

BE A MENTOR

The Mentorship of students at school, tertiary level and through their initial sea going career is an essential element of the success of the General Botha Old Boys Association (GBOBA) Bursary Fund program. We invite you to join us in this rewarding experience.

Mentoring is “the act of sharing knowledge without a designated reward.” It is also a confidential, trust-based, voluntary **relationship** between someone with significant experience in some area, and a protégé who is working his or her way up through the ranks. A Mentor can be a stand-in parent, a confidante, a teacher, a role-model. The advantages of being mentored by one or more of a number of alumni of the SATS General Botha (“Bothie Boys” or “Chums”) who have sailed the seven seas and worked their own way up the ranks, are immeasurable. This mentoring is the X-Factor which makes this fund unique among similar programs world-wide.

At the GBOBA Bursary Fund we aim to take promising young learners from humble backgrounds and to equip them to become excellent sea-going officers. Officers who are well-trained, diligent and loyal, who are thoroughly professional, who are enthusiastic about their Continuous Professional Development, and who encourage others to do so also. Officers who are great shipmates, and who will rise through the ranks to become CEO’s in the Company they join. Officers who are in demand by the world’s best shipping companies. This is the reputation which was once enjoyed by graduates of the SATS General Botha, and which we encourage our bursars to perpetuate. Together with the traditional spirit of generosity displayed by graduates of the Training Ship for 100 years, this is what the Legend of the “Botha” is all about!

Mentorship takes place through members of various Sub Committees:

- The LMC (Lawhill Maritime Centre) Sub Committee – Chaired by Captain Tony Nicholas.
 - Monitors learners’ academic performance
 - Provides ongoing support when required
 - Provides feedback to sponsors
 - Accompanies learners on industry-related outings
 - Coordinates the Grade 12 Maths and Science Camp
 - Coordinates the Sea Cadet Camp
 - Interviews and selects potential bursars

- The Tertiary Sub Committee – Chaired by Captain Dennis Henwood
 - Interviews and selects potential tertiary bursars
 - Mentors tertiary students at SSTG, CPUT or DUT
 - Provides feedback to sponsors
 - Preparing and assisting students with placement in the maritime industry
 - Mentoring and maintaining contact with past students in their early maritime careers.

- The NSRI Sub Committee – Chaired by Captain Blackie Swart.
 - Liaises with the NSRI re planning of the camps
 - Mentors at the annual NSRI Beginners and Advanced Camps

- The Durban Branch Committee – Chaired by Nomkhitha Mbele
 - Interviews and selects potential bursars.
 - Provides ongoing support when the students are based in Durban

The GBOBA Bursary Fund also seeks work shadow opportunities, industry related outings and work placements for our bursars.

Please contact Chairperson Simon Pearson simon@sjpearson.co.za to discuss mentorship or other ways that you can assist S.A.T.S. General Botha Old Boys Association Bursary Fund.

“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we have lived”

Nelson Mandela