



## (Practice) Ice Breaker

Getting to know someone can be as easy as asking a few questions. Here are a few to get us thinking about the importance of connection and ways in which we can engage during Orientation.



The "cosmic question mark" in an image taken by the James Webb Space Telescope  
NASA, ESA, CSA, J. DePasquale

**Would you  
rather?**

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RIT

Honors  
Program

## By the Numbers



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- The Honors program will accept up to 150 new students next fall.
  - We'll have 10 mentor groups with 2 mentors and up to 15 new students in each group - so we are recruiting up to 20 mentors.
  - We will have 3 Lead Mentors
  - We will recruit mentors in proportionate numbers from every college (there will be more KGCOE and GCCIS mentors for example to best match the number of incoming students). We will not know these numbers until Mid late June / early July and will communicate our final mentor selection at that time.
  - Your commitment if selected will span 4 days, Aug. 20-23
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# RIT

## Honors Program

# Lead Mentors

Lead Mentors are key in making sure Orientation runs smoothly and our new students feel welcome, comfortable, and supported.

They collaborate with the office to plan and facilitate orientation, guide the Mentors through orientation, and are the go-to people throughout the entire experience.



Last year's Lead Mentors - Will, Nick, & Jupiter

Lead Mentors will not be assigned to a Mentor group, rather they will:

- Help develop the program for Mentor Training day and Orientation
- Support all the mentors and mentees
- Answer questions and problem solve before, during, and after Orientation
- Lead the egg drop activity
- Recognize and celebrate the Mentors
  - Throughout the orientation
  - At the mentor recognition brunch - including paper plate awards

## Why be a mentor?

Being an orientation mentor is a well-rounded opportunity to support your community and develop personally and professionally



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- 15 Hours of Comp Learning (applied to previous or current cycle)
  - \$175 stipend first-time mentor
  - \$225 stipend for returning mentors
  - \$325 Lead mentors
  - Free swag!
  - Getting to know the entire incoming class of Honors students!
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## Why be a mentor?



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### Make a difference to someone

- Connect and engage
- Help make people feel welcomed and comfortable
- Help make the transition to college enjoyable
- Be a resource and guide

### Make friends

- Meet peers and incoming students and quickly get to know them in a meaningful and supported environment
- Connect with students from other majors and backgrounds

### Get more involved with the Honors Program

- Become an expert in all things Honors
  - Help guide your peers in their Honors experience
  - Inform and provide feedback to the office
- 



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Being a  
mentor  
means...

- Be yourself
- Be present
- Be supportive
- Participate as an equal in all events
- Recognize when to ask questions
- Be Human
- Remember your Orientation. What did you need from a mentor?



# Orientation Goals



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## Student-First Approach

- Diverse Needs for Different People
- Fatigue from coming out of NSO
- Patience for Social Anxiety - new people in a new place with a lot of new information - can be overwhelming for anyone!

## Collaboration & Community

- Work in small teams and groups to achieve shared goals
- Create a sense of belonging and a culture of openness to different ideas and ways of thinking

## Informative and Purposeful

- Program requirements should be understood
- Students know ways to be involved on campus

## Fun and Relaxing

- Students want to bond and make friends
  - Classes are on Monday; Give them a chance to unwind
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# Orientation Schedule



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## Mentor Training Day - Thurs. 8/20

- 8:30 am Staff and Leads arrive in SHED for set up
- 9:00 am Breakfast / Mentors begin arriving
- 9:30 am Program Start - Dr. Lutzer: Introduction and welcome, review of expectations, roles, and responsibilities
- 10:15 Garth / Leads - Review Schedule / Agenda
- 10:45 Leads - Practice Kahoot
- 11:30 Lunch - Euchre
- 12:30 pm Service Project - Electric Blankets - review and practice
- 2:00 Lasertron Team Building - carpool
- 4:30 Event End
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# Orientation Schedule



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## Program Day - On Campus - Fri. 8/21 - SHED 3300

8:00 am Staff, Leads, and Mentors arrive

8:30 Students begin arriving and signing in

9:00 Breakfast - Welcome, Intros

9:30 Dr. Lutzer Remarks and Program Overview

11:00 Campus Tours with your group

- College specific and personalized by each Mentor pair

(Study

spots, best food on campus, honors lounges in buildings,

etc.)

