

SCDRP Mentorship Program FAQ

What is the SCDRP Mentorship Program?

The [Southeast & Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership \(SCDRP\)](#) serves as a trusted regional network to build professional skills, facilitate knowledge-exchange, advance equitable climate adaptation approaches, promote strategies for accelerating natural disaster recovery, and facilitate strong and diverse partnerships across professional sectors. The SCDRP Mentorship Program was developed to strengthen our network by connecting and engaging partners and supporting the next generation of resilience professionals. The program will match experienced climate and resilience professionals with students and early- to mid-career professionals who have a desire to grow professionally. Through monthly mentorship sessions, mentors and mentees will explore topics related to professional development in the field of resilience.

Why participate?

SCDRP consists of an extensive and diverse regional network of professionals who work across multiple disciplines and sectors with the common goal of advancing climate adaptation and resilience to climate-related disasters. *Mentors* will have the opportunity to use their experience and expertise to support resilience professionals who are earlier in their careers. *Mentees* will receive the invaluable opportunity to learn from and connect personally with experienced high-level professionals in the field of resilience.

Who can participate?

The SCDRP Mentorship Program is open to current dues-paying SCDRP Members. If you are not a current dues-paying member of SCDRP, but would like to participate in the Mentorship Program, sponsorships may be available. *Mentees* may be students, early-career professionals, mid-career professionals, or anyone who would like to learn from someone with experience and expertise in the field of resiliency, emergency management, or other climate-related fields. As the Mentorship Program grows, SCDRP Mentees will ideally have less than 5 years of professional experience. *Mentors* are experienced professionals with strong backgrounds in resiliency, emergency management, or another climate-related field who work or have worked in the public sector, private sector, nonprofits, or academia. As the SCDRP Mentorship Program grows, Mentees will ideally have less than 5 years of professional experience, and Mentors will have at least 5 years of professional experience within a relevant field.

How do I sign up?

Those interested in participating in the mentorship program (as a Mentor or a Mentee) fill out an Interest Survey detailing their field of interest and areas of expertise, desired mentor/mentee characteristics, and other important information to help us make the best matches possible.

SCDRP is an incubator network under the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) located at P.O. Box 13856, Charleston, South Carolina 29422. SECOORA is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and serves as the fiscal and administrative home of SCDRP.

After the Survey has closed, SCDRP staff will reach out confirming your interest in participating in the Program.

What is the commitment required?

The SCDRP Mentorship Program will align with the academic school year. Each cohort of Mentor/Mentee pairs are expected to meet (virtually, or in-person if possible) for at least one hour each month for the duration of one academic semester (for a total of at least three sessions). Mentors and Mentees may choose to continue to meet beyond the academic semester if desired. Mentors and mentees will be required to sign a contract indicating their commitment to participating in three sessions together during an academic semester in order to participate in the program.

How will I be matched with a Mentor or Mentee?

A committee comprised of SCDRP staff and Partners will pair Mentors/Mentees using a rubric that takes into account the following: field of interest/expertise, professional background, geographic location, and preferred Mentor/Mentee characteristics. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to match you with a Mentor/Mentee that meets all of your desired characteristics, but we will take all requests into consideration.

What kind of training is provided?

Before beginning mentorship sessions, all Mentors and Mentees will attend a 2- to 3-hour virtual training session to go over mentorship expectations and best practices.

How will I meet with my Mentor or Mentee, and what will we talk about in mentorship sessions?

Mentors and Mentees may meet in whatever format works best for both parties: Zoom or other virtual meeting, phone call, or in-person. Mentors/Mentees have the flexibility to discuss any topics related to professional development or career growth in sessions, but SCDRP will provide an outline of suggested topics and review materials for each session.

Can I meet with my Mentor/Mentee beyond the academic semester?

Yes! If both the Mentor and Mentee agree that they would like to continue mentorship sessions beyond the academic semester, they may continue to meet as desired. If mutually acceptable, we also encourage micro-engagements (quick conversations to check-in or ask questions) beyond the expected first three sessions.

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