

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

General Volunteering

What is the ACE Affiliate of Arkansas?	The ACE Affiliate of Arkansas is a nonprofit organization affiliated with ACE Mentor Program of America. Our mission is to engage, excite, and enlighten students about careers in architecture, construction, and engineering through mentorship and real-world learning experiences.
Who can volunteer with ACE Affiliate of Arkansas?	Volunteers typically include professionals and students from architecture, engineering, construction, project management, and related fields, as well as educators and community advocates who support workforce development and youth mentorship.
Do I need prior experience with ACE to volunteer?	No. While prior involvement is helpful, it is not required. We welcome new volunteers who are enthusiastic about mentoring students or supporting the organization's mission.

Mentors

What does an ACE mentor do?	Mentors work directly with high school students, usually in a team setting, to guide them through hands-on projects, expose them to industry careers, and provide encouragement and professional insight.
Do mentors have to be licensed professionals	While you are expected to act in professional manner as representative of the industry, a professional license is not required.
How much time does mentoring require?	Time commitments vary by program but generally involve weekly or biweekly sessions during the school year (approx. 40hrs), along with occasional events or presentations. Flexibility is built in to accommodate professional schedules.
Do mentors work alone or in teams?	Mentors typically work as part of a multidisciplinary team, which may include architects, engineers, contractors, and educators. This team-based approach supports both mentors and students.
Is training provided for mentors?	ACE has curriculum resources, and ongoing support to help mentors feel confident and prepared, even if they are new to teaching or mentoring. A formal training workshop is a work in progress.
Do mentors need to commit for a full year?	It is encouraged for the benefit of students; ACE understands professional demands. Speaker opportunities or project-based involvement may be available depending on program needs.
Is there a background check requirement?	Yes. ACE conducts a thorough background check that costs about \$30 dollars and is good for 3 years. There may be additional background check requirements based on which program the mentor is working with.

Board/Committee Members

What is the role of the Board of Directors?	The Board provides governance, strategic direction, and oversight statewide for the ACE Affiliate of Arkansas. Board members support fundraising, partnerships, policy decisions, and long-term sustainability of the organization.
What is the difference between a board member and a committee member?	Board members carry fiduciary and governance responsibilities and vote on organizational matters. Committee members support specific areas of work—such as education, fundraising, or outreach—without full board obligations.
How much time is required for board service?	Board members typically attend regular meetings (monthly or quarterly), serve on at least one committee, and support events or initiatives throughout the year. Time commitments vary but are generally manageable alongside full-time employment.
How much time is required for committee service?	Committee commitments are more flexible and usually involve periodic meetings and task-based work aligned with the committee’s focus.
Is prior board experience required to serve on the board?	No. While prior board or leadership experience is beneficial, ACE values diverse perspectives and provides support to help new board members succeed.
Is there a background check requirement?	Board members and committee members that need to view student information for their role or have more than one interaction with a student will be required to have ACE background check.