

## Step 03

# Congratulations on making it to Selection Day!

Selection Day is the final step in the application process. We already think you're pretty impressive, so this is about determining what you could contribute and add to VFA. It's a day of rigorous group activities and interviews. During the day, we'll be paying close attention to your ability to work on a team, analytical abilities, and self-awareness. If you applied in the Early Fall or Early Spring deadlines, you'll be attending Selection Day in-person. If you applied in the Final Fall or Final Spring deadlines, you'll be attending Selection Day virtually.

### SELECTION DAY TIPS

#### Know what to expect.

In the first part of the day you'll join a group of candidates and solve problems that you might face at a startup. After your group activities, you'll be invited to a lunch panel where you can sit back, relax, and have Fellows and Alumni answer your questions. In the final part of the day, you'll have the opportunity to interview for 30 - 40 minutes. You'll be asked to reflect on the group activities, and then discuss your experiences in greater detail. You'll also have time to ask questions.

#### Dress for the occasion.

The dress code for Selection Day is smart casual. That's generally a blouse or button-down with tie optional.

#### Focus on your performance.

You'll be working alongside other candidates to complete challenges, but you are not competing against them. Your focus should be on showing us your ability to contribute and how you collaborate with others.

#### Don't try to be a mind reader.

If you spend your energy trying to guess what we're looking for, we will lose out on the opportunity to get to know you authentically. So, be yourself and let us see the real you in action. Remember that Selection Day is intentionally challenging. Entrepreneurs will hear "no" many times before they hear "yes" so we designed the day with that in mind.

#### Build your network.

At Selection Day, you'll meet other VFA finalists and judges who are excited about startups, entrepreneurship, and our cities. We encourage you to have conversations with other finalists because they could become your future co-workers or co-founders.

#### Complete the Connect preference survey prior to Selection Day.

Fill out the survey and prepare to talk about your ideal cities, roles, and industries. This will help us understand what you hope to gain through the two-year Fellowship.

#### Reflect on your experiences.

Continue to do research on how VFA works and why you believe the program is a fit for you and your goals. Think about what you can contribute to both the Fellowship community and at a startup.

#### Rest and fuel up.

Make sure you get a good night's sleep and take care of what you need to feel ready. We're excited to meet you!

### DID YOU...

- Dress smart casual for an interview (blouse, button-down with tie optional)?
- Prepare examples that speak to your ability to make an impact and create outcomes?
- Think about why you want to join Venture For America?
- Submit your Connect preferences survey?
- Think of any questions you have?
- Book travel, submit reimbursements, and pack, if attending in-person?

#### Virtual Selection Days

- Test out your sound preferences and your internet connection?
- Pick a quiet place where you won't be disturbed? We acknowledge that your interviewing environment may be busy so if you can't find a quiet spot, don't worry!