



KEVIN DAMMEN MENTORSHIP APPLICATION

Our mentorship program, formally named in honor of Kevin Dammen, continues to help youth develop their passions and grow their personal and professional skills. This program is open to students 13 years of age and older. 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.

Please Note: Completion of this paperwork does NOT guarantee you will be in the mentorship program. It will allow us to know your interest, and we will contact you to schedule an interview in late April after school.

Application and schedule of availability is due by 5 pm on Monday, April 13th, 2026. Failure to complete and return application by this time will disqualify you from the program.

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

PARENT/GUARDIAN FIRST AND LAST NAME

MAILING ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER CELL PHONE HOME WORK

EMAIL ADDRESS

HOW DO YOU PREFER TO BE CONTACTED? PHONE CALL TEXT EMAIL

MENTEE INFORMATION

MENTEE FIRST AND LAST NAME

MAILING ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER CELL PHONE HOME WORK

EMAIL ADDRESS

HOW DO YOU PREFER TO BE CONTACTED? PHONE CALL TEXT EMAIL



1304 21st St NE
Austin, MN 55912



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

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

What are 3 words that best describe you?

Please describe 3 things you are good at.

You will be helping during the weekdays, weekends, and Nature Play Thursdays. Can you reliably get to the Nature Center for work when needed? **If not, we offer Free SMART Transit rides!**

What is an interpersonal skill you'd like to work on? (Examples; engaging with the public, teaching kids, making friends):

What clubs/sports/activities are you a part of that you feel like you belong? Is there anything you've wanted to join or try?

Name 3 goals that you have for yourself this summer. Below each one, explain how you think you might achieve these goals.



What is an example of a time that you have had to think through a task or project on your own?

When have you had to work as a team with other people that you didn't know? Did you find yourself taking the lead, or staying more in the background?

What is an example of a problem that you have faced before? How did you solve it?

How do you manage your time and your homework/sports/social life at school?

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

AFTER PROVIDING THE ABOVE INFORMATION AND READING THE EXPECTATIONS PAGE, PLEASE SIGN BELOW. BY SIGNING THIS PAGE, I CONFIRM MY INTEREST IN 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 IF THEY ARE SELECTED FOR THE PROGRAM.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: **DATE:**

SUMMER SCHEDULES

Please read through our summer calendar of events and circle events that you are able to work. This will help us determine your availability. This does not mean that you will be scheduled for everything that you circle.

Highlighted events are mandatory to attend; though you only need to choose one mentee orientation (ideally 2), one midsummer check in day, and one exit interview day. If you can attend more than one orientation, that is preferred.

Please return these to Meredith with your application by Monday, April 13th at 5:00 pm. You can drop them off at the Nature Center, or email meredithm@hormelnaturecenter.org . You will receive a final summer schedule during orientation.

NOTE - some classes have overlapping times; please circle your preferred class so I can make sure you get to participate in what you are interested in. If your availability changes, let us know ASAP.

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Afternoon Shift 1pm-5pm	1	2	3	4	5	6 Morning Shift 9am-1pm Afternoon Shift 1pm-5pm
7 Afternoon Shift 1pm-5pm	8 Birding 8:30am-11am Team Building 1-3pm Orientation 3-5pm	9 Canoe Trip 1-3pm Orientation 3-5pm Intro to Fishing 2:30-4:30pm	10 Lichen class 8:30-11am Professional Development 1-3pm Orientation 3-5pm	11 Nature Play 12-5pm	12 Space Explorers 3:30-6:15pm	13 Morning Shift 9am-1pm Afternoon Shift 1pm-5pm
14 Afternoon Shift 1pm-5pm	15 Bear Hunt 9-11am	16 Emma's Littles 8:30-11am	17	18 Nature Play 12-5pm	19	20 Morning Shift 9am-1pm Yoga 9:15-10:30am Forest Stories Class 9:30am-12pm Afternoon Shift 1-5pm Wolfing Around Class 1:30-4pm
21 Afternoon Shift 1pm-5pm	22	23 Jr. Rangers 8:30am-12:30pm Jr. Rangers 2pm-5:45pm	24	25 Bear Hunt 9-11am	26	27 Morning Shift 9am-1pm Volunteer Work Day 10-11:30am Nature Play 12-5pm
28 Afternoon Shift 1pm-5pm	29	30 Emily's Littles 8:30am-11am Eco Printing Class 5:30-8:30 pm				

