GSoC 2025 Mentor and Org Admin Email Archive

DATE	COMMUNICATION
Aug 15th	GSoC 2025: Final Evaluations Session and Wrapup
July 1st	GSoC 2025: Evaluation tips and reminders
June 23rd	GSoC 2025: Virtual Evaluation session with GSoC Admins June 30
June 4th	GSoC 2025 - Welcome notes for Mentors & OAs, Coding period and program updates
May 23rd	Please pause updating GSoC project lengths til May 29
May 21st	GSoC 2025: Welcome Notes for GSoC Mentors and Welcome Session
May 12th	Payment Instructions for Organizations
May 5th	GSoC 2025: Next Steps for all Mentors and Org Admins
May 1st	GSoC 2025 Mentor Summit in Munich Oct 23-25 (and Webapp discussion is Tues. May 6)
April 24th	GSoC 2025: Org Admin Reminders (multiple deadlines in the next few days)
April 9th	GSoC 2025: Org Admin questionnaire on Spammy Proposals - complete before April 25
April 8th	GSoC 2025: Reviewing Contributor Proposals w/updates
March 20th	GSoC 2025: PLEASE READ - Information for Mentors and Org Admins
March 18th	GSoC 2025: Info Session Thurs1530 UTC and Org Admin Reminders
March 8th	GSoC 25' URGENT - Verify your Org has 2 OA registered for 2025 (33% of you don't)
Feb 27th	Welcome GSoC 2025 Org Admins - Important Info

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Subject: **GSoC 2025: Final Evaluations Session and Wrapup**

Hello GSoC 2025 Mentors and Org Admins,

Thank you for your incredible work guiding your GSoC contributors this summer! Based on the feedback we've seen, it's clear they are having a fantastic experience learning from you and your communities. As we approach the final weeks for many projects, we wanted to share some important information about evaluations and timelines.

GSoC Final Evaluation Info Session

Mark your calendars for a virtual session designed to help you with final evaluations and keeping contributors excited about your community post GSoC.

- **Date:** Tuesday, August 19
- **Time:** 15:00 - 16:00 UTC
- **Meet Link:** **meet.google.com/uno-ztbz-ypc**
- **Speakers:** GSoC Program Leads Stephanie Taylor and Mary Radomile
- **Topics:** The session will cover the final evaluation process, provide tips for reviewing project final submission URLs, and tips for keeping your contributors involved in your community post GSoC. There will also be time for Q&A.

Final Evaluations

The Final Evaluation (that you complete) and Final Submission (from your contributor)

In a couple of weeks, your contributors will begin submitting their Final Submissions. We have encouraged them to share a preview of their work product URL with you early. This submission is their chance to showcase the work they've done and the best way for others to understand the project's current state.

We've shared the Work Product Submission Guidelines with the contributors encouraging them to create a final report including the following when they submit their Work Submission URL:

- A short description of the project goals
- A summary of what was accomplished
- Current state of the project
- A list of what's left to do
- An update on which code was merged upstream (and what is pending)
- Any challenges or key takeaways from the project

- Link to their code repository

As a mentor, you are responsible for validating the submission URL and ensuring it meets both Google's and your organization's requirements. We highly recommend asking your contributors to use a blog post-type format for their submission to make the information clear and easy to follow.

After the Contributor's submission deadline, you will complete your Final Evaluation (the evaluation questions can be found [here]). Both the contributor's submission and your evaluation are required. Your pass/fail decision should be based on the information provided in their final submission URL. On your evaluation form you will see the link to their work submission URL so you can review it.

Failing a Project

There seemed to be a bit of confusion with some Mentors over what happens when a Contributor project is failed. To clarify, when a project is failed the contributor is done with the GSoC 2025 program. You will still be able to see their evaluations and project details (if they don't withdraw themselves), but the project is done and the person will not receive a final stipend.

Extending a Project's Timeline

For medium and large projects, Org Admins can adjust the project length from the default 12 weeks to a minimum of 10 weeks and a maximum of 22 weeks. Small projects can be extended from 8 weeks to 10 or 12 weeks.

To request an extension:

1. Discuss it with your contributor to ensure they are on board.
2. Have an Org Admin adjust the timeline in the web app before the final submission period for the contributor begins.
3. The Org Admin will navigate to the project details, click Edit, and update the dates in the Project Schedule section.

Important: Once an evaluation period has started, dates can no longer be adjusted. Also, please note that automatic reminder emails are only sent once, so any changes to the dates must be manually communicated to the contributor.

Building Long-Term Contributors

We encourage you to keep communicating with your contributors and inspire them to remain a part of your community after GSoC 2025 ends. Successful organizations have found that offering contributors ownership of their work and encouraging them to become maintainers is

the most effective way to retain them long-term. You can also encourage them to become mentors or Org Admins in future GSoC programs!

For more tips, be sure to read the **Building a Lifetime Contributor** section of the Mentor Guide. You can also check out the '**Keeping your GSoC Contributor involved in your Community after GSoC**' notes from last year's mentor discussion panel.

Lightning talks

We'll be hosting our GSoC 2025 Lightning Talk series again this year. We will have three 1-hour long talks over 3 weeks where GSoC Contributors will have the chance to give a short talk (3 min or less) showcasing the highlights of their GSoC 2025 project and/or learnings. Mentors and Org Admins are welcome to join any and all of the sessions, but not give a talk.

As the talk dates get closer, we will send another email with the schedule of speakers and their organization name.

Mark your calendars! Lightning Talks:

Contributor Lightning Talks Virtual Event - Session 1:

- **Date:** Tuesday, September 23, 2025
- **Time:** 15:00 - 16:00 UTC
- **Link to join: meet.google.com/ppq-xymf-wms**

Contributor Lightning Talks Virtual Event - Session 2

- **Date:** Wednesday, October 1, 2025
- **Time:** 16:00 - 17:00 UTC
- **Link to join: meet.google.com/rhj-fsxg-xuw**

Contributor Lightning Talks Virtual Event - Session 3

- **Date:** Thursday, October 16, 2025
- **Time:** 17:00 - 18:00 UTC
- **Link to join: meet.google.com/djk-wnvp-oai**

Mentor Summit

We are continuing to invite people from the Mentor Summit waitlist! The list is long, but we hope to invite 10+ more folks in the next six weeks.

Upcoming Important Dates -- based on standard 12 week project length

Please be sure to mark these dates in your calendar of choice. Use this link to add the Google Summer of Code deadlines to your Google Calendar

NOTE: Dates for Midterms and Final Evaluations will vary depending on Project length - **the standard 12 week project timeline is listed below***.

August 25-Sept 1: GSoC Contributors wrap up their projects and submit final evaluation of their mentor
Sept 1-8: **Mentors submit final evaluations** of GSoC Contributors **REQUIRED**
September 9: Initial batch of successful GSoC Contributors passing GSoC 2025 are announced
September 15: Deadline to book Mentor Summit hotel rooms - Google will send specific links in confirmation emails
September 23: Contributor Lightning Talks Virtual Event - Session 1 (**meet.google.com/ppq-xymf-wms**)
October 1: Contributor Lightning Talks Virtual Event - Session 2 (**meet.google.com/rhj-fsxg-xuw**)
October 8: GSoC Meetup - Austin, Texas (Interest form open)
October 16: Contributor Lightning Talks Virtual Event - Session 3 (**meet.google.com/djk-wnvp-oai**)
October 22: GSoC Meetup - Munich, Germany (we have a waitlist for this meetup)
October 23-25: GSoC 2025 Mentor Summit in Munich, Germany
November 12: Final batch of successful GSoC Contributors with extended deadlines are announced
November 19: GSoC program ends.

Helpful Links

- GSoC Mentor Guide: Setting Expectations, Workflow, Managing the Plan, Evaluations
- Mentor Discussion Panel Notes
    - How to Keep Contributors involved in your Community after GSoC
- GSoC Org Admin Tips
- Roles and Responsibilities
- GSoC 2025 Mentor and Org Admin Email archive

Keep up the great work everyone! Thank you for helping to strengthen the open source community!

Please email us at gsoc-support@google.com with any questions.

Best,
GSoC Program Administrators

Stephanie Taylor, Mary Radomile and Lucila Ortiz

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Sent July 1st
Subject: GSoC 2025: Evaluation Tips and Reminders

Hello!

We hope your GSoC summer is going smoothly and your GSoC contributors are integrating into your communities. Some quick reminders about Midterm evaluations.

