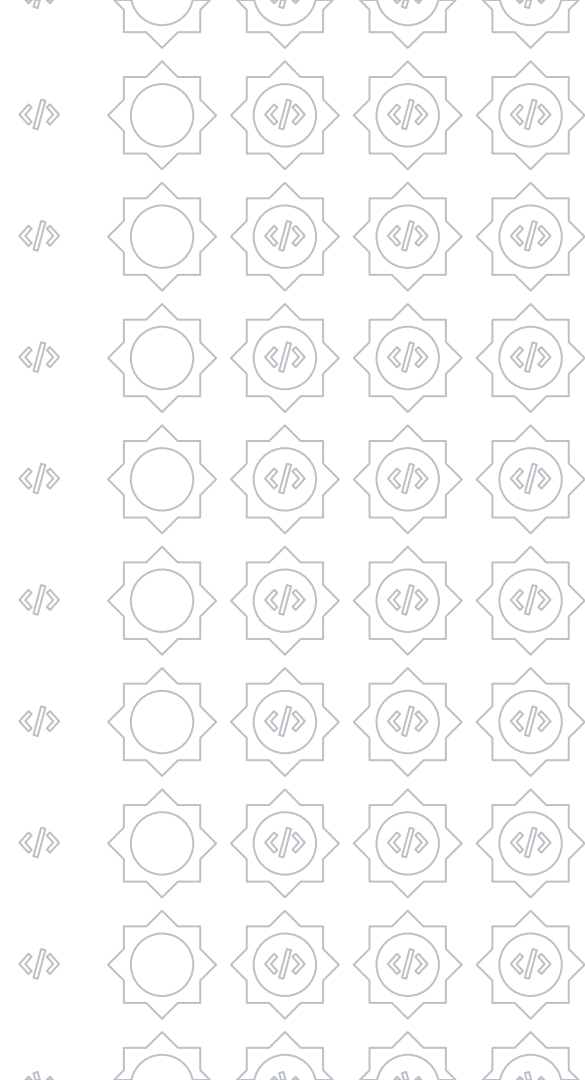




Google Summer of Code

# What is Open Source?

- Computer software where the source code is distributed under an open source license that allows anyone to study, change, improve and distribute the software.
- Promotes high level collaboration with industry experts.
- Community of dedicated developers.





## What is Google Summer of Code?

**Google Summer of Code** (GSoC) is a global, online program focused on bringing new contributors into open source software development. GSoC Contributors work with an open source organization on a 12+ week programming project under the guidance of mentors.



# GSoC Goals

- Introduce new contributors to open source software development.
- Help early career professionals build their skills.
- Create strong collaborations between committed developers and the IT communities to sustain open source projects.
- Expose Contributors to real-world software development scenarios and work with new technologies.
- Create more open source code for all to use.

# About GSoC

- GSoC is a global program focused on bringing new contributors into open source software development.
- The program is open to students and beginners in open source (~2yrs or less) that are 18 years and older.
- Contributors work on small sized projects (~90 hours), medium sized projects (~175 hours) or large projects (~350 hours).
- The standard coding period is 12 weeks, extendable to a max of 22 weeks with the mentor's approval. For the small sized projects, the coding period is 8 weeks.
- Contributors work with an open source organization under the guidance of mentors while earning a stipend for successfully completing their project.

# How does GSoC work?

Feb 19

**Google chooses the mentoring organizations** to participate (*185 in 2025*)

Feb 19 -  
Mar 16

Interested participants reach out to orgs, review Project Ideas and discuss with orgs

Mar 16 -  
Mar 31

Contributors submit project proposals to mentor organizations

Mar 31

Mentor organizations choose their contributors (based on proposals)

Apr 30

**Accepted GSoC Contributors announced** and paired with mentors to help them throughout their project

May 25

**Coding begins!** Contributors work on their project under the guidance of their mentor over 12 weeks (*possible extensions available*)



# Eligibility



Over 18 upon registration for program. (*legal requirement*)



Beginner contributor to open source (~2yoe) or a student.



Eligible to work in the country in which you will reside during the coding period.



Not a resident of a US embargoed country.



Limited to a maximum of two past acceptances into GSoC.

# Things to consider before applying to GSoC

1

## What are your interests?

(Security, AI, data, developer tools, operating systems, science and medicine, web, etc.) --  
*Search by Category -- top of search page*

2

## What technologies are you familiar with?

(python, go, C++, android, javascript, django, etc.)

3

## What is your available time commitment?

(90, 175, 350 hours for coding period)



[Tips for Applying to GSoC](#)



# How do I choose an organization?

- Use the previous criteria to narrow down the ~200 mentoring organizations down to 10 or less.
- Read more about each of their organizations from their org URL.
- Read through their Project Ideas list -- try to find a couple ideas with the orgs that really interest you.
- **Reach out to the orgs** via their communications channels to ask questions about the project ideas.
- Determine if you like the '*vibe*' of the community.

# Project Proposal Info

- Once you've narrowed it down to 1-3 orgs, reach out to them and start writing your proposal for the project.
- You can submit a maximum of 3 project proposals total (to different orgs or even multiple to same org if you wish).
- Once your proposal is written ask the org for feedback.
- **The earlier you write the proposal the better**
  - Try to write it before March 16 when Contributor apps open
- 98% of Mentors are volunteers, be patient.

