Each NASA research group submitting a design topic to the **TSGC DESIGN CHALLENGE** for team involvement agrees to provide a mentor to work with the student design team. Once projects are selected, TSGC notifies the mentor that a team is forming and provides contact information to everyone involved.

MENTOR/TEAM RELATIONSHIP EXPECTATIONS:

MENTOR AS THE TEAM'S CUSTOMER.	– Think of the team's Mentor is the design team's "customer." – Establish design specification needs immediately upon forming the team. – The team's faculty advisor is encouraged to make contact with the mentor too, to insure that the team's plans align with the mentor expectations. – Run ideas by the mentor to make sure the design is on track.
HOW MUCH TIME WILL THE MENTOR SPEND WITH THE TEAM?	– Mentors volunteer their time to work with Design Challenge teams; but his/her "regular" job comes first. – If mentor availability becomes an issue and communication begins to suffer, let me know so I can try to help find you an alternate source of info. – Active mentors report that working with one to two teams has minimal impact on their time; however, a mentor working with three or more teams may face a high demand for "face time" with the team.
WHAT EXACTLY SHOULD THE TEAM EXPECT FROM THE MENTOR?	– The mentor offers the team a NASA-affiliated project which includes: a project overview, background info, technical specifications, design parameters. – Mentors typically read team proposals and offer comments on work submitted. – Mentors are generally sensitive to letting the team define the course of the project, while at the same time guiding the team toward the goal. – The mentor is not expected to provide any resources [materials or funds] for construction or maintenance - - although some provide access to samples. – A site visit / design review might be offered, but should not be expected. – Mentor is not expected to travel to visit the team, but some do.
WHAT SHOULD THE MENTOR EXPECT FROM THE TEAM?	– Keep the mentor updated on design progress – include the mentor in the Tuesday Tag Up reports. – Provide the mentor with copies of the initial proposal, mid-term, & final report. – Teams should make a best effort in accepting invitations for site visit and design review if requested. – Teams should pursue original solutions in addressing the problem at hand. – Don't be afraid to ask questions!
WILL THE MENTOR ATTEND THE SHOWCASE?	– Each team's mentor is invited to attend the team's final design presentation at the **TSGC DESIGN CHALLENGE SHOWCASE** in Houston at the end of the semester – and traditionally make their best effort to be there
WHAT ABOUT RESULTS AND DESIGN TESTING?	– Provide the mentor with a bound copy of the team's final technical report. – The mentor is not entitled to any items purchased by the team with TSGC funds [models, equipment, software or parts] – although you may donate them. – If the mentor has loaned the team equipment, parts or samples, expectations need to be clear – and the team responsible - in ensuring their return. – If further testing of the team's device is warranted, a Testing Grant is available through TSGC to help with preparations and/or team travel to test site.