Midterm evaluations of your GSoC contributors are **mandatory** and play a vital role in the program. As a mentor, you are responsible for evaluating your assigned contributor(s) by the deadline to determine if they pass or fail.

The evaluation period for standard 12-week projects opens on **Monday, July 14, 2025, at 18:00 UTC** and closes on **Friday, July 18, 2025, at 18:00 UTC**. You can access the evaluation form on your GSoC dashboard once the period begins. While the form includes both multiple-choice and open-ended questions about your GSoC 2025 experience, it is advisable to review the questions ahead of time.

It is crucial to submit your evaluation on time. Missing a deadline has several negative consequences:

- It significantly impacts the decision of whether your organization will be accepted into future GSoC programs.
- It can lead contributors to feel their project is not valued.
- Contributor stipends will be delayed, creating additional work for both GSoC and organization administrators.
- Your organization will lose out on stipends and you won't be able to attend the Mentor Summit.

Please ensure you complete and submit your evaluations promptly to avoid these issues and support the smooth operation of GSoC.

Where is the midterm evaluation form?

The **midterm evaluation** is a mandatory part of your involvement in GSoC 2025 and should only take about **10 minutes** to complete. You'll find the evaluation form on your GSoC dashboard under the "My Projects" tab, in the "Task" column, once the evaluation period begins for your contributor's project.

You can always check all project deadlines, including midterm and final evaluation dates, by going to the "Projects" tab on your GSoC dashboard and clicking on the project title hyperlink. We highly recommend adding these important dates to your personal calendar. Remember, the link for the midterm evaluation form won't become active (blue) until the evaluation period officially opens for your contributor's project.

Attention Org Admins - Complete Evaluations Early!

If your org misses 1 evaluation your org will not receive the org stipend for that project AND will not be able to add anyone to the waitlist for the 2nd Mentor Summit delegate spot AND that mentor can not attend the Mentor Summit. If your org misses 2 or more evaluations your org will not receive any travel stipend to attend the Mentor Summit. **Evaluations are vital to the GSoC program.**

As an Organization Administrator, it's highly recommended that you verify all evaluations for your organization's contributor projects are completed 24-36 hours before the deadline. This gives you a crucial window to directly contact mentors who haven't yet submitted their evaluations. If necessary, Org Admins can complete evaluations themselves.

Missed evaluations have significant repercussions:

- Your organization will lose the $500 org stipend for each project with a missed evaluation.
- Mentor Summit Impact):
    - (1 Missed Evaluation) The mentor who missed the evaluation will not be allowed to attend the Mentor Summit.
    - (2 or more Missed Evaluations) Your organization will not receive any travel stipend to attend the Mentor Summit (delegate or waitlist).

These evaluations are vital to the GSoC program, thanks for keeping on top of them.

When to fail a contributor project?

Deciding whether a contributor passes or fails their midterm evaluation can be challenging, especially for those falling between the two extremes of clear success or obvious failure. While easy to pass a highly communicative, consistently coding, and milestone-meeting contributor, and easy to fail an uncommunicative one with no visible progress, many cases require more nuanced judgment.

When evaluating contributors who are somewhere in the middle, consider these factors:

- **Communication and Engagement:** Are they actively communicating with mentors and the community? Are they asking questions, and are they receptive to feedback?

- **Significant Progress:** While they might not have completed half of their project by the midpoint, are they demonstrating strong effort and good momentum for the second half? Did they take a while to get started but have now found their stride?
- **Code Contributions:** How many commits has the contributor made? Is the code quality good (and hopefully continually improving?)

Your organization might also have additional rubrics for assessing contributor progress. For more detailed guidance, refer to the "Evaluations" chapter of the [Mentor Guide](#).

A crucial principle to remember is to **evaluate contributors solely on the work they've completed**, not on potential future work. You have a responsibility to your organization, other GSoC contributors, yourself, and Google to assess the quality of their code contributions and their communication with your community during the first half of the program.

There's a significant difference between a contributor being behind schedule (which can be addressed collaboratively) and a contributor who has put in minimal effort, like only 20 hours over six weeks for a large 350-hour project.

If a contributor chooses to withdraw from the program rather than fail, that's acceptable. Remember, contributors can participate in GSoC twice, so a failed project or withdrawal this year doesn't prevent them from applying again in the future if they are still a student or considered a beginner to open source.

Some additional tips on evaluations from our [slides from today's Evaluations session](#).

You may have a contributor that decides to withdraw from the program rather than have their project fail, and that is fine. As a reminder, contributors can be accepted into GSoC 2 times so if their project fails or they withdraw this year they can apply again in a future year.

Feedback for your contributor

The evaluation form includes a dedicated section for **direct feedback to your contributor**. They'll see this feedback after the evaluation deadline. Use this space to highlight their strengths and accomplishments and if they are struggling a bit to point out the areas for improvement.

If you've decided to fail their project, this is also where you should clearly explain the reasons for the failure. Be specific about what they should have been doing, such as:

- Communicating regularly with you and the community.
- Meeting their scheduled milestones.
- Incorporating your feedback into their code.

Submitting the Midterm Evaluation

Once you've submitted a midterm evaluation, you can edit it up until the Friday 18:00 UTC deadline. If a project has multiple mentors, all assigned mentors will be able to view and edit the submitted form.

To avoid confusion and ensure timely completion, we strongly recommend designating one mentor to be responsible for filling out and submitting the evaluation form. This prevents situations where each mentor assumes someone else will do it, potentially leading to a missed deadline. Mentors might want to combine their notes and feedback beforehand to streamline the process for the designated person.

Differing Midterm Evaluation dates - dependent on project length

Midterm evaluations for projects take place starting on the Monday following the end of the middle week of the program. For example, for the standard 12 week project, midterm evaluations will begin on the Monday of the 7th week of coding (July 14).

Evaluations are open for 4 days, from Monday 1800 UTC until Friday 1800 UTC.

While most of our 2025 contributor projects are 12 weeks in length (85%), some of you may be mentoring projects that are 8-22 weeks in length so your midterm evaluations will begin the Monday after the middle week (for an 18 week project the Monday after the conclusion of the 9th week of the project).

FAQs

I want to extend my Contributor's project so the midterm evaluation/final evaluation is a few weeks later, how do I do that?
Organization Administrators have the flexibility to **edit project deadlines** by extending the project length at any point **before the evaluation period begins**. When an evaluation period opens, adjustments can no longer be made. This can be useful if a contributor indicates they'll have periods of reduced focus due to university commitments, personal obligations, or similar reasons during the first half of the program

I can't submit the Midterm evaluation of my contributor during the evaluation period, what can I do?
You have three options:

1. Ask the other mentor to complete it.
2. Have your Org Admin complete it on your behalf, providing them with the answers beforehand.
3. If you can do it a day earlier, ask the Org Admin to change the evaluation dates to Sunday-Friday, but be aware that this will also change the dates for your GSoC Contributor.

What if I have multiple contributors?
If you are a Mentor for multiple contributors then you will see all of the Midterm evaluations that need to be completed in your Dashboard. From there you can click on the Project title of the contributor you wish to complete an evaluation for.

Can I see the evaluation questions in advance?
Yes, you can view the evaluation questions now.

Email Reminders

All Mentors for an assigned project (and contributors) will receive an email 10 days before the first day of their project's midterm (and final) evaluation period and another email the day the evaluation period opens. **It is your responsibility to mark your calendars accordingly (and check your emails) to be sure you don't miss the deadlines.** Only one reminder email is sent, so if your Org Admin adjusts the date for the midterm or final after those reminders were first sent you will not get another reminder.

Mentor Summit

The deadline has passed for organizations to confirm their attendance for one delegate at the Mentor Summit in Munich from October 23-25. We've allocated the spots from the 30 organizations that didn't complete the form to individuals on the waitlist.

We'll begin emailing the designated delegates this week with more details about the Mentor Summit (including how to request visa letters, etc.). We plan to select approximately 50 people from the waitlist this week. Don't worry if you're on the waitlist and not selected immediately; we expect to continue adding a few more people here and there over the next two months.

Upcoming Important Dates

Please be sure to mark these dates in your calendar of choice. Use this link to add the Google Summer of Code deadlines to your Google Calendar
Various: *Dates for Midterms and Final Evaluations will vary depending on Project length - **we have included the standard 12 week project timelines below since 91% are using these currently.***

July 14-18: **Midterm evaluation period** - mentors evaluate GSoC Contributors, GSoC Contributors evaluate mentors (midpoint for standard 12 week coding project) **REQUIRED**
August 25-Sept 1: GSoC Contributors wrap up their projects and submit final evaluation of their mentor
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November 19: GSoC program ends.

