

What is the role of the on-site mentor?

The on-site mentor is an adult who has experience in the field of study in which the student is interested. Often a student's interest involves career considerations, but W.I.S.E. is not limited to career exploration. A student may develop a project around his/her hobby, favorite sport, artistic scientific or creative talent. The student and mentor share this common interest.

As an on-site mentor you agree to share your experiences, expertise and wealth of knowledge with a New Rochelle High School W.I.S.E. intern/apprentice. How and when you do that will vary according to the arrangement you make with the student, his/her high school faculty mentor and the W.I.S.E. program coordinator. Most students arrange their schedules to allow for four hours of W.I.S.E. three or four days each week beginning in January and ending in early May.

The responsibilities of the on-site mentor include:

- Providing meaningful tasks to increase the student's knowledge of the area of study.
- Informing the student about available resources, seminars, contacts, etc. to expand the project (if applicable).
- Evaluating the progress by completing a brief evaluation form
- Maintaining contact with the student's faculty mentor and/or the W.I.S.E. coordinator if a problem arises. The W.I.S.E. coordinator can be reached by email (dminchin@nred.org) or a message can be left on the W.I.S.E. office answering machine (914-576-4524).

What are the rewards of being an on-site mentor?

One of the primary goals of W.I.S.E. is to help students bridge the gap from school to the adult world. On-site mentors are critical to this transition. As a result, on-site mentors report a variety of personal rewards including the satisfaction of:

- developing a meaningful relationship with a young person.
- helping a student mature intellectually and socially.
- broadening one's personal and professional experience.
- encouraging a young person's growth in an area of mutual interest.
- teaching a student important lessons.
- inspiring a young person to join my profession.