Purpose of the Program

The Alpaca Mentorship Program connects young alpaca enthusiasts with experienced breeders, studs, and industry professionals. The program provides practical knowledge, hands-on experience, and support in a welcoming environment, helping strengthen the future of the alpaca industry.

Designed to be flexible rather than a rigid commitment, each mentorship is unique. Mentors and participants set their own level of involvement based on location, availability, and specific interests.

Program Registration

Separate Google Forms will be used for mentors and youth participants to ensure the best possible matches.

Youth Participant Registration Applicants provide:

- Personal and contact details
- Location
- Previous alpaca experience
- Key areas of interest within the industry
- Mentor Registration Applicants provide:
- Personal and contact details
- Property location
- Alpaca breeding and industry experience
- Working With Children Check (WWCC) details

Gathering these details allows for well-matched pairings while maintaining a strong focus on participant safety.

Promotion and Recruitment

The program is promoted through official social media platforms and digital communication channels. An active online presence helps engage experienced breeders and young enthusiasts across a wide geographical area.

Role of the Mentor

Mentors inspire the next generation of alpaca enthusiasts. The program seeks experienced breeders and studs passionate about sharing knowledge and supporting young people.

Mentors are encouraged to:

- Provide practical guidance on alpaca husbandry
- Share expertise in breeding, animal health, fleece, showing, and farm management
- Build confidence and independence in young participants
- Offer opportunities for hands-on learning where suitable
- Help youth develop practical skills within the industry

Where possible, mentors may voluntarily offer extended opportunities—such as agistment or involvement in breeding programs—to help committed participants own their own alpacas.

Studs active in the industry are strongly encouraged to join, giving youth hands-on

experience ranging from junior handling to halter classes, interactions with other breeders and the different facets of the industry.

Role of the Youth Participant

Youth participants are expected to:

- Show genuine enthusiasm and a willingness to learn
- Respect their mentor's time, property, and livestock
- Communicate openly and reliably
- Drive their own learning by asking questions and actively participating

This program focuses strictly on education and personal growth. Participants are not a source of unpaid labor, and all activities must directly support learning and practical experience.

Program Expectations

Designed for flexibility rather than rigid structure, the program has no minimum visit requirements or formal assessments. Each partnership develops organically based on location, availability, and shared interests.

Successful mentoring relationships rely on:

- Mutual respect
- Open communication
- Clear boundaries and shared expectations

Support and Wellbeing

While mentors and youth participants manage their own working relationship, support is available throughout the program.

All participants receive the program coordinator's contact details and are encouraged to reach out if:

- Questions or concerns arise
- Anyone feels uncomfortable at any stage
- Communication between mentor and participant breaks down
- A pairing proves unsuitable and an alternative match is needed

The safety, wellbeing, and overall experience of every participant remain the program's top priorities.

Vision for the Future

A successful and sustainable alpaca industry in Australia.

The Alpaca Mentorship Program builds lasting connections to inspire future breeders,

exhibitors, and industry leaders. By sharing knowledge and practical opportunities, mentors help ensure the long-term growth and sustainability of the alpaca industry.

Through supportive relationships and hands-on learning, young participants build

confidence, develop practical skills, and become active members of the alpaca community for years to come.