Helpful Links

- [GSoC Mentor Guide](#): [Setting Expectations](#), [Workflow](#), [Managing the Plan](#), [Evaluations](#)
- [Mentor Discussion Panel Notes](#)
  - [Tips & Tricks to be a Great Mentor](#)
  - [Org Admin Lessons Learned,](#)
- [GSoC Org Admin Tips](#)
- [Roles and Responsibilities](#)
- [GSoC 2025 Mentor and Org Admin Email archive](#)

Also remember to add us as trusted contacts: [summerofcode-noreply@google.com](#) and [gsoc-support@google.com](#) to avoid communication issues.

Best,
GSoC Program Administrators
Stephanie Taylor, Mary Radomile and Lucila Ortiz

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June 23rd
SUBJECT: GSoC 2025: Virtual Evaluation session with GSoC Admins June 30

You're now a couple of weeks into mentoring your GSoC Contributor and we hope you're enjoying the experience. Remember, a key goal of GSoC is to build strong community collaboration, being an active Mentor is vital to our collective success!

GSoC Live Session: 'Evaluations with GSoC Admins' 6/30/25

Feeling a bit unsure about GSoC evaluations? Don't be! Program Leads Stephanie Taylor and Mary Radomile are hosting a Google Meet session to walk you through the evaluation process. They'll cover what to expect and highlight how your ongoing collaboration and communication with your GSoC contributor will make it a stress-free experience. Come prepared with all your questions – we'll have plenty of time for Q&A.

    Date: Tuesday, July 1st
    Time: 15:00 - 16:00 UTC
    Meet Link: [meet.google.com/iyv-vufs-iba](#)

Important information about Evaluations Mentors and Org Admins

GSoC Contributor **midterm evaluations are mandatory**. These evaluations are critical for both the program's integrity and the contributor's stipend disbursement. Only **one mentor per project needs to complete the evaluation.**

- Please complete these forms from your dashboard within specific windows: **4 days for the midterm evaluation** and **7 days for the final evaluation**.
- The evaluation takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and includes multiple-choice and open-ended questions about your GSoC 2025 experience and your GSoC contributor's progress. You can review the [evaluation questions](#) in advance.
- Remember that if you and your GSoC Contributor extended (or shortened) the project length from the standard 12 weeks for medium or large projects) then you will have different midterm evaluation deadlines - all readily available on your dashboard for any projects you are assigned to as a Mentor.
- Once you've completed the midterm evaluation, you can **edit it up until the Friday 18:00 UTC deadline**. If multiple mentors are assigned to a project, they can all view and edit the submitted form.
- **As an Org Admin** you can see all project evaluation deadlines for your org.
  - Org Admins, please verify that all evaluations for your organization's contributor projects are complete 24-36 hours before the deadline. If needed, Org Admins can also complete evaluations on behalf of mentors.

Locating and Completing Your GSoC Midterm Evaluation

You'll find it on your **GSoC dashboard** under the **"My Projects" tab**, specifically in the "Task" column, once the evaluation period officially opens for your contributor's project. The form link won't be active until then.

- **For *standard 12-week projects*, the midterm evaluation opens on *Monday, July 14 at 18:00 UTC and closes on Friday, July 18 at 18:00 UTC***.
- We highly recommend marking all midterm and final evaluation dates for your mentored projects on your calendar. You can view these deadlines on your GSoC dashboard by navigating to the **"Projects" tab** and clicking on the **project title hyperlink**.

Midterm Evaluation Dates Vary by Project Length

Midterm evaluations for GSoC projects begin on the **Monday following the completion of the project's middle week**. For instance, a standard **12-week project** will have its midterm evaluation open on the Monday of the 7th week of coding (which is July 14 for GSoC 2025).

The evaluation window lasts for **four days**. While most 2025 contributor projects are 12 weeks long, some range from 8 to 22 weeks. Your specific midterm evaluation date will align with the midpoint of your project's individual timeline. For example, an 18-week project's midterm would open the Monday after its 9th week concludes.

Deciding to Pass or Fail a GSoC Contributor

Deciding whether to pass or fail a GSoC project can be challenging. An "easy pass" typically involves a contributor who consistently communicates, regularly commits code, and meets milestones. Conversely, an "easy fail" is for a contributor who has been uncommunicative with little clear progress.

For Contributors who fall between these two extremes, consider the following:

- **Communication:** Are they actively communicating with their mentors and the community? Do they ask questions and incorporate feedback?
- **Progress:** While they might not have completed half their project, are they making significant progress and showing good momentum for the second half? Did they take a while to get started but have since found their rhythm?
- **Code Contributions:** How many commits have they made?

Your organization may also have specific rubrics for assessing contributor progress. Refer to the "Evaluations" chapter of the **[Mentor Guide](#)** for more guidance.

A crucial principle to remember is to evaluate Contributors based solely on the work they have *done*, not on potential future work. It's your responsibility to your organization, other GSoC participants, yourself, and Google to assess the quality of their code contributions and their communication during the first half of the program.

There's a significant difference between a contributor being slightly behind schedule (which can be addressed collaboratively) and a contributor who has done very little work (e.g., only 20 hours in six weeks for a large 350-hour project).

Should a contributor choose to withdraw from the program rather than fail, that's an acceptable outcome. Contributors can participate in GSoC up to two times, so a failed or withdrawn project this year doesn't prevent them from applying again in the future.

Direct Contributor Feedback

The evaluation form includes a dedicated section for **direct feedback to the contributor**, which they'll see after the evaluation deadline. This is your opportunity to highlight their strengths and, if applicable, clearly explain why their project failed. When addressing a failed project, be specific about what they should have done differently (e.g., improved communication with mentors/community, met milestones, incorporated feedback).

The Importance of Timely Submissions

In 2024, we saw a significantly high number of missed evaluations, with **25 organizations missing a total of 31 evaluations**. This was 4-5 times higher than any previous year, and cannot happen again.

Missing evaluations deadlines has significant consequences:

- The organization will **lose the $500 org stipend** for that specific project.
- Th Mentor cannot attend the Mentor Summit.
  - Missing two or more evaluations results in an organization losing all travel stipends for the Mentor Summit.
  - Prevents an organization from adding anyone to the waitlist for the Mentor Summit.
- Negatively impacts GSoC's decision to accept your organization in the future.
- Suggests a lack of commitment to the project from the Mentor and causes undue stress for your Contributor
- Causes delays in your Contributors receiving their stipend and increases administrative work for GSoC and Org Admins.

The [Evaluations](#) section in the Mentor Guide also has more information on the process.

FAQs

I want to extend my Contributor's project so the midterm evaluation/final evaluation is a few weeks later, how do I do that?

Org Admins have the ability to modify project deadlines, including midterm, final submission, and final evaluation dates. These adjustments can be made at any time **before the evaluation period begins**; once an evaluation period opens, no further changes can be made.

This flexibility allows for accommodations in special circumstances, such as when a contributor experiences personal challenges or academic commitments (e.g., university midterms) that impact their focus during the initial phase of the program.

The midterm and final evaluation dates are already calculated for the Org Admins. When they select a 16 week project length the webapp will adjust all of the dates accordingly.

I can't submit the Midterm evaluation of my contributor during the evaluation period, what can I do?
You have three options:

1. Ask the other mentor to complete it.
2. Have your Org Admin complete it on your behalf, providing them with the answers beforehand.

What if I have multiple Contributors?
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Can I see the evaluation questions in advance?

Yes, you can view the evaluation questions here.

Upcoming Important Dates

Please be sure to mark these dates in your calendar of choice. Use this link to add the Google Summer of Code deadlines to your Google Calendar

June 30: Deadline for Orgs to complete Mentor Summit Registration to let us know if your org will or will not be sending a delegate
Various: *Dates for Midterms and Final Evaluations will vary depending on Project length - **we have included the standard 12 week project timelines below since 91% are using these currently.***
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- Roles and Responsibilities
- Preparing Your Org

Also remember to add us as trusted contacts: summerofcode-noreply@google.com and gsoc-support@google.com to avoid communication issues.

