**Interviews of Mentee and Mentor**

**Mentee Interview:** Getting to know your mentee is an essential part of establishing a good relationship and nurturing the opportunity for growth in both the mentee and the mentor. We recommend TAURUS and NSF REU mentors conduct interviews with their summer students early to get to know one another holistically. Below are some suggested questions -- please feel free to expand on and adjust this list of questions! Some of the questions below are focused on them as people, and some on the mentor/mentee relationship. We would like for each of you to focus on the people-focused questions to put together a short “scholar spotlight” piece for the TAURUS blog and NSF REU EPO program. For sample interviews that have been published, check out the scholar spotlights on our blog: http://taurusastronomy.blogspot.com

* *What inspired you to pursue a career in astronomy / science?*
* *Please tell me more about yourself. How do you feel other aspects of your life have impacted your view on STEM careers*
* *What most excites you about doing research?*
* *What draws you to science in the first place?*
* *Tell me a little bit about yourself - what do you do for fun? What are your hobbies / favorite pastimes?*
* *In your opinion, what qualities makes astronomy so unique and compelling?*
* *What are you most proud of?*
* *What mentors, teachers, or role models have been the most inspiring to you in your life? What do you see as the future of astronomy?*

*(If there is something particularly unique about the student that they have mentioned in the questions above, ask them to talk more about that, etc)*

* *What challenges and obstacles have you faced in your career? How have you overcome these challenges?*
* *What advice would you give to high school and undergraduate students of color interested in following your path?*
* *How do you think you learn best (e.g. hands-on experience, reading, listening to lectures, visually, etc.)? What do you think the most effective mentoring strategy might be for you?*
* *What are your long-term / future career goals? Or Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?*

**Mentor Interview:** Also consider giving the student an opportunity to interview you by offering the following questions (these are things they probably want to know but could be too intimidated to ask):

* *Who are you? How did you become a scientist?*
* *What has been the best thing about your career so far and what has been something you’ve struggled with?*
* *Why have you chosen to be an undergraduate research mentor? What do you hope to gain from this experience?*
* *What would success in this research program look like to you? What are your expectations of me as your mentee, in terms of hours per week worked, meeting at certain times of day, etc.?*
* *What did you struggle with most when you were an undergraduate researcher, or when you had your first research experience? How is the experience different from coursework?*