# Writing the Project Proposal

**Many organizations have their own template with certain questions or information they want applicants to include.**

- Why you want to work on the project idea
- Include any background skills/knowledge, maybe a short biography
- Related work you have done
- Deliverables - what you want to achieve with the project and how you propose to break up the work (by week/month)
- **Clear title!** Not Jane's proposal to Org A : )
- Generally 3-8 pages - doesn't need to be a book!
- Follow all Org instructions including whether any AI generated text is allowed or not (some orgs will disqualify your application if you use AI)

# Frequently asked questions

## How much time do I need to spend on the project?

There are 3 project sizes:

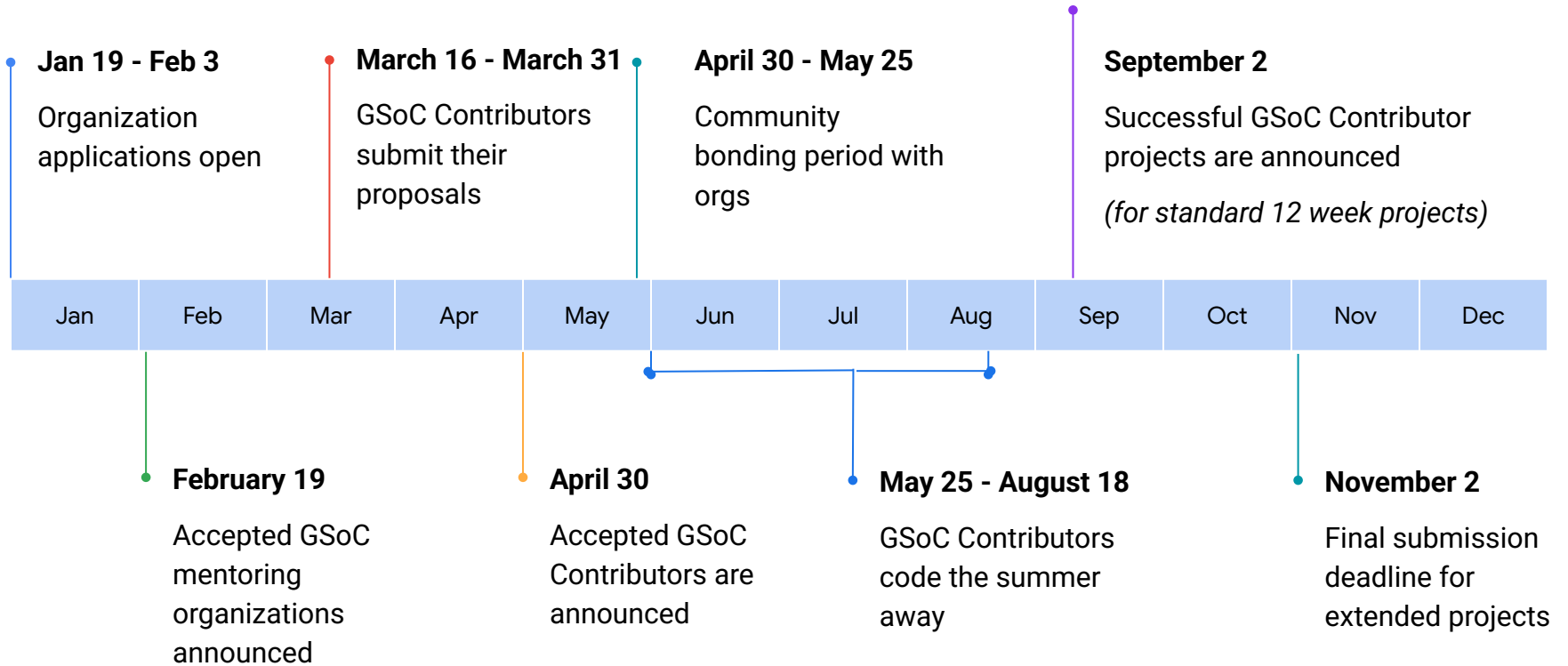
- 90 hours (8 week coding period),
- 175 hours (12 week coding period)
- 350 hours (12 week coding period)

With mentor agreement you can extend the period to a max of 22 weeks.

## I'm new to open source, can I participate?

Yes, GSoC is open to all newcomers of **18+ years**. As long as you are excited and ready to learn from your mentors and **have some level of programming experience** you can succeed in GSoC.

# 2026 Program Timeline





# Evaluations

- **Contributors must pass two (2) evaluations**
- Contributors who pass each evaluation are paid a stipend for their work (*varies based on size of project and country*)
- At the conclusion of GSoC, Contributors submit the code they've written for their project for everyone to see and use!



## Next Steps



Read the Program Rules, FAQs, watch GSoC videos



Read the **Contributor Guide** - tons of great information and tips!



**Feb 19** look at accepted org list, start investigating orgs and reach out as soon as possible



Think about what time commitment you can make for GSoC - helps decide your project size

# Helpful Links

- **Program Site:** <http://g.co/gsoc>
- **GSoC Contributor Guide** <http://g.co/gsoc/resources/guide>
- **Program Rules** <https://summerofcode.withgoogle.com/rules>
- **Advice for Applying to GSoC**  
<https://developers.google.com/open-source/gsoc/help/student-advice>
- **Discord Chat channel:** [discord.gg/google-dev-community](https://discord.gg/google-dev-community)
- **GSoC Contact:** [gsoc-support@google.com](mailto:gsoc-support@google.com)