Best,
GSoC Program Administrators
Stephanie Taylor, Mary Radomile and Lucila Ortiz

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June 4th

SUBJECT: GSoC 2025 - Welcome notes for Mentors & OAs, Coding period and program updates
Hi all!

The Coding period officially started this Monday, June 2nd

At this point your GSoC 2025 Contributors should have started coding on their projects. You should have also set weekly/bi-weekly milestones and deliverables, discussed processes for the contributor submitting PRs, and your org has hopefully had a larger meeting with all of the 2025 GSoC contributors and mentors, etc.

Thank you to all the Mentors and Org Admins that joined us in our Welcome 2025 Mentors & OAs session, we shared insightful tips and also had great questions regarding the program. In case you missed this talk you can review the slide deck here: [Welcome 2025 Mentors & OAs slide deck](#).

Midterm Evaluation forms and deadlines

Remember that as Org Admins you can see the Midterm and Final Evaluations dates for each project for your Org on your Project Dashboard. Mentors can see the upcoming evaluation deadlines (and the actual evaluation forms once the midterm and then final evaluation periods open) for the projects they are an assigned mentor on.

Changing Project Length from Standard 12 week project (only OA can adjust)

We're happy to announce that the bug we mentioned in late May where the project lengths weren't displaying the correct midterm and final dates has now been resolved.

Medium & Large Projects: Org Admins can make adjustments to the length (10-22 weeks) of all Contributor projects, by default medium and large projects have the 12 week project length in the webapp. OAs can go into the project details for each GSoC 2025 Contributor project and adjust the timeline from a minimum of 10 weeks to a maximum of 22 weeks. OAs must use the 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, and 22 week project length options.

Small Projects: Org Admins can make adjustments to the length of the project from the standard 8 weeks to 10 or 12 weeks. Small projects can not be extended beyond 12 weeks.

GSoC Meetup in Denver

Join us in Denver, Colorado, USA on **Tuesday, June 24th** for a GSoC meetup hosted by the Google Open Source team!
Events are open to participants who have been a part of our past GSoC programs (over 18

years old) including GSoC Students/Contributors, GSoC Mentors/OAs, GCI Mentors/OAs and GCI Winners.

GSoC Meetup in Denver, CO - USA (during OSS NA)
Tuesday, June 24 6:30-9pm
Restaurant in downtown/Union Station area
Registration Link: https://rsvp.withgoogle.com/events/gsoc-at-denver_2025

Registration is required. _Confirmation details were sent earlier this week to those who registered. If you need to cancel after registering, please email us directly so we can free up a space for someone else._

Please remember we are not offering any kind of travel assistance or funding to attend events (including issuing visa invitations).

Upcoming Important Dates

Please be sure to mark these dates in your calendar of choice.
Use this link to add the Google Summer of Code deadlines to your Google Calendar

June 2: Coding began!
June 30: Deadline for Orgs to complete Mentor Summit Registration to let us know if your org will or will not be sending a delegate

Dates for Midterms and Final Evaluations will vary depending on Project length - **_we have included the standard 12 week project timelines below since 93% are using these currently._**

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October 23-25: GSoC 2025 Mentor Summit in Munich, Germany
November 12: Final batch of successful GSoC Contributors with extended deadlines are announced
November 19: GSoC program ends.

Helpful Links

- GSoC Mentor Guide: Setting Expectations, Workflow, Managing the Plan
- Mentor Discussion Panel Notes
  - Tips & Tricks to be a Great Mentor
  - Making the Most of Community Bonding period

- - Org Admin Lessons Learned.
- Making the most of the Community Bonding period (slides from April 22 talk)
- GSoC Org Admin Tips
- GSoC 2025 Mentor and Org Admin Email archive
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Coming soon from GSoC Admins

1. Our GSoC team is working on a **stats blog post** to go out later in June with some fun insights into this year's program.
2. We are working through the **Spam proposal data** many Orgs filled out earlier this year.

Receiving Emails from Google Program Administrators

To avoid emails from us possibly being marked as spam please add summerofcode-noreply@google.com and gsoc-support@google.com as trusted contacts.

Contact Us

Please use gsoc-support@google.com for questions.
Remember, when you reach out to us please always share your Org Name with us and the Display Name of the Contributor or Mentor so we can more quickly respond to you, thanks.

Best,
Stephanie, Mary and Lucila
GSoC Admins
================================
May 23rd
SUBJECT: Please pause updating GSoC project lengths til May 29
Hi Org Admins,

An eagle-eyed Org Admin just pointed out something was off with the dates for the project extensions (10, 12, 14, weeks, etc.). Currently using the dropdown for Org Admins the system won't let you save the 22 week project length. The reason is **all of the dates shown in the dropdown are off by a week** (the date shown is a week later than what it actually should be).

For example the midterm dates should be July 14-21 1800 UTC for a 12 week project (the system shows July 21-25).

With it being Friday before a holiday weekend in the US this won't be fixed until mid-next week.

I suspect any changes y'all have already made to extend projects to 14, 16, 18 weeks, etc will stay saved and just the dates shown in the dropdown will be updated correctly with the fix next week so likely there won't be any additional actions needed on your part.

But if you are an Org Admin that was planning to update your contributor project lengths in the next few days just hold off til next Wed to be sure everything is updated correctly. I don't want anyone to have to do possible additional work.

We'll let you know when it is fixed and if there is anything you'll need to go back and check. Thanks everyone, sorry for the confusion.

Best,
Stephanie

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May 21st
GSoC 2025: Welcome Notes for GSoC Mentors and Welcome Session

Hi all,

We hope you have talked to your contributors and hopefully you have held (or are holding this week) a meeting with all of your GSoC 2025 contributors and mentors (this is one of the favorite welcoming activities according to past contributors). Mentors should be deep into conversations with their GSoC contributors on gearing up to start the coding period Monday, June 2. The response from our 2025 GSoC contributors has been extraordinary. This is an excited bunch of participants so we hope you and your communities all have a fantastic GSoC!

We know this has been a stressful time for some organizations, as a few vocal individuals were quite upset about not being accepted into the program. We truly appreciate your patience with these folks (we're certainly drawing from our own well of patience this month!).

It's been very reassuring to hear the overwhelmingly positive feedback and responses from the majority of contributors. While a few challenging interactions can be frustrating, remember that the vast majority of people want to learn from their mistakes and become better developers.

GSoC Mentor Welcome Session

We are pleased to announce a Welcome Session for all GSoC 2025 Mentors and Org Admins on **Thursday, May 29th from 15:00 - 16:00 UTC**. During this session, program leads Stephanie

Taylor and Mary Radomile will present some tips for success, some important reminders and will open up the floor for plenty of general Q&A from all of you. This session will be particularly helpful for any first time Mentors or Org Admins. We hope that you can attend this virtual session!

> Date: Thursday, May 29th
> Time: 15:00 - 16:00 UTC
> Meet Link: meet.google.com/esk-qkfv-nhr

Communication

The most important part of GSoC is communication - and everyone involved in the program is responsible for communicating effectively - mentors, Org Admins, contributors and Google Program Admins. We strongly suggest you at least scan through the Mentor Discussion Panel Notes, particularly the great tips on *Being a Great Mentor* and *Making the Most of the Community Bonding period*.

You should be chatting with your GSoC contributors ideally at least twice a week especially these first few weeks of the coding period to get them off to a good start. Chatting can be virtual through video or via a live chat or group channel, etc. You don't want to leave your GSoC contributor confused and stuck for a week until they hear from you again. Please mentor your contributor, do not expect them to figure everything out on their own, guide them. That is what Google Summer of Code is all about.

The most successful GSoC projects have involved GSoC contributors and mentors who are in regular communication.

Project Size/Scope versus Project Length

Project size/scope (Small: 90 hours, Medium: 175 hours, Large: 350 hours) <u>does not dictate project length </u> (8-22 weeks). A medium project can be long (e.g., 20 weeks), and a large project can be shorter (e.g., 10 weeks). This provides flexibility.

<u>**Project Length**</u>
- **Medium & Large Projects:** Org Admins (OAs) can adjust length from the default 12 weeks to anywhere between 10-22 weeks in 2 week intervals.
- **Small Projects:** OAs can adjust length from the default 8 weeks to 10 or 12 weeks. Small projects cannot exceed 12 weeks.
- Changes from the standard project length should be discussed with the GSoC contributor and aim to accommodate breaks, exams, or other commitments.
- Organizations can choose to stick to 12-week projects or adopt other standard lengths (e.g., all 16 weeks). Orgs don't have to extend the project lengths.

