



## **Pearls of Culture: Program Overview**

### **About the Program**

Pearls of Culture is a two-year monthly mentoring program for high school girls, beginning in the 10th grade. Rooted in the mission of the Queen City Ivy & Pearls Foundation, the program is designed to ignite confidence, build character, inspire leadership, and deepen a commitment to community service. Through a combination of one-on-one mentorship, group workshops, career exploration, and cultural experiences, participants gain the tools, relationships, and perspective they need to navigate high school and beyond with purpose.

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### **What Participants Can Expect**

Mentees are paired with accomplished adult women who are committed to their growth. Together, they meet regularly throughout the school year, supported by a structured curriculum that covers personal development, academic and career readiness, leadership and communication, mental wellness, and community engagement. Group sessions and special events provide additional opportunities for connection, exposure, and skill-building.

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### **Program Highlights**

- One-on-one mentoring with a matched adult mentor
  - Monthly group workshops and skill-building sessions
  - Immersive experiences spanning career exploration, cultural enrichment, and community service
  - Mental health and wellness programming
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### **Who Should Apply**

This program is open to young women who will be entering 10th grade in the 2026–2027 school year. Must be a resident of Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Gaston, Union, Lincoln, York/Union, SC counties. Strong candidates demonstrate a genuine interest in personal growth, a willingness to show up consistently, and a desire to engage with peers and mentors from diverse backgrounds.



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## **Commitment & Expectations**

Pearls of Culture is a serious investment in a young woman's future and it asks for real commitment in return. Mentees are expected to meet with their mentor 1-2 times per month (phone, virtually, or in-person), attend one Saturday morning session per month, arrive on time, and engage respectfully with peers, mentors, and program staff throughout the year.

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## **Program Investment**

There is a \$100 annual participation fee to participate in the program. Limited financial assistance may be available for families who qualify.

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## **How to Apply**

Applications for the 2026–2027 cohort are due by **May 22, 2026**. Selected mentees will be notified by June 30, 2026. Programming begins in September.

To apply, [click here](#).

Questions? Contact us at [pearls@rpoinc.org](mailto:pearls@rpoinc.org)