

2024 SRF Mentorship Program Guidelines

Initial meeting prior to Conference

At least a week prior to the March 26, 2024 conference start, Mentors should contact Mentees and schedule a 20-minute meeting (virtual or in-person) for introductions and conference preparations.

Decide when and where to meet daily at the conference

Exchange contact info and discuss preferred methods of communication

Example Q's for Mentor to ask Mentee

- Have you attended a professional conference previously, and if so, how did it go?
- Why are you attending the SRF conference? What do you hope to gain from it and/or what are you looking forward to?
- Why are you afraid or looking to avoid or minimize?
- How can I be most helpful to you?
- Would you like advice on what sessions and events to attend?
- What are your career goals or future plans?
- Do you know anyone else attending this conference?
- Anything you want to practice role-play with me, like introducing yourself or asking a question to a presenter?

Example Q's for Mentee to ask Mentor

- Why did you decide to become a Mentor?
- What's your education and background?
- Do you have recommendations for me about what I should focus on during this conference?
- What is the most valuable professional advice that you received that guides how you operate?
- What suggestions do you have for time management during the Conference?
- What are you planning to attend and why?
- What type of troubleshooting may be helpful to plan for?

See also Mentor question list at left

Daily meet-up at Conference

Connect in-person for approximately 10 minutes each day during the conference (e.g., during morning, breaks, lunch, evening, etc.)

Example Q's for Mentor to ask Mentee

- What's the most interesting thing you've learned today/yesterday?
- Have you decided what to attend today/tomorrow?

Example Q's for Mentee to ask Mentor

- How do you keep track of everything you are hearing?
- What have you found works well for you for capturing nuggets of information?

Post-Conference Debrief

Within a week after the conference, Mentor should schedule a 20-minute meeting with Mentee to debrief and reconnect

Example Q's for Mentor to ask Mentee

- Are you satisfied with how the conference went? What surprised you?
- Anything I can do to be a better Mentor next year?
- Do you see yourself attending the SRF Conference again?

Example Q's for Mentee to ask Mentor

- What opportunities would you recommend for young professionals entering the watershed restoration field?
- Did you hear anything at the conference that you wanted to follow up on?