<u>**Project Size/(scope)**</u>: 90 hours (small), 175 hours (medium) or 350 hours (large)

- Project size **cannot be increased** (e.g., from medium to large).
- Project size **can be decreased** (e.g., from large to medium or medium to small) if the contributor requests it and the mentor agrees. Please contact Google Admins who will make the change in the webapp.

Evaluations of GSoC Contributors

DO NOT MISS YOUR EVALUATIONS OF YOUR GSOC CONTRIBUTORS

Mentors are required to submit both a midterm and a final evaluation for their GSoC contributors. While more details will be shared in June, the midterm evaluation occurs the Monday after the project's halfway point (e.g., after week 6 for a standard 12-week project) and closes that Friday at 1800 UTC.

Evaluation dates will be visible on the mentor's dashboard, and evaluations are completed online through the GSoC site. Mentors are strongly urged to add these deadlines to their personal calendars. The evaluations will include multiple-choice and open-ended questions. Generally the evaluations will take 5-15 minutes to complete. Here are the [evaluation questions](#) in case you're curious now.

Crucially, mentors must not miss these evaluation deadlines. Failing to submit an evaluation stresses the contributor, delays their stipend, and can severely reduce the number of slots allocated to the organization in future GSoC programs.

Contributors Disappearing from GSoC

If a GSoC contributor becomes unresponsive and cannot be reached (if you haven't been able to reach the contributor during these first 13 days there is likely a problem), organizations should immediately inform the GSoC Program Admins. The admins will then remove the contributor from the program, as participation in the community bonding period is mandatory.

For official withdrawals:

- **GSoC Contributors** who need to withdraw due to unexpected circumstances can do so themselves by using the "withdraw from program" button on their profile page via their GSoC site dashboard.
- **Mentors** who need to withdraw from the GSoC 2025 program can also do so via their dashboard and profile page. However, they **must first inform their Org Admins and their GSoC contributor** so a replacement mentor can be arranged.

Join our GSoC Alumni Discord Channel!

Many of you joined this last year (no need to re-join), but if you haven't joined the GSoC Alumni Discord channel, it is an exclusive, private space for all of you to connect and discuss with previous and current GSoC Contributors and Mentors. Please follow the next steps to be added into our Alumni channel:

1. First, you need to be part of our Dev Community, please join us here: http://discord.gg/google-dev-community (If you are already a member, skip to step 2)
2. Next, complete this form GSoC Alumni Channel and you'll be added automatically by the end of the month to our lovely Discord community! **The deadline for mentors/org admins to complete the form is May 29, 2025.**

Around June 2 we will add everyone that completed the two steps above to the GSoC Alumni channel.

The Discord channel is not a support channel, please contact GSoC Admins at gsoc-support@google.com for support questions related to your situation/org.
The Discord server had a recent update for usernames where certain symbols, numbers, and spaces are not allowed anymore. For more information review New Usernames & Display Names article

Email Archive

Please remember our GSoC 2025 Mentor and Org Admin Email archive where you can reference all important emails sent throughout the 2025 program. Please send any new mentors you add over the coming weeks to this page so they understand what they need to do. Thanks.

Adding your Deadlines to your Calendar

Be sure that you know when your evaluation deadlines are for the project(s) you are mentoring. We send 2 reminder emails about midterm and final evaluations to all GSoC contributors and assigned mentors and OAs. The reminders are sent 10 days before the evaluations open and then another reminder email is sent the day the evaluation period begins. If an OA changes the dates for a project after that 10 day notification, another reminder email will not be sent for that particular evaluation (midterm or final).

Remember we send emails to the emails you registered with so if you don't check that email very often and don't see the reminder emails that's not an excuse to miss these vital deadlines.

Upcoming Important Dates

Please be sure to mark these dates in your calendar of choice.
Use this link to add the Google Summer of Code deadlines to your Google Calendar

May 23: Deadline for Org Admin to fill out Org Payment form (*80 orgs have not completed this yet*)
May 29 1500-1600 UTC: GSoC Mentor Welcome Session: meet.google.com/esk-qkfv-nhr
June 1 1800 UTC: Deadline to notify Google Admins of an inactive GSoC Contributor that you wish to remove from the program email us at gsoc-support@google.com)
June 2: Coding begins!
June 30: Deadline for Orgs to complete Mentor Summit Registration to let us know if your org will or will not be sending a delegate

Dates for Midterms and Final Evaluations will vary depending on Project length - **we have included the standard 12 week project timelines below since 93% are using these currently.**

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Coming soon from GSoC Admins

1. Our GSoC team is working on a **stats blog post** to go out later in June with some fun insights into this year's program.
2. We are working through the **Spam proposal data** many Orgs filled out last month. If your org didn't fill it out and would like to be part of the stats (and share your tips for sorting through tons of proposals) please fill out this form before Wednesday, May 28th. Thanks! 105 orgs filled this out already. :)

3. We'll take notes from the Mentor Welcome session next week and share the questions that folks ask in the Q&A session along with our slide deck so you can reference the notes.

Receiving Emails from Google Program Administrators

To avoid emails from us possibly being marked as spam please add summerofcode-noreply@google.com and gsoc-support@google.com as trusted contacts.

Contact Us

Please use gsoc-support@google.com for questions. When you reach out to us about your org or a particular contributor please always share your org name with us and the display name of the contributor or mentor so we can more quickly respond to you, thanks.

Thank you everyone for diving right in to welcome your contributors into your communities. We understand this has been a stressful time for some orgs with a few vocal folks being very upset they weren't accepted into the program. We appreciate all of your patience with these folks (we're also diving deep into our patience well this month :)) It has been reassuring to hear from many of you about very positive feedback and responses from contributors. So while the one or two folks can be super frustrating remember the vasty majority of folks want to learn from their mistakes and be better developers.

Best,
Stephanie, Mary and Lucila
GSoC Admins

==
May 12th
Payment Instructions for Organizations

Hello Org Admins!

Google uses Payoneer to pay Google Summer of Code Contributors and Organizations. Payoneer is a fast and convenient way to receive payments globally.

One person from your org is responsible for completing the payment request form (even if your org will be declining the stipends). This email is only being sent to your 2025 Org Admins - if someone else is responsible for finances for your org please forward this information.

Included in your payment is:

- $500 per GSoC contributor for your organization called the 'org stipend'. This is sent to the org in the form of **one** payment after all projects have concluded. If the org wishes to disburse the funds to their mentors they are welcome to do that on their own.
- A $1200 travel stipend for 1 delegate to attend the 2025 GSoC Mentor Summit. If no delegate from your org attends the 2025 GSoC Mentor Summit, $0 travel stipend will be issued.
  - Note that if your org is granted a waitlist spot for a 2nd delegate to attend the 2025 GSoC Mentor Summit, you will receive **an additional $600**. Watch for more details on this later this summer.

Please do the following:

1) **Carefully review the details** in the [Payment Instructions for GSoC orgs](#) page which contains information on how to claim your payment, deadlines and FAQs.

2) **All orgs must fill out the [payment request form](#) by May 23rd**. This provides us information we need to process your payments via Payoneer.
   a) If your org **does not** already have a Payoneer account associated with GSoC **DO NOT** create a new one. We will send you a unique url around May 27th that you must use to create your new account.
   b) If your org would like to decline the stipend, please let us know via the form. If you will be accepting funds for several orgs, please list all the orgs on the form in the notes section at the end.

3) **Review key dates below**
   - **May 23 -** Deadline for Orgs to fill out the [payment request form](#)
   - **July 1 -** Deadline for new orgs to complete Registration with Payoneer
   - **July 15** - Deadline to complete tax form, available on org Payoneer account
   - **September 30 -** Organizations with only 8-14 week projects are paid
   - **October 30:** Organizations with extended 16-20 week projects are paid.
   - **November 18:** Organizations with 22 week projects receive all org stipends, including Mentor Summit travel stipends. All orgs that sent a delegate to 2024 Mentor Summit will receive their travel stipend.

4) **If your org participated (and was paid) in GSoC between 2017 and 2024,** go to your Payoneer dashboard and ensure that all of your banking and contact information is up to date and accurate.

5) **Questions**? Payoneer representatives will address any payment related issue 24/7 in over 35 languages. The Customer Care team can be reached via LiveChat or by phone. Details for each method can be found on Payoneer's support page: https://payoneer.custhelp.com/. Calls within the US: +1-800-251-2521. Calls outside of the US: +1-646-658-3695

Note that Google can not issue stipends to Organizations that are part of any federal government or to government or public university employees in the United States. And finally, Google can not disperse any stipends to Google-led Organizations.

