



APPLY HERE IN 2026!

**EMPOWER
SCD**



**STEMM MENTORING
FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
WITH SICKLE CELL DISEASE**

We have a **NEW** year-long mentoring program where you can match with a current student from Emory University, Georgia Tech, Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine, and Spelman College to help you reach your Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, or Medicine (STEMM) goals!



**SEEKING STUDENTS
WITH SICKLE CELL DISEASE IN
GRADES 6TH THROUGH 11TH
WITH AN INTEREST IN STEMM!**



What is EMPOWER SCD?

**Elevating Mentoring Possibilities for Overcoming
and Withstanding Educational Roadblocks in
Sickle Cell Disease.**

Direct questions to Drs. Hardy or Payne:
Elaissa.hardy@emory.edu or Jason.payne@choa.org

Participants will join a research project at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and will be paid for their time.

Mentorship program for youth with Sickle Cell Disease!



EMPOWER SCD is a research study at Emory University and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, studying the impact of a near-peer mentorship program on middle and high school students with Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) on their interest in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine).

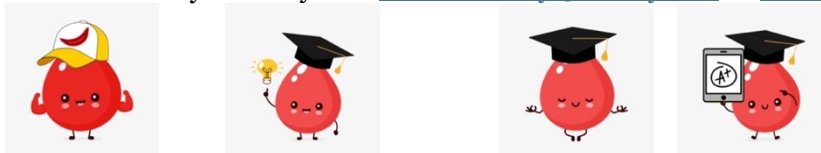
If you join this research study and mentorship program we will match you (middle and high school student) with a Near-Peer Mentor (University/College STEMM students). We think that this mentorship program will help increase your interest in STEMM and show you how to have a career in a STEMM field as a researcher, health care provider, or engineer.

After being accepted into the program, you will be matched (gender) with a Near-Peer Mentor (college or graduate school student) during the 2026-2027 school year, you will participate in:

- ❖ 1 week (5-days) in-person Summer Camp (June/July)
- ❖ 3 in-person All-Hands meetings (October, January, and March – Cohort Celebration) – up to 4 hours/day.
- ❖ 9 monthly online Mentee Cohort meetings – up to 1 hour/meeting
- ❖ 36 weekly online Mentee/Near-Peer Mentor team meetings – at least 30 minutes/meeting, record in a Communication Journal what was talked about at the meeting and goals for the next week.
- ❖ Before and After surveys
- ❖ Program end group interview asking about your experience with the program and your interest in STEMM.
- ❖ Optional/as-needed online Discussion board posts
- ❖ Optional – share your school grades (report cards) before joining the program, halfway through the year, and at the end of the program.

For your participation, we will provide you with \$300 for 9 months of weekly meetings, \$200 for transportation, and a stipend of \$400 for attending summer camp (\$10 per hour x 40 hours).

Direct any questions to Drs. Hardy and Payne – Elaissa.hardy@emory.edu or Jason.payne@choa.org



Funded by the NIH Science Education Partnership Award – R25 GM154377, directed by Emory University in collaboration with Morehouse School of Medicine, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.