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Jr. Naturalist 8:30am-12:30pm Jr. Naturalist 2-5:45pm	2	3	4 CLOSED
5 Afternoon Shift 1pm-5pm	6 Nature Secrets. Nature Songs 9-11:30am Nature Rocks 1-3:30pm Mentee Mid-Summer Checkins write when you are available between 9am and 5pm below):	7 Nature Secrets. Nature Songs 9-11:30am Nature Rocks 1-3:30pm Mentee Mid-Summer Checkins write when you are available between 9am and 5pm below):	8 Nature Secrets. Nature Songs 9-11:30am Nature Rocks 1-3:30pm	9 Nature Play 12-5pm	10 Mystery Class 6-8:15pm	11 Morning Shift 9am-1pm Yoga 9:15-10:30am Dinos 9:30am-12pm Afternoon Shift 1pm-5pm Tree class 1:30-4pm
12 Afternoon Shift 1pm-5pm	13	14 Garden Yoga Class 8:30-11am	15	16	17	18 Dammen Day 12-5pm, feel free to stay for the nature jam concert 5-7pm!
19 Afternoon Shift 1pm-5pm	20 Space Explorers 3:30-6:15pm	21 Monarch Magic 1-4pm	22 Nocturnal Nature 8-10pm	23 Frolicking Through Flowers 8:30-11am	24	25 Morning Shift 9am-1pm Volunteer Work Day 10-11:30am Nature Play 12-5pm
26 Afternoon Shift 1pm-5pm	27	28	29 Can You Blend In? 9am-12pm	30 Nature Play 12-5pm	31 Beautiful Birds 12:30-2:45pm	

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<p>1 Morning Shift 9am-1pm</p> <p>Bountiful Bugs 9:30-11:30am</p> <p>Beautiful Birds 12:30-2:45pm</p> <p>Afternoon Shift 1pm-5pm</p> <p>Monarch Magic 1-4pm</p>
<p>2 Afternoon Shift 1pm-5pm</p>	<p>3 Mentee Exit Interviews - write when you are available between 9am and 5pm below):</p>	<p>4 Mentee Exit Interviews - write when you are available between 9am and 5pm below):</p> <p>Space Explorers 3:30-6:15pm</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Mentee Pizza Party 12-2pm</p>	<p>8 Morning Shift 9am-1pm</p> <p>Volunteer Work Day 10-11:30am</p> <p>Afternoon Shift 1pm-5pm</p>
<p>9 Afternoon Shift 1pm-5pm</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Morning Shift 9am-1pm</p> <p>Afternoon Shift 1pm-5pm</p>
<p>16 Afternoon Shift 1pm-5pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Morning Shift 9am-1pm</p> <p>Yoga 9:15-10:30am</p> <p>Afternoon Shift 1pm-5pm</p>
<p>23 Afternoon Shift 1pm-5pm</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>

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.
 - a. 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 with 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.
 - a. 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.
 - b. Dress appropriately with your mentee t-shirt, and weather appropriate clothing.
- 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 someone on your team, 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. No cell phone use during your shift.** Your phone should be silent and is not to be used except in an emergency.

Required attendance for the following training and special events:

Nature Center Orientation – Choose at least one: June 8th, 9th, & 10th from 3–5pm.

Canoe/kayak rentals, critter feeding, snake handling, class responsibilities.

Required Mentee Team – Building event on Monday, June 8th, 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.

Required Mentee Canoe Trip on Tuesday, June 9th, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Required Mentee Professional Development on Wednesday, June 10th, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Required Dammen Day – Saturday, July 18th; 12:00 p.m. to 5 p.m.

This is a fundraiser for the Mentorship program with several stations like a dunk tank, throwing an atlatl, face-painting, and more in this enjoyable family fun day event.

Mentee Pizza Party and Games on Friday August 14, 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 the dates you are available.

