



## Program Purpose & Outcomes

The SWENext Connect program provides all SWENexters, ages 10-18, with the opportunity to connect with fellow SWENexters, as well as local SWE members and industry subject matter experts for hands-on engagement challenges and mentoring sessions. The SWENext Connect impact groups, consisting of up to five SWENext participants allowing for highly interactive and dynamic interactions and creating a safe space for SWENexters to grow on their journey in STEM.

### Here's what you can expect from being a part of SWENext Connect:



Build community and make lasting connections with fellow SWENexters and mentors



Have conversations about topics that address hard and soft skill development



Get advice from industry experts based on topics of interest and academic level



Gain insights from coaching sessions to support achievement of goals for each academic year

## SWENext Connect Impact Groups

### Registration:

Registration will open per session and will remain open until capacity limit is reached. SWENext Connect participants are required to complete a minimum of two pre- and post-evaluation session surveys.

### Structure:

Impact groups will last for one fiscal year with six SWENext Connect group sessions. Before the impact groups begin, SWE Headquarters staff, student participants, facilitators, and mentors will engage in a virtual training orientation for the program. SWE-HQ staff will introduce the program, identify the topic, learning outcomes, general logistics, and expectations for all participants. This session will allow participants and mentors to get familiar with one another and ask any questions that might arise. The training orientation will be available as a recording after the live session is complete.

**Time allotted: 20 minutes.**

### LEVEL 1: STEM Exploring (Ages 10-13)

Level 1 will focus on STEM Exploring students discovering the STEM Pathway interactive, learning courses. Each virtual session will begin with allowing students and their parents/guardians, educators and advocates to work on an engineering activity based on a different engineering discipline. These activities are meant to be simplified to allow participants to use materials they can find around the house.

**Time allotted: 30 minutes** (20 minutes Activity; 10 minutes Debrief).

#### Schedule:

SESSION TITLE	DATE
STEM X ENGAGEMENT	Dec. 6 at 6:15 PM CT

The last segment of this session is the small group mentoring Q&A. In this segment, students, their parents/guardians, educators and advocates will be split into smaller groups up to five per group. In breakout room discussions, students will introduce themselves to up to two mentors. These mentors will begin discussion by introducing themselves and their background. Students and their parents/guardians, educators and advocates will have the opportunity to receive best practices and advice on how to better support STEM exploration within the session's topic. Equipped with best practices and back-up questions, mentors will provide tips and tricks based on level of expertise.

**Time allotted: 20 minutes** (20 minutes Q&A; 10 minute Debrief).

SESSION TITLE	DATE
STEM X EXPLORATION	March 28 at 6:15PM CT

### LEVEL 2: STEM Engaged (Ages 14-18)

Student participants will be engaging in a virtual "think tank" engagement activity. This activity will focus on a prompt developed by facilitators that challenges their critical thinking and allows them to work as a team to solve a problem using the engineering design process. This problem will be based around the session's topic.

**Time allotted: 20 minutes.**

#### Schedule:

SESSION TITLE	DATE
STEM X COMMUNITY	Sept. 30 at 6:15 PM CT
STEM X ENTREPRENEURSHIP	Feb. 3 at 6:15 PM CT

SWENexters will be assigned to virtual breakout rooms by age level for mentoring sessions with guided Q&A. Students will receive a form ahead of the session to submit questions for mentors. These questions can cover college preparation, life application skills or STEM Pathways. Equipped with best practices and back-up questions, mentors are advisors for this student-run learning experience.

**Time allotted: 45 minutes** (30 minutes Q&A; 15 minutes Debrief).

SESSION TITLE	DATE
IDENTITY X CONNECT	Apr. 28 at 1:00PM CT
CAREER X CONNECT	June 2 at 6:15 PM CT

### LEVEL 3: 1:1 Coaching

After participating a minimum of two group sessions, SWENexters will be able to sign up for coaching sessions that will be available online. The matching program will allow mentors and students to participate in 30 minute one-on-one sessions. Students can self-select which mentor best fits their needs after mentors upload a profile of soft skills, education background, and professional experience. Students under 13 will not be able to participate without parent/guardian permission.

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