

Expectations for Minnesota Youth Institute Teacher Mentors

Thank you for agreeing to mentor a student participant in the Minnesota Youth Institute. Mentors are key to ensuring the students have a successful and meaningful experience. This document is to provide you with some guidance about what is expected of you as a mentor.

What is the World Food Prize?

The World Food Prize is the equivalent of the Nobel Prize in Agriculture. It is awarded to those who have “advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity or availability of food in the world.”

The Prize was started in 1986 by Dr. Norman Borlaug, recipient of the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize for his work on food security in India and Pakistan. The Prize is awarded at the Iowa State Capital each October as the culminating event of the annual Borlaug International Symposium.

What is the Global Youth Institute?

The Global Youth Institute is the final event of the Symposium. The Global Youth Institute brings together high school students and international leaders in the field of agriculture to discuss current issues in food security. The discussion takes place in small groups of about 10 students and 3 leaders. Students present their papers and then come to a consensus on the key issues of the day and offer their recommendations to the large group.

What are the benefits of applying for the Minnesota Youth Institute?

As described above, students who are selected to attend the Global Youth Institute get to discuss current international issues with world leaders in this area and their peers from around the country and the world.

Participants in the MNYI also have access to internships and potential scholarships.

I’ve been asked to be a mentor to a student – what does that mean?

As a mentor, you will work closely with the student as they complete their research paper which is their entrance to the Global Youth Institute (GYI). In addition, it is expected that you will attend the MNYI Day at the U. If your student is selected to attend the World Food Prize Symposium it is expected that you will attend as well.

I’ve agreed to mentor a student – now what?

- Become VERY familiar with the Minnesota Youth Institute documents that provide instructions for the students. They can be found at www.worldfoodprize.org.
- Set a timeline for you and your student. Some recommended items for the timeline:
 - Picking the country and topic of focus
 - Outline
 - Rough draft
 - Final draft
 - Paper submission deadline
 - Date of MNYI Day at the U of MN St. Paul Campus

- Additional meetings for research review or paper editing
- World Food Prize Symposium and Global Youth Institute (always in October)

We're ready to get started!

- It is important that you as the mentor help guide the research
 - Assist in finding appropriate articles
 - Check the accuracy and reliability of the sources found by students
 - Provide support for students as they read more technical articles.
- Social bookmarking sites can be helpful for online collaboration.
 - www.delicious.com
 - www.diigo.com
- Electronic Library for Minnesota can provide a multitude of resources
 - www.elm4you.org
- If students are in a College in the Schools program then using the University library is extremely helpful.

We're ready to write the paper!

- Writing Guidance
 - Organization!
 - Make sure the paper follows the structure outlined in the instructions.
 - Editing!
 - Check for proper spelling, grammar and usage.
 - Help with style, sentence structure and word choice.
 - Citation!!
 - Ensure that all information is cited and cited correctly.
 - Look for areas where student language may be too close to the language used by the original author.

The paper is done!

- Prepare for MNYI Day at the University of Minnesota.
 - Students will participate in a discussion of a current issue, centered on an article which will be provided closer to the date.
 - Students will be interviewed by a team from the University's MNYI Committee.
 - Those students chosen to go on to the GYI will be notified shortly after the day at the University.

My student is selected to go to Des Moines!

- The necessary information will be provided at the time of selection.