

Participant Feedback

“

"I participated as a mentee with the intention of gaining professional skills in the workplace and strengthening my professional network. Not only did I gain skills and enhance my network, but I came away with so much more including a lifelong friendship with my mentor and a new confidence in myself and my career."

— Syd Godbey, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

”

"The Young Professionals of the Chesapeake has been instrumental to my success and to sustaining my career in the environmental field, as I have participated in the program for as long as I have worked in the field. The professional development opportunities, skills gained, and strong sense of community have supported me, and countless others, as we navigate our careers while doing meaningful conservation work."

— Maya Alexander, Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley

Do you want to be a mentor or a mentee?



Sign up here!

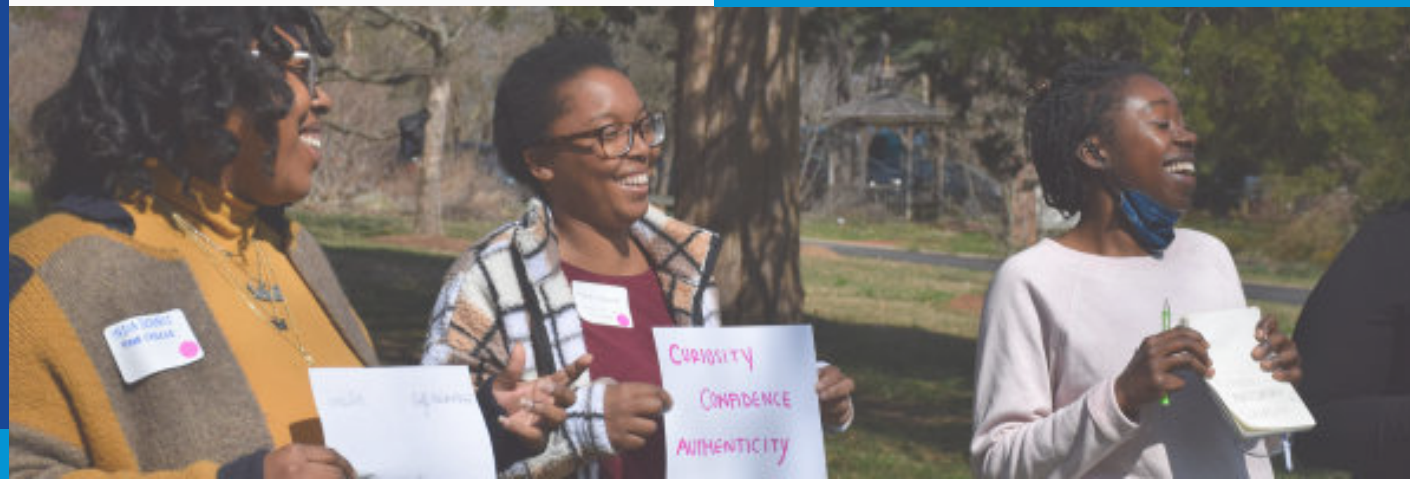


Questions? Contact
Wuill Urvina

urvinaw@nwf.org
443-842-7551
ChooseCleanWater.org

Young Professionals of the Chesapeake

Retaining the next generation of diverse leaders in the Bay



What is YPC?

The Young Professionals of the Chesapeake (YPC) Mentorship Program connects environmental professionals through mentorship and professional development to help participants grow their skills, relationships, and careers.

How does YPC work?

Program Timeline

YPC runs from January through December and includes a kick-off, 4–6 professional development trainings, a mid-year check-in, and an end-of-year send-off.

Mentorship

Participants share their goals, interests, and preferences through an application. The program coordinator personally matches mentors and mentees based on their professional interests, goals, and lived experiences. Participants are asked to meet for at least 30 minutes to one hour each month.

What do we do in YPC?

Professional Development and Trainings

YPC offers professional development opportunities tailored to each year's cohort, including trainings, guest speakers, field trips, and more. Previous training topics include:

- Courageous (Difficult) Conversations
- Overcoming Impostor Syndrome
- Combating Microaggressions
- Managing Up
- Self-Advocacy
- Entrepreneurial Mindsit
- Emotional Intelligence
- Communications Foundations

Cohort Building

Each YPC class is a cohort. Throughout the year, you'll have opportunities to build relationships with your mentor or mentee and connect with other environmental professionals in the program.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the time commitment?

- We ask mentors and mentees to meet for at least 30 minutes to one hour each month. Professional development trainings are generally two hours long and take place every other month. Other YPC opportunities are optional and based on your availability.

I'm further along in my career. Can I still be a mentee?

- Yes! No matter where you are in your professional journey, you can still apply to be a mentee.

I'm early in my career. Can I still be a mentor?

- Yes! Many of our mentees have little to no professional experience. Even if you're early in your career, you can still offer valuable insight, guidance, and support.

I want a mentor who understands my lived experiences. Can I indicate that in my application?

- Yes! You can indicate in your application if having a mentor with a shared personal or lived experience is important to you. We'll take this into consideration during the matching process.

