

Be a Mentor

How to help a lodge brother when you were never mentored

Begin with one practical offer and a promise you can keep. This free kit helps you prepare, check local contacts, and agree one next step. No purchase is needed to use it.

Your first ten minutes

1. Name one thing you can help with on page 2. Keep that private page separate from anything you share.
2. Practice an invitation: "Would twenty minutes on Sunday work? We could start with your questions. Another time or a phone call is fine." He may decline; you may wait.
3. Before personal talk, check the local details on pages 3-4. If limits are unknown, keep to practical arrangements or wait. Use page 5 for a short chat and page 6 for an agreed reminder.

You both matter

He does not owe you a job, a private story, or perfect attendance. You do not have to be on call all day. Either of you can ask for a change or a pause.

Use and share this free kit

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What we know. What we don't know. What's next.

My private preparation

Use this on your own. Print single-sided; keep it private. Leave other people's stories out. Never put it on the back of a shared page.

Made-up example

Offer: Explain supper arrangements.

Help I need: Find who teaches required work; ask a lodge officer.

Habit: Ask one question before advice.

Time: Twenty minutes on Sunday, if it suits him.

One thing I can help with

What do I need help with and who can I ask

A habit I want to practice

A realistic time I can offer

One useful offer is enough. You do not need to show this page to anyone.

Find and confirm local support

Check these details before personal talk. Ask a lodge officer who arranges mentoring. Record answers on page 4.

Ask for current guidance on each role on that page. Ask who else can help if a concern involves the usual contact. Mark gaps “Unknown,” with a willing checker and date.

A filled example for the next page

These names and answers are made up. They show how to record a gap, not what your lodge allows.

Sets up or changes a match: Pat; confirmed by Pat October 8.

Teaches and checks required work: Unknown.

Concerns and other contact: Unknown.

What must be passed on, and to whom: Unknown.

Cover or help contact: Unknown.

Date, gaps and checker: October 8. Alex will ask Pat about all gaps and update Ben October 10.

Keep your offer honest

Words you can use

“I can help with practical questions now. Before we discuss anything private, I need to check what must be passed on and to whom.”

If you only do one thing: mark what is unknown and choose how to check it. Reduce or decline a role without the support it needs.

Our confirmed local contacts

Print single-sided. Copy only checked facts, using the example on page 3. Mark gaps “Unknown,” with a checker and date. Leave private stories out.

Who sets up mentoring? Who can change a match?

Who teaches required work? Who checks it?

Who handles a concern? Who else can help if it is about that person?

What must be passed on? To whom?

Who can cover for me? Who can check a help contact?

Date checked. Gaps. Who will check each gap, and by when?

You're finished for now when each answer is confirmed or marked unknown with a plan to check.

Try one short conversation

Alex and Ben are made-up brothers. Practice the words alone or with a partner. No private story is needed. Follow approved local instruction for required work.

Explain your offer and accept his choice

Words to practice

Alex: "I can listen and help find answers. The approved instructor handles required work. You can decline, pause or ask for another mentor."

Ben: "I would like help with supper arrangements."

Before personal talk, use the checked answers on page 4. Explain what must be passed on and to whom. If unknown, say, "I need to check before we discuss anything private. We can keep to practical arrangements today, or wait." Never promise secrecy.

Ask one question and let him finish. Check what he means before offering advice. Ask what help he wants. Agree who will act and when, or agree no new action.

A complete example for page 6

Date and names: October 8. Alex and Ben.

Agreed action: Alex checks who arranges supper.

Who and date: Alex will text by October 9.

Sharing: Send Ben the name. No introduction wanted.

Next contact: That text only.

Agree what notes may be kept, who may see them, and when to dispose of them. Leave private stories out. If he wants to stop, ask whether he still wants an answer you promised. Accept no.

A refusal needs no new offer. Use the reminder only if it helps both people.

Our next step

Fill this in together only if a reminder helps. Either person may keep this whole page. Print single-sided; put no private preparation on the back.

Date and the names we agree to use

What did we agree to do? No new action is also an answer.

Who will act and by what date

What may we share or who may we introduce

Next contact if wanted

You're finished when an agreed action has a person and date, or you have written that no new action is needed.