



OUT There Adventures
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OUT There Adventures FAQs

What is OUT There Adventures?

OUT There Adventures is a one-of-a-kind program based out of Seattle, Washington, that cultivates leadership and builds community for LGBTQ young people through adventure and a connection to nature. For our SUMMIT Mentorship program we use the partnership of community and mentorship to provide students with a network of support that can connect them with the resources, self awareness, knowledge, and skills they need to define their own success, achieve their own goals and connect to the natural world. After joining OTA's SUMMIT Mentorship program, students and mentors become part of a cohort that meets weekly April through May to participate in adventures such as climbing, paddling, hiking and more.

What is the time commitment?

Students commit to once weekly activity (usually Saturdays or Sundays) April through May. Mentors commit to a month of training in March, which is a mentor-only workshop meant to provide resources, trainings, peer support, and essential information related to youth-mentoring.

Does it cost money to join the SUMMIT Mentorship?

The SUMMIT Mentorship program is free! Transportation to and from OTA activities is coordinated by the student's mentor.

Who are our mentors?

OTA mentors are volunteers who find out about OTA in all different ways (word of mouth, information sessions, volunteer postings, community flyers). They are at least 23 years old, come from all different backgrounds, and work in various career fields. Mentors go through an interview and extensive background check before they are accepted into the program. They then attend 4 comprehensive training sessions before being matched with a mentee.

Who are our students?

Students are recruited from all over the Seattle metro and Bay Area. Students learn about OTA through recruitment efforts by OTA staff members (in-class presentations, tabling during the lunch hour at school, staff referrals) and self-select into the program. Students must complete a Student Application that outlines the commitment.

Where do SUMMIT Mentorship activities take place?

The SUMMIT Mentorship program has various different activities each week. The program calendar will be available on OTA's website as well as by phone at 608-772-2883 and email. For Seattle students/mentors please contact Elyse Rylander at elyse@outthereadventures.org. For Bay Area students/mentors please contact OTA's California Program Coordinator at california@outthereadventures.org

What are the benefits of being a student in the SUMMIT Mentorship Program?

The benefits of mentoring include and are not limited to: lower tendency to use drugs or alcohol, higher school attendance and graduation rates, more willingness to take on leadership roles, higher self-confidence, lower rates of depression, greater likelihood of enrolling in higher education, stronger interpersonal and communication skills, and a connection to resources and support that might otherwise be unavailable (MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership, 2017). OTA combines the powerful impact of a 1:1 mentoring relationship with a large network of community support. Our unique model offers students the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive within a community that truly believes in them.