-7519
www.hormelnaturecenter.org

3. Computer use is strictly for work-related questions or monitoring the cameras. No personal or recreational use, e.g. games, social media, etc.
4. NO personal phone use during your shift. Your phone should be silent and not to be used except in an emergency.