

The Explore Austin Mentor application for our next cohort of Explorers is now LIVE! The [application](#) will remain open until December 19th, 2021.

## What is Explore Austin?

Explore Austin is a local non-profit that uses mentoring, leadership, and outdoor adventure to empower mostly minority, low-income youth to reach their full potential. We serve almost 300 youth, of which 84% qualify for free or reduced-lunch and 96% are Latino/Black. Through a leadership-based outdoor adventure curriculum coupled with social-emotional learning components and long-term mentoring, Explore Austin is improving the well-being of each participant, their families, and the Austin community. See more about who we are on our [website](#).

## What is an Explore Austin Mentor?

Being a Mentor is a 3-6 year ongoing volunteer experience with a commitment of one Saturday a month during the academic year and one week in the summer. Mentors must be at least 21 years old, and they work with the same group of 8-15 teenagers and 2-4 co-Mentors over the years, forming invaluable relationships. Mentors have the opportunity to learn outdoor skills such as mountain biking, hiking, canoeing, and navigation along with their mentees (although no previous experience is required!) at beautiful locations throughout Austin. Each summer, they are also fully supported in going on a week-long out-of-state backcountry trip to some of the most breath-taking places in the US, from Colorado to New Mexico to Arkansas and beyond. Being a Mentor with Explore Austin gives you the chance to make a difference in the lives of Austin youth, join a close-knit network of other Mentors, and travel to natural wonders in and out of state. More information can be found at our [website](#).

### In-Person Info Sessions for Potential Mentors:

Explore Austin Staff and current EA community members will be available to talk about the Mentor experience and answer any questions. Potential applicants can get to know each other and the program in a fun, casual setting. Feel free to swing by any or all of the following.

1. **Thursday, October 21st** 6-8pm Happy Hour at Easy Tiger South (3508 S Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX 78704)
2. **Thursday, November 18th** 8-9am Coffee at Flitch Coffee (641 Tillery St, Austin, TX 78702)
3. **Saturday, December 18th** 9am-1pm Rock Climbing at Gus Fruh (2642 Barton Hills Dr, Austin, TX 78704)  
\*\*No rock climbing experience required; let us show you the ropes or feel free to stick to the ground!  
Drop-ins welcome.

### Application Timeline (Tentative)

#### October 1 - December 19, 2021

Mentor Application Open

#### January 2022

In-person interviews held. Notification of acceptance to selected mentors sent out by the end of the month.

#### February 11-13, 2022

New Mentor Training Campout

#### April 2022

Join an active team at a Saturday Challenge as a "Shadow Mentor"

#### May 2022

New teams will meet for their first Saturday Challenge!

#### Summer 2022

New teams will have their first week-long Summer Wilderness Trip!

### Want More Information?

Head over to our [website](#), where more info and the application can be found. Email [isabelle.riddle@exploreAustin.org](mailto:isabelle.riddle@exploreAustin.org) if you'd like to talk to someone about the position!