If you have any general questions please contact us at gsoc-support@google.com.

Best,
Mary Radomile, Stephanie Taylor and Lucila Ortiz
GSoC Team

==================================
May 5th
SUBJECT: GSoC 2025: Next Steps for all Mentors and Org Admins

Thank you for being a Mentor or Org Admin for GSoC 2025! **This important email contains crucial information for the next 4+ months and should be read thoroughly.**

Accepted Contributor Announcement

- **Advanced notice** of accepted contributors will be provided to Org Admins and to the Mentors that are assigned to a project on Wednesday, May 7th at 1800 UTC via email.

- Accepted contributors will be **publicly announced on Thursday, May 8 at 18:00 UTC** on the GSoC program site. At the same time, emails will be sent to all applicants, both accepted and rejected.

- **Do not pre-announce** any results before they are publicly visible on the GSoC website.
    - You can share the news through social media, blog posts, or other channels **after 18:01 UTC on May 8th**
- Note that due to a high volume of requests (over 1675), many organizations did not receive all the contributor slots they asked for.
    - Conflicts where a contributor was ranked higher by another organization were addressed last week by program admins
    - The list of contributors visible to your organization May 7 at 1800UTC is final and these individuals are accepted into the program (barring any personal withdrawals)

What do I do now?

1) **Within 24 hours after the public announcement (Thursday, May 8 1800 UTC)**, reach out to your contributor to welcome them!
2) Review the following sections of the GSoC Mentor Guide
    a) Setting Expectations
    b) Workflow

          c) [Managing the Plan](#)
3) Review the [Mentor Discussion Panel Notes](#).
          a) [Tips & Tricks to be a Great Mentor](#)
          b) [Making the Most of Community Bonding period](#)
          c) [Org Admin Lessons Learned](#)
4) Read the GSoC [Roles and Responsibilities](#) to make sure you understand what is expected of you over the next 4 months but also what you should expect from your contributors. We rely on you to help enforce the program rules and keep your contributor on track for success.

Congrats, you are a mentor -- now it's time to mentor!

Google Summer of Code thrives on close collaboration between contributors and mentors, emphasizing that it's not a "code for hire" arrangement. Contributors require guidance and should not be expected to follow exact instructions without support or to figure everything out independently. Regular check-ins are essential—at least weekly, with 2-4 email or chat exchanges per week being ideal to keep contributors focused and connected. Mentors unable to commit this time should notify their organization administrator for a replacement.

Use more video/chats and team meetings when possible. Organize at least two or three group meetings throughout the 2025 program involving all GSoC contributors and mentors within the organization—perhaps one in the coming weeks, another mid-program, and one towards the end. These types of meetings have been highly valued by past participants and help build a crucial sense of community among contributors early on.

The Community Bonding Period

GSoC contributors are expected to actively participate in the Community Bonding period, which runs from **May 8th to June 1st**. The goal of this period is to prepare contributors to begin their project work effectively starting June 2nd.

Mentors, your Community Bonding period should include activities like:

- Organizing introductory meetings with all GSoC contributors and mentors (adding other community members when possible)
- Welcoming the contributor with a solid onboarding process.
- Establishing a regular meeting schedule with their GSoC contributor
- Fostering a sense of community and emphasizing the importance of frequent communication.
- Guiding contributors through community best practices and processes, possibly through demonstrations or shadowing. (how you check into your org's systems, how you check the release calendar, etc)
- Discussing project impact to achieve the community goals.
- Integrating contributors into communication channels and ensuring their participation.
- Assisting with setting up development environments.

- Encouraging contributors to make small contributions, like patches or bug fixes, even if unrelated to their main GSoC project.
- Collaboratively refining the project plan, including deadlines and milestones.
- Encouraging them to help others and engage with project documentation (reading and updating).
- Suggesting they report or replicate bugs.

Some contributors may need encouragement to participate actively. Regular public interaction is vital, as open source work should be visible to all, and all GSoC contributions must be shared in a public repository. Data from previous GSoC years indicates that contributors who do not engage early and often are at a higher risk of failing or disengaging. Therefore, early, small contributions are seen as a positive indicator, and mentors are advised against investing excessive time in contributors who show a lack of interest or participation during these initial weeks.

Can my GSoC contributor start coding now, before the official coding period starts on June 2?
Yes, your GSoC contributor can start coding before June 2 if it's okay with their mentor.

How do I remove a GSoC contributor that isn't interacting during community bonding?
Your organization has the option to remove them from the program before coding officially begins. **The deadline for such a removal is June 1st**. If you make this decision before May 19 you can replace the person with another GSoC contributor.

Can I change my GSoC contributor's project length from the standard 12 weeks (for medium and large) or 8 weeks for small projects?
Yes. Org Admins have the flexibility to adjust the schedule for any GSoC contributor's project through their Org Admin dashboard. While medium and large projects default to a 12-week timeline, Org Admins can modify this to 10, 14, 16, 18, 20, or 22 weeks. The webapp calculates the dates for all key milestones (like midterm and final evaluations) for each possible project length.

These schedule adjustments can be made at any point during the program upon request from both the mentor and the GSoC contributor, as long as the total coding period does not exceed 22 weeks and the specific phase being changed (e.g., an evaluation period) has not already commenced. This allows for accommodations if a contributor needs to take a break for a couple of weeks.

My GSoC contributor is dropping out of GSoC, what do I do?
If a GSoC contributor needs to leave the program, they should be directed to their GSoC site dashboard to officially withdraw by clicking the "withdraw from program" button on their profile page.

If your organization becomes aware that a GSoC contributor needs to drop out by the end of the day on May 18th, 2025, there is a potential opportunity to replace them with another contributor.

To facilitate this, your Org Admin must promptly provide the following details to Google Admins: 1) display name of the withdrawing contributor, 2) display name of the proposed replacement contributor, 3) title of the new project, and 4) the mentors assigned to this new project.

What if there are changes to a GSoC Contributor's Accepted Project?
Project modifications are permissible if **both** the mentor and GSoC contributor mutually agree, with an emphasis that neither party should feel pressured into significant changes. Past experiences have shown some contributors felt unable to decline substantial project alterations, leading to unmanageable workloads or projects misaligned with their skills and interests.

How can I edit the project title or abstract?
Contributors can edit their project title and abstract via their dashboard until **June 1**. Mentors are encouraged to prompt contributors to use descriptive titles, as these will be publicly visible in the program archive..

Evaluations

Mentors are required to complete **2 evaluations** for each contributor project: a midterm evaluation after the sixth week of a standard 12-week project, and a final evaluation at the project's conclusion.
  ● If a contributor fails the midterm evaluation, they will be removed from the GSoC program and will not receive a stipend.
  ● Further details regarding evaluations, including guidance on passing or failing contributors and a Q&A session, will be provided in late June.

Important Upcoming Dates

Use this link to add the Google Summer of Code dates to your Google Calendar. (Important - your Evaluation deadlines may vary depending on your contributor's project length).

May 6: 15:00 UTC: GSoC Webapp Discussion
May 7 1800 UTC: Organizations receive notification of their accepted GSoC 2025 Contributors
May 8 1800 UTC: **Accepted GSoC 2025 GSoC Contributor projects are announced publicly**
May 8 - June 1: Community Bonding Period - Set your contributors up for success!
June 1 1800 UTC: Deadline to notify Google Admins of an inactive GSoC Contributor that you wish to remove from the program
June 2: Coding begins
October 23-25: GSoC Mentor Summit (yes, it's a Thurs-Sat this year) details coming very soon.

Email Archive

A GSoC 2025 Mentor and Org Admin Email archive has been created for mentors and organization administrators. This archive will store all important emails sent throughout the 2025 program. The link to this archive will be included in all program emails.

Once new Org Admins and Mentors are added to your org for 2025 they will receive these new emails, please direct them to the archive for all historic emails.

Helpful Links

- [GSoC Mentor Guide](): [Setting Expectations](), [Workflow](), [Managing the Plan]()
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Contact Us

Please use gsoc-support@google.com for questions.

