



UNIT 550 MENTOR PROGRAM

2016



Unit 550 is pleased to announce the 2016 Mentor Program which pairs Mentees with Mentors to help improve the Mentees' game and introduce them to a wider set of partners. Ginger Stone, ginger252@comcast.net is the 2016 Program Manager. The program runs from June 15 to November 15. Mentees must sign-up by **May 31**.

Below are additional details and qualifications.

- 1. Who can be a Mentee?** Any player with 20 to 800 master points, who is an ACBL member, plays an average of twice a month at the Santa Cruz Bridge Center (SCBC), played in a Unit Game in the six months prior to the beginning of the program, and makes a commitment to play in at least one Unit Game during the program period.
- 2. Who can be a Mentor?** In 2016, there are two flights of Mentees, 20-199 MPs and 200-800 MPs. Those in the higher flight will mentor those in the lower and be mentored by experts, who have more than 800 MPs.
- 3. What is my commitment as a Mentee?** Make yourself available to play with your mentor 1 to 2 times a month during the program period. Mentees also make a commitment to play in at least one Unit Game during the program period with any partner. Unit Game revenue supports Unit 550, which is the sponsor of the Mentor Program.
- 4. What is my commitment as a Mentor?** First, get to know your Mentee and their bridge improvement objectives and try to formulate a plan with your Mentee. You are expected to play 1 to 2 times a month with your mentee and to spend time after each game discussing hands which will help the Mentee reach their objectives. Instruction following the game is encouraged; instruction during play and between rounds is strongly discouraged, except during a sit-out or time set aside for this purpose. These brief "pointers" will not assist your Mentee and typically will only confuse your Mentee and reduce their focus on the next hand.
- 5. How will Mentors and Mentees be paired up?** The Program Manager will assign Mentors and Mentees to best achieve program objectives for the Mentees.
- 6. What if the personalities of the Mentors and Mentees conflict?** Reasonable people acting in good faith do not always work or play well together. Playing one game is all that is required before either the Mentor or Mentee may request a change from the coordinator. The Program Manager will, as much as possible, keep confidential any feedback provided by either party. The coordinator will attempt to match up another Mentor with the Mentee, but another match is not guaranteed.
- 7. Which games may Mentor-Mentee pairs play?** In addition to all open level games, the Thursday morning game, and the Sunday afternoon game, club owners typically schedule Mentor/Mentee games during the program. These are listed in the calendar on the Unit 550 website, santacruzbridge.org.
- 8. How and when can I sign up?** Reply to the program announcement email or contact the Mentor Program Manager, Mentor.Program@santacruzbridge.org. Shortly after the sign-up period, the Program Manager will notify Mentors and Mentees of their pairings.