

AAJA BROADCAST MENTOR PROGRAM

FAQ

Thank you for your interest in the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) Broadcast Mentor Program. Please read the following guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions.

Q: How does the program work?

A: AAJA pairs up students and professionals with people in the business. Mentees are encouraged to form a relationship with their mentors to get career, professional and even personal advice. AAJA will try to match mentors to mentees based on a variety of factors including job description, geography, and gender.

Q: How will the relationship work?

A: This is largely up to the mentees. AAJA encourages mentors and mentees to keep in regular contact – at least once a month. This could be by phone, e-mail, or even personal visits if possible. It might work best to set up a schedule. Mentors can review tapes, resumes, give career advice, and try to answer any other questions you might have.

Q: Am I required to meet my mentor?

A: Mentors and mentees are not required to meet – but we encourage it if the situation allows. Mentors and mentees can also meet at the AAJA National Convention each year.

Q: What if my mentor doesn't respond to me?

A: The Broadcast Mentor Program will follow up with an e-mail several times over the course of a year to see how the relationships are progressing. If there is a problem, we can re-assign mentors and mentees. If your mentor/mentee is not working out, you can also contact us at marcias@aja.org or yiprandall@hotmail.com with the subject line, "Broadcast Mentor Program: Re-Assign."

Q: What are the requirements?

A: Mentees must be members of AAJA. Please go to <https://www.aja.org/membership/register/> to register for membership. To review the membership levels, please click here: <http://www.aja.org/membership/#Levels>.

Q: How long does the program last?

A: The AAJA Broadcast Mentor Program officially lasts one year, but mentors and mentees are free to continue their relationship on their own if both desire afterwards.

Q: Sounds great! How do I sign up?

A: You can sign up for the AAJA Broadcast Mentor program by clicking on: <http://www.aja.org/programs/professional/mentor/>

Q: When will I get my mentor?

A: Mentors are harder to come by than mentees, so we can't guarantee you'll be paired up right away. We will do our best to make matches within a month of contact. You will be contacted as soon as a match is made.

Q: What is my role as a mentee?

Once a mentor is identified for you, start by calling or e-mailing your mentor. Find out what your mentor's schedule is to figure out the best way to communicate and when. Some work days, nights or overnight shifts. Ask what the best times to contact

them are and stick to it. Anchors won't have time to talk to you just before their show. Reporters might be out in the field and might prefer the beginning or end of the day.

Treat a mentor like you would a source. The better your relationship, the more you will get out of it. Get to know each other first. This won't always be easy, since most of your contacts might be by e-mail or phone only. Meet with your mentor if possible. Mentors are here for you. Ask what ought to be on a resume tape or cassette and ask for feedback. Have them look at your resume and cover letter. Get advice on how to find an internship or get a job. Ask about the industry and how they balance home and work life. Try to keep in regular contact. These relationships often start strong and fizzle out, so set up a schedule if possible. And remember: There's a difference between being persistent and being pushy.

If you are no longer in need of your mentor's assistance, be sure to thank your mentor and schedule a closing discussion. Don't leave your mentor wondering if you'll ever call back. Inform your mentor if you receive a job interview or make any progress in your career. Your mentor has invested time in your career development. Be sure to thank your mentor appropriately.

Q: What else do I need to know about as a participant in the Broadcast Mentor Program?

You will receive an e-mail at month one, three, six and at the end of the program at one year during your mentorship asking how the mentorship is going. We need to hear from you to make this program successful. If you want to check on the progress of a match for you, or if you have any concerns about your mentor or mentee, feel free to contact us. We also want to hear your positive stories! Tell us how your mentor provided you with that bit of advice that you needed to improve your tape, get noticed or get that job.

The AAJA Broadcast Mentor Program is year round. We encourage mentors and mentees to arrange an in-person meeting at our AAJA National Convention. For more about our 2011 AAJA National Convention, please go to: <http://aaja.org/programs/convention2011detroit/>. You may also register for the convention on that webpage if you wish.

If you have any other questions, contact Marcia Santillan, AAJA Professional Programs Coordinator at marcias@aaja.org or Randall Yip, Broadcast Mentoring Program Coordinator at yiprandall@hotmail.com.

For further information, please e-mail the address below or contact us at the following:

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