How to Find Your Technovation Mentor

Technovation mentors are an integral part of the Technovation experience. Each mentor is a female professional in science, engineering, business, or academia who guides a team of girls to complete the online Technovation curriculum. Qualified mentors don't need programming or mobile app experience -- just some real-world experience and a passion for inspiring girls to do great things.

Top 5 Tips for Finding a Technovation Mentor

1. **Contact local interest groups in your area:** Do some Internet searches and check to see if there are any tech women-focused interest groups. Search on meetup.com or social media sites to find groups of women who are already gathering around the subject. Universities and professional women in technology or engineering groups often have local chapters, too. A few to begin researching are SWE (The Society of Women Engineers), IEEE WIE (IEEE Women in Engineering), and CWSEM (The Committee for Women in Science Engineering and Math).

2. **Research the tech industry in your area:** Are there any large tech companies in your area? Many companies have outreach departments that are often looking for opportunities for their employees. Try using our e-mail template (below) or write your own and reach out.

3. **Check out the startup scene in your community:** Emerging tech companies are also a great way to find mentors. Some cities even have maps or lists that track new companies. (Here are some examples: NYC, LA)

4. **Post on social media:** Let everyone know you are looking! Many teams have had success by simply posting online that they are looking for female tech mentors. Check out this awesome story of how one tweet turned into two mentors from two different continents!

5. **Find a mentor through the platform.** Students, Coaches, and Mentors all use the platform at my.technovationchallenge.org, which means you can connect with a mentor via the platform. You can look for a registered mentor in your area, or find someone to mentor you at a distance, through Skype or G+ hangout.

Sample E-mail

Dear <insert company name>,

Hello! I'm a teacher at _____ School, and I'm reaching out to tell you about a nonprofit program called Technovation Challenge, which is dedicated to inspiring women in technology and entrepreneurship. I am starting a Technovation club at my school, and I am looking for women in technology to volunteer as mentors in the program. I thought I would reach out to your company to see if I could recruit some of your women employees to volunteer.

In the Technovation program, high school girls work in teams to develop mobile apps, conduct market research, write business plans, and create a "pitch" for funding. Each team works with both a classroom teacher at their school and a female mentor/role model from the technology industry. The course culminates in a Technovation World Pitch event where teams compete for $20k in funding to launch their company and take their app to market.

The goal of the program is to inspire girls to see themselves not just as users of technology, but as inventors, designers, builders and entrepreneurs. Technovation has reached over 1,000 girls across the globe, and hopes to continue growing!

Can you direct me to the right person in your office that handles community affairs? Thank you very much for your time!

Sincerely,

<insert name>
<insert LinkedIn profile>

Do you have another idea? E-mail us at TechnovationChallenge@IridescentLearning.org and let us know!