

Dear Student,

Thank you for your interest in participating in the Spring 2012 mentor program!

You have signed up as a pair, a team of 4 or as 6, and where necessary we made each group into 6, adding pairs with as similar bridge experience as possible. Your mentor will not play, but rather focus entirely on how to help each pair develop their bridge skills both individually and as partners. Their goal should be to help you and your partner gain confidence and improve your results as your duplicate bridge understanding grows.

Your mentor is an experienced teacher as well as an accomplished bridge player. You need to provide your mentor a copy of your convention card; for new pairs, get together and write up a card and give a copy to your mentor. Your mentor should study the card, looking for opportunities.

In each session you will be provided with custom designed hands designed cover a general educational topic, primarily bidding. Each table will play the same hands in the same sequence. You will have the time to discuss each hand in as much detail as you and your mentor would like, and you may go at whatever speed you wish. We suggest that each pair bid and play the hand first totally on their own, and then go back through it in detail, possibly rebidding it using the skills they have learned. Your mentor will receive detailed hand records in advance, showing the hands and what contract is makeable. They will review these while the pairs are bidding to prepare their comments on what lessons in bidding, play, and defense can be learned from the hand. The hands will be balanced so that NS and EW have similar opportunities to learn from their own bidding; those who don't have the exciting hand should pay close attention to what they can learn from the hand.

Here is your checklist of duties:

- ✓ Participate in the twice monthly mentoring sessions, 630 PM Wednesdays 2-8, 2-22, 3-7, 3-28, 4-4, 4-25.
- ✓ We encourage you to sign up for the follow-up workshop that will cover in more detail a topic consistent with the mentor session topic.
- ✓ Ask questions or seek explanations from the mentor regarding duplicate bridge rules, etiquette, bidding, play of the hand, or defense.
- ✓ Exercise consideration in seeking the mentor's time for tutoring beyond the six tutoring sessions.
- ✓ Do not be overly sensitive to constructive criticism.
- ✓ If your mentor is not as helpful as you had hoped or your personality does not mesh with that of your mentor, you should contact the mentor committee to help work out a solution.
- ✓ Be a good partner, help your partnership develop.
- ✓ Help the mentor committee improve the program by offering constructive suggestions.

By the end of the 6 mentoring sessions we expect that you and your partner will find benefits in the following areas:

- Learn play of the hand techniques.
- Become more proficient at the conventions you already play.
- Selectively learn and practice new conventions.
- Solidify bidding understandings/avoid misunderstandings.
- Feel more comfortable "playing up".
- Recognize your own weaknesses and gain new strengths.
- Recognize your own strengths.
- Gain knowledge, confidence, and assistance to enjoy playing bridge even more.
- Understand table etiquette and proper behavior.
- Understand director rulings and appropriate behavior towards the director.

Your mentor committee, Ned Irving Chair, Greg Bono, Rick Wendricks, & Betty Schultz.