Best,
Stephanie Taylor, Mary Radomile and Lucila Ortiz

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May 1st
Subject: GSoC 2025 Mentor Summit in Munich Oct 23-25 (and Webapp discussion is Tues, May 6)
Hello Org Admins and Mentors,

We have exciting news! The GSoC Mentor Summit 2025 will be held in **Munich, Germany from Thursday, October 23 - Saturday October 25, 2025**. Yes, we're trying something new - a Thursday-Saturday Mentor Summit per requests from folks over the years.

The GSoC Mentor Summit is a unique opportunity to connect with other amazing Mentors and Org Admins from over 125 different organizations. The event is an unconference, meaning all of you get to make up the session schedule and discuss the open source topics that are most important to you (e.g. keeping folks involved in your community, maintainer burnout, onboarding new people, rise of AI, science and OSS, as well as talking specifically about Google Summer of Code and how to continue to evolve the program).

In May we'll share the registration form, where **every Org will have the option to send 1 Delegate** to represent their Org at the Mentor Summit. We will also have a waitlist where usually 50-60 additional folks will be able to attend the GSoC Mentor Summit.

In order to be eligible, the Mentor/Org Admin has to be active during the 2025 GSoC program (the mentor must be assigned to a project). Your Org must also submit all GSoC evaluations (midterm and final) before their deadlines or your org will not be able to send anyone to the Mentor Summit.

Stay tuned to our upcoming emails where we'll be giving you all the important details to join us in this unique experience.

Webapp Discussion

Tuesday, May 6th 1500 UTC (likely 45min - 1 hour)
Meeting link: meet.google.com/oky-zfco-zdq
We're deep into reading through all the suggestions and categorizing them (many are the same/similar issue). Thank you to all of you who took the time to give us your suggestions, there are some really interesting ideas and suggestions on how to implement them in your notes.

During the discussion on Tuesday we'll try to go through the concerns that came up the most and get some live discussion going on your priorities so we can try and tackle the biggest pain points (and also hopefully some of the quick, easy wins).

Depending on the discussion Tuesday we may end up posting some follow up questions to the Mentors-only discussion list to get additional feedback from more folks. Thank you everyone!

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Contact Us

Please use gsoc-support@google.com for questions.

Best,
Stephanie Taylor, Mary Radomile and Lucila Ortiz
GSoC Admins

===================================
April 24th
   Subject: GSoC 2025: Org Admin Reminders (multiple deadlines in the next few days)
This email is being sent to all GSoC 2025 Org Admins.

Org Admin Current Action Items:

1. Verify you have Ranked all proposals your Org wishes to select for GSoC 2025 before **Tuesday, April 29 at 18:00 UTC**.
2. 1 Org Admin from each org please complete the [Spam Proposals 7 question form](#) before **Wednesday, April 30th** (we extended this a few extra days) - this is not a requirement but it will be helpful to have as many org responses as possible (we have 28% of orgs so far).

3. Continue inviting Mentors And Org Admins (as needed) and remind them to review the [GSoC 2025 Mentor and Org Admin Email archive](#)
4. (optional) Fill out the [GSoC Website Improvement suggestions form](#) before <u>Monday, April 28th</u> if something in the webapp is causing you issues.

Not sure if you have selected the proposals correctly?

Org Admins can look at their Contributor Proposals (from the *Manage Proposals* button on your dashboard) to verify your Org has ranked the proposals and selected at least 1 mentor for each of the proposals your org wishes to rank.

- On the 'Select to Rank' tab, the **Ranked Proposals** *section at the top* will show all the projects you have given a numbered rank (and assigned at least one mentor to). <u>These are the proposals you are asking Google to accept.</u>

Any proposals in the <u>unranked proposals</u> section at the bottom of the page will not be considered.

As an Org Admin receiving this email, you should be sure that you are seeing the proposals ranked - even if you are not the Org Admin designated to enter the selections in the app it is every Org Admin's responsibility to be sure these have been entered into the webapp before this next Tuesday's deadline at 1800 UTC. Any org that does not rank their proposals with assigned mentors by Tuesday, April 29th at 1800 UTC will receive 0 GSoC 2025 contributors.

Proposals Ranked - deadline Tuesday, April 29 18:00 UTC (Org Admin responsibility)

All Org Admins are encouraged to read [Project Selection](#) for more detailed information.

Org Admins are responsible for ranking their selected project proposals after discussing them with their community members. The ranking should reflect the projects most important to their organization, with the highest-ranked proposals being the top priority. It's crucial not to rank more proposals than the number of project slots requested, as Google will automatically assign projects based on this ranking if fewer slots are granted than requested.

When ranking proposals, **Org Admins must assign at least one mentor to each ranked proposal**. More mentors can be added later. A critical point is to **<u>avoid accepting proposals from individuals with whom there has been no prior contact.</u>** Relying solely on a well-written proposal (potentially AI-assisted) without prior communication often leads to poor outcomes.

<u>When 2 Orgs Select the same GSoC contributor:</u>

If 2 organizations select the same contributor, the contributor will be assigned to the organization that ranked their proposal higher. The other organization will then receive their next-ranked proposal.

New for 2025: GSoC contributors can now rank their preferred organizations (1-3). If the org that ranked their proposal the highest was not the #1 choice of the GSoC contributor, GSoC Admins will reach out to the org and let them know that the contributor's 1st choice was another org. The organization can then choose to "release" the contributor to their preferred organization and select a replacement, or decide to keep the contributor if the project is critical and no suitable replacement is available. This scenario is expected to occur less than 20 times each year

Key Points:

- **Do not** select two contributors for the same project idea. If an organization loses a contributor to another org, Google Admins will offer the chance to select a backup.
- **Do not** accept "okay" or mediocre proposals.
- Do not rank more proposals than you are requesting. If an OA ranks 10 proposals (#1 - #10) they are asking Google for 10 project slots. If Google grants them 8 projects slots the org will automatically receive ranked proposals #1 - #8.
- Aim for a mix of project sizes (medium and large, and small if appropriate). Organizations that only select large projects may receive fewer project slots.
- New organizations should expect to receive only 1-2 project slots initially, regardless of how many they request.
- Ensure all mentors are registered for the 2025 program before the proposal ranking deadline. Insufficient registered mentors for the number of requested slots may lead to Google Admins granting fewer slots.
- **Do not** accept proposals from individuals who have previously served as GSoC mentors within the organization, even if they are currently students, as this is considered favoritism.

Changing Project Length from Standard 12 week project

On May 8th when Google announces the Contributor projects to the orgs, the default project lengths are: **12 weeks** for all medium and large projects, and **8 weeks** for all small projects.

OAs will be able to go into the project details for each GSoC 2025 Contributor project and adjust the timelines.
- Medium and large projects can be a minimum of 10 weeks up to a maximum of 22 weeks.
- Small projects can be adjusted to 8, 10, or 12 weeks.

There is a dropdown selection for 8 - 22 week projects (in 2 week intervals) for you to select from. The project dates will populate based on the project length you have selected.

OAs are encouraged to have these project length edits wrapped up by the end of the community bonding period.

OAs can still make timing adjustments throughout the coding period as contributors have things come up and they need to adjust their timelines, but having the general dates locked down by the start of the coding period will be a better experience for mentors and contributors.

Selecting Mentors for Contributor Projects

The success of the GSoC program heavily relies on good mentors. It's not enough to simply have someone agree to be a mentor; quality is far more important than quantity. Effective mentors are those who are familiar with the specific project they will be overseeing and genuinely want to mentor. Forcing someone into a mentorship role typically leads to negative consequences for both the mentor, the contributor, and the organization.

Furthermore, it's crucial to respect the GSoC contributor's choice of project. Contributors apply to work on specific proposed projects. Organizations should not accept a contributor and then attempt to switch them to a different project or significantly alter the original one. GSoC contributors often feel unable to refuse such changes, and this practice usually results in failure for both the contributor and the organization. Ensuring that contributors are excited about and invested in their chosen project is key to a successful outcome.

University Based Organizations

If your org is based in a university, we expect you to select contributors outside of your program. Selecting 1 contributor from your university each year is okay but accepting more than 1 contributor from your university in a year will result in your org not being accepted into GSoC in the future. The goal of GSoC is to bring new contributors into the project and community and not using GSoC to fund existing participants.

Not planning to accept any GSoC Contributors this year?

If your org does not plan to accept any GSoC Contributors for GSoC 2025 that is fine, please send a quick email to gsoc-support@google.com saying as much so we know this was your intention and we won't email you to ask why you didn't fill in the rankings, thanks.

