

Allies

Ally Agreement

The Ally Agreement is a tool designed to help both the Venture Team and the Ally communicate and define their roles. Both Venture Teams and Allies should adapt the role of the Ally to fit their needs. Keep the following points in mind as you complete the Ally Agreement:

- Allies *are not* responsible for doing the work of any team member. Allies should not be in charge of planning activities, leading team meetings, managing the team's money, or making decisions for the Venture.
- Allies *are* responsible for introducing teams to relevant community businesses and organizations, providing advice when teams make decisions for their Venture, or offering encouragement throughout the Venture.
- The Ally Agreement gives both you and your Ally the opportunity to include stipulations, which can incorporate either specific needs or limitations. For example, the Venture Team may express the need for an Ally who will help them manage their finances, while the Ally might say that he or she is only able to attend two out of four Venture meetings a month.
- After these stipulations have been discussed and agreed upon, both you and your Ally can officially commit to the agreement and to each other by signing the Ally Agreement.
- Both the Venture Team and the Ally should **keep a copy** of the Ally Agreement.

Frequently Asked Questions about Allies

Q. How do I ask someone to be my Ally?

A. This can be a little scary, especially if you don't know your potential Ally very well. Explain to him/her what your Venture is doing, why you care about it, and how you think that he/she can help. Even if he/she isn't able to help your Venture as an Ally, he/she may be able to recommend someone who can. He/She may also be able to help your Venture in other ways, such as donating funds or volunteering for a one-time event. The only way to know is to ask!

Q. Can a parent of a Venturer be an Ally?

A. Of course! Parents often make wonderful Allies because they already know so much about you and your friends. Just make sure that they understand that a Venture is *youth-led* and won't be tempted to take over members' responsibilities. Filling out an Ally agreement can help make sure that everyone understands and follows their roles. A sample Ally Agreement can be found on the next page.

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