12:00 pm Lunch @ Brick City with your group

1:00 Three activity rotation- 40 minutes each

1) Kahoot with Mentors - program requirements and

policy review

2) Euchre with Dr. Lutzer

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3) Service Project or Reading & Discussion

2:00

College Advocates meet with students

## Orientation Schedule



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### Camp Arrowhead Day - Off Campus - Sat. 8/22 - YMCA Camp Arrowhead

8:15 am Staff & Leads arrive

8:30 Mentors and students start arriving  
Pick up breakfast sandwiches and load busses

9:00 Buses depart RIT

9:30 Arrive Camp Arrowhead - large group welcome / activity

10:00 Activity rotation  
- Egg Drop / Ropes course / group challenges

12:00 pm Lunch

1:00 Activity rotation  
- Egg Drop / Ropes course / group challenges

3:00 Free time - crafting, kickball, archery

4:30 Load buses

5:00 Arrive back at RIT

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## Orientation Schedule



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### Mentor Debrief & Recognition Brunch

- 9:30 am Staff and Leads arrive
  - 10:00 Mentors arrive -brunch buffet
  - 10:15 Lead Mentors facilitate debrief
  - 10:45 Paper plate awards!
  - 11:30 End
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## Orientation Discord



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We will build a Discord category specifically for 2026 Orientation

Mentors and mentees will be assigned to a group channel where you can communicate and share updates throughout the summer and into the fall.

We will use the discord to share updates and announcements from the office - as well as emails - to communicate important information and reminders.

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## Free Stuff

Each Mentor will receive two Honors t-shirts (one for Fri. and one for Sat.)

Mentors will also receive a special (yet to be determined) piece of swag like an Honors branded backpack or hoodie - **Please put some ideas in the chat!**

Mentors will also receive the swag the new students receive



# This summer!

We will do an Instagram Mentor Countdown to Orientation beginning in mid July. Last year students shared a picture of themselves with Flat Stanley.



MEET  
**SABRINA TIBEDO**  
39  
DAYS LEFT



MEET  
**DANIEL BOSSETT**  
10  
DAYS LEFT



MEET  
**AVA INSKEEP**  
31  
DAYS LEFT



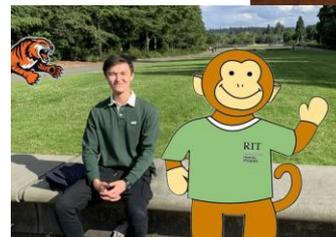
MEET  
**MALLORY COOPER**  
16  
DAYS LEFT



MEET  
**MARI CARMEN FUENTES**  
12  
DAYS LEFT



MEET  
**CARLY BENINATI**  
07  
DAYS LEFT



MEET  
**ALI STAMBAYEV**  
01  
DAYS LEFT



MEET  
**DYLAN LEVINE**  
26  
DAYS LEFT

# Application Process

Deadline is  
3/30 @  
11:59 am

- Application is a google form this year
- Same form for Leads and Mentors
- Strong candidates for Lead Mentor will be interviewed
- Students will be identified as Mentors in April - as acceptances roll in we may end up needing fewer Mentors, or a different distribution of majors depending on incoming class



Section 1 of 4

## Fall 2026 Honors Orientation Mentor Application

We are seeking Honors students to serve as **Mentors for the Fall '26 Honors Orientation!** Please review the information below and complete the appropriate sections to tell us why you think you'd be a great fit.

### Dates / Times:

Mentors and Leads must be available for all the dates and times indicated below.

Thurs. 8/20, 9am-4pm - Mentor Training Day

Fri. 8/21, 8am-3:30pm - On Campus Programming

Sat. 8/22, 8:30am-5:00pm - Camp Arrowhead Day

Sun. 8/23 10am-12pm - Mentor Brunch and Debrief

# Application Process



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For the application you will provide:

- Basic contact and academic information
  - We are collecting info that will streamline the onboarding process if selected
- Questions about what it means to be in Honors, how you'll work with a partner, and past leadership experience
- A resume will be requested for all Lead Mentor applicants
- Deadline is Mar. 30, 11:59 pm

Please note: You must be in *good standing* to apply to become an Orientation Mentor

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# Questions

What questions do you have?

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If you think of a question after this info session please feel free to email [gafhp@rit.edu](mailto:gafhp@rit.edu)

