



Greater Syracuse Disability Mentoring Day

Frequently Asked Questions for those escorting Mentees to DMD

Thank you for escorting a Mentee to DMD events. Whether you are doing this as part of your job duties, or volunteering your time, we appreciate your making it possible for someone to participate in Disability Mentoring Day.

Over the years, many job coaches, case managers and family members who transport mentees to DMD events have had questions about the intent of the DMD experience and what role they should play. Here are the answers to some common questions that have been asked in the past:

Q. What happens on Disability Mentoring Day?

A. Disability Mentoring Day begins with a Kick-Off event which includes breakfast. This year it will be held at Drumlin's, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Mentees and Mentors will have the opportunity to get to know each other during the breakfast. All seats are assigned and, based on availability, you may not be seated next to the mentee you are escorting. One of the intents of the kickoff event is to let the mentors and mentees get comfortable with each other before they go to the work site. You will know what table your mentee is seated at and you can make arrangements to meet them after the breakfast if you are transporting them to the work site.

Q. How long will the Mentee be at the work site?

A. Mentees arrive at their work sites after the Kick-Off Event, between 9:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Usually mentees stay to or through lunchtime.

Q. Should I stay with the mentee at the work site?

A. Whether or not you must be with your mentee throughout the DMD experience will depend on the individual needs of your mentee; however, the intent of DMD is for the mentee to learn about the mentor's workplace and letting the mentee interact with the mentor and other staff members. ***If your mentee is comfortable, it is strongly recommended that you do not stay for the mentoring experience:*** you can wait in a reception area, in your vehicle, or leave and return for the mentee at an assigned time. It is a good idea to leave your cell phone number with the mentee.

Q. Should I encourage the mentee to fill out a job application?

A. If your mentee is actively job-seeking and would like to apply at the mentoring site, have them ask for an application before they leave. Please remember that employment is not an expectation of DMD.

Q. I am a job developer. Can I offer my agency's services to the mentor company?

A. No, marketing job placement services is not the intent of DMD. At the conclusion of the mentoring experience you may offer your business card to the mentor and thank them for participating in DMD.

Q. What if the work site doesn't match the job interests of the Mentee I am escorting?

A. The Greater Syracuse Disability Mentoring Day Committee tries very hard to match mentees with work sites that match their career goals; however, this isn't always possible. Please remind the Mentee that learning about all types of jobs and companies is important and that networking is invaluable when job-seeking.

Q. Is there anything that I should do after the DMD experience ends?

A. It is very important that the mentees write a Thank-you note to their mentors. Helping your mentee do this very important task would be a great way to cap off the DMD experience. You may want to remind the mentee before he or she leaves the work site to get the name and address of the mentor.