

TIPS FOR MENTORING/BEING MENTORED

Ceci Stratford, January 17, 2018

Mentors

1. Decide you would like to be a mentor and what you would like to accomplish, understanding that being a mentor is not just about making a friend. It's a commitment and takes effort. Be committed to that time and effort.
2. Offer your assistance as a mentor to a new member in your 99s Chapter or aviation group.
3. Meet your potential Mentee and talk about what she is striving for – a scholarship, a career, help in overcoming an obstacle. Do you like her? Do you want to work with her? Share your ideas on how you would like to work with her on reaching her goals. Make a “connection” with her!
4. Exchange phone numbers and email addresses; maybe even Facebook.
5. Follow up with her on a regular basis, especially if she doesn't contact you for awhile, encouraging her and giving her pointers, either with phone calls, emails, taking her flying, and whatever comes naturally to give her assurance that she will succeed.
6. Be prepared to address problems and questions, such as finding a flight school and CFI, what to do if she doesn't like the school or instructor, ground school/written exam questions & processes, financial issues, lack of confidence, joining the 99s, and more! Offer solutions, but allow her to take the lead in finding the right solution.
7. Listen to her. Rejoice with her. Try to be there for milestones, such as soloing, check rides, interviewing flight schools and CFIs.

Mentees

1. Meet with your potential mentor to discuss each others' roles, dreams, commitments, goals, etc. Decide if you really enjoy being around her and that you respect and admire her. Agree that you accept her as your mentor.
2. Identify why you want to fly and what you want to do with it. Your mentor will help you with this process and can offer suggestions. What do you want to do in 5 years? 10 years? (“Commercial flying” doesn't necessarily mean “fly for the airlines”, so be as specific as you can).
3. Use that “connection” (3 above) to seek assistance with questions, issues, problems and joys during your flight training. Enjoy the relationship and learn the most from it.
4. Be in touch with your mentor regularly. Be open to ideas, support and assistance while you're on your journey in flight training, including if you want to become a career pilot.
5. Speak openly and admit when you have a problem and accept her suggestions, realizing that even if they are uncomfortable or difficult, her support can help you through your problem or obstacle. Sometimes the truth and solutions to problems can be difficult!
6. Think about how you might be able to help others, especially after you reach each milestone or goal.
7. How can you participate with your 99s Chapter so you can learn more and make more contacts? Consider the 99s PPLI program if you wish to make a career in flying. (Women in Aviation International (WAI) also has a mentoring program).