

TREE Fund Scholars Mentorship Program



The TREE Fund's Scholars Mentorship Program was created to facilitate the development of lasting relationships between the Fund and its scholarship award recipients (Scholars). The TREE Fund's Liaisons and Trustees, who represent every facet of arboriculture, are committed to supporting the development of these young professionals by providing introductions to industry leaders, networking support and mentorship as they begin their careers. Recognizing that tree care is an industry that places great value on relationships and trust, our goal is to support our Scholars' continued success by connecting them early in their careers with experienced, respected professionals in the industry.

Objectives

- Develop a culture of personal investment in the success of our Scholars among TREE Fund Liaisons and Trustees
- Cultivate a culture of loyalty, service and support of the TREE Fund among our Scholars
- Facilitate continued communication with our Scholars beyond graduation
- Provide resources above and beyond financial support to our Scholars to support the development of leadership skills, career advancement and industry loyalty

Protocol

After Scholars have completed the acceptance requirements (usually by June 30):

- TREE Fund identifies and contacts mentor prospects (based on geography and/or career aspirations of Scholars) and provides:
 - Scholar's contact info and photo
 - Copy of the essay included in the scholarship application
- Mentors notify the TREE Fund of their willingness to participate
- TREE Fund contacts Scholars to introduce the Mentorship Program and their Mentor(s)
- Mentors contact Scholars via email, phone or text to introduce themselves
 - Offer to meet for lunch or coffee if distance is not prohibitive
 - Work with the chapter to get the Scholar a complimentary or student membership
 - Invite and accompany the Scholar to chapter and industry events in the region
 - Introduce the Scholar to industry professionals in their fields of interest, especially TREE Fund Liaisons and Trustees
 - Encourage the Scholar to investigate membership in other professional affiliation groups
 - Arboricultural Research and Education Academy (AREA)
 - Society of Commercial Arboriculture (SCA)
 - Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA)
 - Utility Arborists Association (UAA)
 - Identify and promote participation in volunteer opportunities in your region
 - Offer guidance on career options and development opportunities, including:
 - Internship opportunities
 - Employment opportunities
 - Continuing and advanced education opportunities
 - Suggest blogs, email discussion groups and other social media outlets that may be of interest
 - Feature the Scholar in your chapter newsletter
 - Secure a post-school email, phone and address from the Scholar to enable continued communications
 - Provide program feedback to the TREE Fund Liaison committee