

# Allies

## What is an Ally?

### What is an Ally?

An Ally is a non-controlling adult mentor who offers support and guidance to Venturers. Each team is required to have at least one Ally.

### What is the role of an Ally?

Allies offer expertise and provide guidance when Venture Teams make decisions or need support. Allies help connect Venturers to local communities. They also encourage teams by attending Selection Panel presentations and staying in regular contact with the team. Each team decides the best way to get support from their Ally. A team can have more than one Ally, but must have at least one.

### What can't Allies do?

Allies *cannot* lead or create a Venture. They are not responsible for planning activities, for scheduling meetings, or for making decisions for the Venture Team.

"Young people need models,  
not critics."

-John Wooden

### Who can be an Ally?

An Ally can be a teacher, family member, coach, a community member with expertise in the Venture's field, or any trustworthy adult interested in working with the team.

### How do teams choose Allies?

To choose an Ally, Venture Teams should first decide what they would like an Ally to do for the Venture. For example, think about what expertise would be valuable. If your Venture Team plans to create a community park, perhaps you should look for an Ally with gardening experience. Next, consider who your Venture Team knows that could meet those needs. Finally, talk to the individuals your team has identified to find out whether they are interested in serving as your team's Ally. The Youth Venture **Ally Agreement** can be helpful in explaining an Ally's role.

### More YV Tip Sheets

Check out these  
additional YV Tip Sheets:

- [Find the Perfect Ally](#)
- [Ally Agreement](#)