

Gatorade Sports Nutrition Immersion Program: Host-Site Application Guide

Before applying to become a Sports Nutrition Immersion Program (SNIP) host, please review this document to learn more about the program, the application process and host-site expectations.

SNIP Mentor Expectations and Requirements

- Interested SNIP mentors must be active CPSDA professional-members working as full-time sports dietitians in an established sports nutrition program. A potential mentor sports RD must have spent a full calendar year in their current position before applications are due. (Please do not apply to host if you foresee that you may leave your current position within the next year or take an extended leave of absence for any reason.)
- Interested SNIP mentors who have hosted an immersion fellow for the past two consecutive years (in both 2021/22 and 2022/23) are not eligible to host an immersion in 2023/24.
- Hosts are required to participate in multi-day kick-off meeting taking place in mid-June 2023. While there, you will spend time with CPSDA program advisors, Gatorade brand managers and the SNIP fellows. You will receive a \$1,000 honorarium for your attendance. The Gatorade team will coordinate your travel.
- Selected mentors need to research and compile short-term housing options for their fellow. Immersions are 8 months in duration. To the best of your ability, please offer your prospective SNIP fellow an estimate of housing costs, as this may affect the timing and duration of their immersion experience. Potential housing contacts should be provided to your SNIP fellow upon matching. Immersions can be extended on a case-by-case basis at the expense of the host site institution. CPSDA will not provide a stipend beyond an 8-month immersion. If you are selected as a host-site, please coordinate the following before your SNIP fellow arrives: any complimentary meals, computer/network access, a solution for parking or transportation and university-provided work attire (if necessary). If these are not feasible, please offer guidance and clarify expectations early on with the SNIP fellow.
- Interested SNIP mentors must ensure the ability to offer a balance between oversight and autonomy to SNIP fellows. All potential fellow candidates will be credentialed dietitians, ready for hands-on experience in the field. The intention of the Gatorade Sports Nutrition Immersion Program is to assist in readying sports dietitians to take entry-level full-time positions. Selected host sites should be willing and able to offer direct and full oversight of at least one fully-sanctioned sport team at a NCAA member institution or at least one aspect of a tactical setting/professional team/sports academy's nutrition program.
- If chosen as a host mentor, you will be expected to provide a set of competencies that your fellow will accomplish while immersed in your program. An example set of competencies is attached for your review. These competencies will need to be individualized for your program if you are selected to be a host mentor. Please be prepared to discuss competencies during your interview.
- Interested host site must include a letter of support from your supervisor emphasizing and describing your abilities to host and mentor a SNIP Fellow, as well as contact information for two (2) individuals that you have mentored.

SNIP Site Expectations

Before applying to be a SNIP mentor, please speak with your athletic department/professional organization about allowing your fellow to do the following during his/her immersion experience:

- Complete questionnaires to help Gatorade and CPSDA promote SNIP to future applicants
- Blog or document via social media about their experience
- Provide video footage of their experience
 - Any and all uses of social media, blogging and video are to be promotional in nature and will be available for your review before final submission. These materials will not be intrusive to the organization or athletes and will not reflect poorly on you, your organization, CPSDA or Gatorade.
 - While media interviews in your facility are not required, please note that fellow and host-site interviews help promote the sports dietitian profession and the Sports Nutrition Immersion Program, as well as CPSDA and Gatorade.

About Site Selection

We anticipate healthy competition to attain a SNIP fellow. Our aim is to offer diverse host site options – ranging from collegiate to professional sports, as well as tactical sites and sports academies – spread broadly across the U.S.

Sites will be prioritized based in part on the longevity and experience of the sports dietitians, strength in mentorship offered for the fellows, the maturity of the sports nutrition program, the quality of experience being offered, and your involvement with CPSDA.

The timing of the immersion experience – when your SNIP fellow will serve, between July 2023 and May 2024 – is another important factor in placing a candidate. The more flexibility in your host dates, the better chance we have of matching you with a fellow.

Please provide within your application

- Which sports will your fellow be working with directly (or aspect of your program if you work for a tactical program, professional team or sports academy)?
- How much time will the fellow be working directly with you (average hours per week?)
- Ability to provide a [set of competencies](#) that your fellow will accomplish while immersed in your program. These competencies will need to be individualized for your program if you are selected to be a host mentor. Please be prepared to discuss competencies during your interview.
- Please have your supervisor provide a letter of support emphasizing and describing your abilities to host and mentor a SNIP Fellow.
- Please include contact information for 2 individuals that you have mentored.

Clear expectations lead to productive, successful immersion experiences for all. However, we do realize that there will be some customization of the fellow’s work based on their skills and capabilities upon arrival.

Selection Process for Immersion Fellows:

After reviewing applications, the SNIP program managers will complete video interviews and the CPSDA SNIP Committee will finalize the pool to the top host sites. After host sites are selected by CPSDA and Gatorade, an email blast containing a link to the fellow application will be sent to all CPSDA student and associate members inviting them to apply as a Gatorade SNIP fellow. Within the application, applicants will be asked to review a short description of each site (written by the mentor as detailed above), and then rank the sites based on their interest, should they be selected.

Once all applications have been submitted, the program advisors will review the applications and narrow the candidates to a list of finalists. The host sites will be notified and the application from each finalist will

be released to the host mentors for review. Host mentors will select a minimum of 3 candidates from this pool whom they would like to interview (virtually) and submit this selection to the program advisors who will then set up video interviews between mentors and prospective fellows.

After the interview process, mentors will be asked to rank their candidates in order of desired hiring. As is similar with the dietetic internship match, the program advisors will make every effort to match top candidate rankings with top mentor rankings in attempt to line up the best possible match for both parties. Mentors will then be given the opportunity to formally offer their selected candidate once the program advisors have finalized all the matches.

If you have additional questions about applying as SNIP host, please contact program manager Mary Ellen Kelly (<mailto:snip@cpsda.org>)