

Guide Program FAQs

- 1) How long does it typically take for a match once I've submitted my application?
Answer: The length of time varies. A Guide Program co-chair will contact you to acknowledge the receipt of your application and will keep in contact with you until match is made.

- 2) How often should I get into contact with my guide or mentee?
Answer: Once or twice a semester. Our hope for the guide relationship is that you are able to get into contact with one another on a semi-regular basis, without placing an expectation of frequent contact unless that has been otherwise agreed upon by both the guide and the mentee.

- 3) What types of support should I offer to my mentee?
Answer:
 - (a) Ask your mentee what kinds of support they would like to have.
 - (b) Advise them on relevant AAIDD activities, other activities/opportunities, and conferences in the field.

- 4) What types of support should I expect of my guide?
Answer: Discuss with your guide the types of support you might need or desire. Make sure you are both in agreement with the type and intensity of contact and support. The types of support will vary by guide and mentee.

- 5) What should I do if I have not heard from my guide or mentee after repeated efforts to make contact?
Answer: Please let one of the Guide Program Co-Chairs know so that we might be able to facilitate the contact or set you up with a new match. Guide Co-chairs are Meghan Burke (Meghan.m.burke@vanderbilt.edu) and Luchara Wallace (luchara.wallace@wmich.edu).

- 6) How long should I wait after contacting my guide or mentee before I contact the Guide Program co-chairs?
Answer: Allow at least two weeks for a reply. Often schedules get hectic and people need time to return e-mails. If you do not hear from them within two weeks, attempt another contact. If you are still having trouble with contact, please let one of the co-chairs know.

- 7) What should I do if I know longer wish to continue participating in the Guide Program?
Answer:
 - (a) If you are currently matched with someone, please let your guide or mentee know of your inability to continue in the Guide Program.
 - (b) Please email one of the Guide Program co-chairs so that your name can be removed from the database.