

Build Your Own Dream Team



Name _____

Getting some support from caring adults (and friends!) to pursue and develop your sparks can be the difference between a dream and a dream-come-true. When you gather enough spark champions around you, they can form just the “dream team” you need. People rarely find all the support they need from their family, though. You can find more support, encouragement, options and opportunities, for your spark from other adult mentors—if you just ask. If you’re ready to start building your “dream team” of supporters, try these ideas. *(P.S. Don’t give up if the first or second person you ask is too busy.)*

YOUR FAMILY

Lots of students find their greatest support from their family: parents or guardians, aunts and uncles, grandparents, and siblings. Not sure whether family members know what your sparks are? Why not tell them, ask about their sparks, and see whether you have one or more in common?

YOUR NEIGHBORS

Neighbors can be some of the most under-used resources in a community. Ask your parents or other adults you live with whether they know any good neighbors who share your interest in engineering, or gardening, or animals.

YOUR COMMUNITY

If your family belongs to a church, temple, synagogue, or mosque, that can be a great place to search for spark supporters. Responsible, caring adults there could be mentors, teachers, coaches, or fans of your abilities in cooking and baking or chemistry. If you belong to the Y or the Boys and Girls Clubs, there are lots of people there who could help. And you could ask your parents or guardians to help you find a mentor in one of your sparks.

YOUR SCHOOL

Teachers, counselors, coaches, and other adults at school want to help young people find themselves, their sparks, and their path. If you don’t have any spark supporters at your school yet, ask around. Your friends may know that one of the math teachers loves to play chess. Or one of the school secretaries may know of a club or team that you could join.

YOUR FRIENDS (AND FRIENDS-TO-BE)

Knowing and exploring your sparks can lead you to better relationships with your current friends. It can also lead you to new friends who share your spark. Take a look at who your friends are and what you do together. Remember that the best friends support and encourage you in your unique sparks. They may even work together with you on them.