Important Upcoming Dates

Use this link to add the Google Summer of Code dates to your Google Calendar. (Important - your Evaluation deadlines may vary depending on your contributor's project length).

April 29 18:00 UTC: Deadline for Org Admins to submit ranked slot requests
April 29 - May 6: Google Program Admins review and assign org slots
May 6 15:00 UTC: GSoC Webapp Discussion
May 7: Organizations receive notification of their accepted GSoC 2025 Contributors
May 8: Accepted GSoC 2025 GSoC Contributor projects are announced
May 8 - June 1: Community Bonding Period

June 1: Deadline to notify Google Admins of an inactive GSoC Contributor that you wish to remove from the program
June 2: Coding begins
July 14-18: Midterm Evaluation

Email Archive

A [GSoC 2025 Mentor and Org Admin Email archive](#) has been created for mentors and organization administrators. This archive will store all important emails sent throughout the 2025 program. The link to this archive will be included in all program emails.

Once new Org Admins and Mentors are added to your org for 2025 they will receive these new emails, please direct them to the archive for all historic emails.

Helpful Links

- [Project Selection](#) (Important)
- [GSoC Mentor Guide](#)
- [Mentor Discussion Panel Notes](#) (new!)
- [GSoC Org Admin Tips](#)
- [GSoC 2025 Mentor and Org Admin Email archive](#)
- [Roles and Responsibilities](#)
- [Preparing Your Org](#)

Receiving Emails from Google Program Administrators

To avoid emails from us possibly being marked as spam please add summerofcode-noreply@google.com and gsoc-support@google.com as trusted contacts.

Contact Us

Please use gsoc-support@google.com for questions.

Best,
Stephanie Taylor, Mary Radomile and Lucila Ortiz

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April 9th
> **Subject: GSoC 2025: Org Admin questionnaire on Spammy Proposals - complete before April 25**

> Thank you all for being GSoC Org Admins in what is looking like our biggest GSoC ever!

There have been many discussions on the GSoC Mentors list about the # of 'spammy' or AI-generated proposals. Some orgs received a bunch, others received very few. We want to get a better understanding of how the spammy proposals were spread across orgs and also if your org received very few, what barriers or extra steps y'all might have put into the process which you think helped limit the spammy proposals your org received this year.

This form is only being sent to Org Admins, we're hoping one Org Admin from your org can complete this **quick 7 question form** **before April 25th.** We'll pull the information together and then share the overall results with all of you (not any individual org's ratios). We also plan to gather the processes and tips that seemed to work for some orgs to help all orgs have a smoother proposal period next year.

If you have any questions feel free to email me directly or email gsoc-support@google.com and Lucila or I can respond. Thank you.

Best,
Stephanie Taylor
GSoC Program Lead
sttaylor@google.com

Helpful Links

- [Project Selection](#) (Important)
- [GSoC Mentor Guide](#)
- [Mentor Discussion Panel Notes](#)
- [GSoC Org Admin Tips](#)
- [GSoC 2025 Mentor and Org Admin Email archive](#)
- [Roles and Responsibilities](#)
- [Preparing Your Org](#)

Important Upcoming Dates

Use this link to add the Google Summer of Code dates to your Google Calendar. (Important - your Evaluation deadlines may vary depending on your contributor's project length. **Below are the midterm and final dates for the standard 12 week project**)

April 8 - 29: Organizations must review all submitted GSoC contributor proposals, determine how many to accept based on mentor availability, and rank them accordingly. Each selected project requires at least one assigned mentor.
April 23: 16:00 UTC Virtual talk: Community Bonding: Setting your Contributor up for Success
April 29 18:00 UTC: Deadline for Org Admins to submit ranked slot requests
April 29 - May 6: Google Program Admins review and assign org slots
May 7: Organizations receive notification of their accepted GSoC 2025 Contributors
May 8: Accepted GSoC 2025 GSoC Contributor projects are announced

May 8 - June 1: Community Bonding Period
June 1: Deadline to notify Google Admins of an inactive GSoC Contributor that you wish to remove from the program
June 2: Coding begins
July 14-18: Midterm Evaluation *(standard 12 week projects)*

GSoC Admins

=====================================
April 8th

Subject: **GSoC 2025: Reviewing Contributor Proposals w/updates**

Hello,

If this is your first email from GSoC Admins please review previous emails in our [GSoC 2025 Mentor and Org Admin Email archive](#) to catch up on important information.

The GSoC 2025 contributor proposal submission period has now closed. Did you feel like you were getting more proposals than normal this year? You likely were as we experienced record numbers this year: **15,241** participants submitted **23,559** proposals for GSoC 2025. These are the highest numbers we've had in our 21 years of GSoC- more than 2.5 times the previous record! We also had over **98K** folks register for the program (this is double the previous record).

There are no deadline extensions, if you have an excited contributor who missed the deadline for any reason they are out of luck this year, proposals can not be added to the system after the deadline has passed.

What's Next?
During this **Proposal Review and Ranking** phase, your org should be evaluating all submitted contributor proposals and select the ones you want to accept as GSoC 2025 contributor projects. Before April 28, 2025:
- Review "[Preparing Your Org for GSoC 2025](#)" for an overview and helpful tips
- Org Admins should assign mentor(s) to each chosen project
- Org Admins will then rank these proposals
- **Important: NEVER accept a proposal from someone your org had no interaction with**
  - Generative AI can create impressive but potentially misleading applications.
  - Prioritize your assessment on your discussions and interactions with the contributors to gauge their actual skills and fit for your community.

Reviewing Contributor Proposals: April 8 - 28 (Mentors and OAs)

Mentors and Org Admins can view your organization's Contributor Proposals on **your dashboard's Inbox tab**.

1) **CSV Export of Proposals:** For organizations with under 40 proposals, exporting them to a CSV file can be useful for centralized review and mentor feedback in a spreadsheet.
2) **IGNORE Proposals:** Any Org Admin or Mentor can mark a proposal as 'Ignored' to mark genuine spam proposals.
   a) This action makes them disappear from view for all members of your organization.
   b) Avoid using this feature simply because you don't want to mentor a proposal; instead, use the 'Starred' feature for proposals you are interested in.
3) The **"Starred" dropdown** in the filtered view of Proposals has four options:
   - *All Proposals:* Shows all non-ignored proposals, which can be selected for ranking.
   - *Starred:* Your personal view of starred proposals.
   - *Un-starred:* Your personal view of un-starred proposals.
   - *Ignored:* Shows all ignored proposals for your organization. You can "un-ignore" a proposal to move it back to "All Proposals" for ranking.
4) **Late submissions.** Be aware that a significant number of proposals are often submitted in the final minutes before the deadline
   a) Google does not make exceptions for individuals who miss the deadline submission deadline
5) **Definitions of tabs on your Dashboard**
   a) *Proposal title - Click to view Proposal Details*
   b) *Interested Mentors Count -* How many Mentors have shown interest in mentoring a given proposal. Only OAs can see the actual Mentor display names.
   c) *Project Size -* The size the contributor indicates on their proposal should match the estimated amount of work in the proposal.
   d) *Select to Rank-* Viewable by Mentors and OAs. Only OAs can select a proposal to rank, but both can see if a proposal has been selected to go into the ranking queue. Ranking is now available (and closes April 29th 1800 UTC).

Want to Mentor a proposal?

- If you are a Mentor who is interested in being a mentor for a proposal, click the "Want to Mentor" button on the top right corner on the proposal's page to tell your Org Admin that you are interested.
- Mentoring in GSoC requires significant effort, and mentors should **avoid overextending themselves** and communicate any difficulties or changes in circumstances to their Organization Administrator.

Org Admin Task: Assigning Mentors

- For a GSoC proposal to be rankable by the organization administrator, it **must have at least one mentor assigned**.
  - We recommend assigning **2-3 mentors per project** - one designated internally as the **primary mentor** (responsible for evaluations) and the others as **support/backup mentors**. The GSoC system does not distinguish between primary and secondary mentors.
- Ideally, mentors should be the **primary mentor for no more than one or two contributors**.
- Organization administrators can also serve as mentors without needing a separate mentor profile.

Proposal Disappeared?

If you can no longer see a contributor's proposal, it's likely because:

1. They withdrew from the program.
2. They deleted their proposal to submit a different one.
3. Someone in your organization moved the proposal to the "Ignored Proposals" section (which you can access and reverse if needed).

Contributor Eligibility

- When selecting GSoC contributors, remember that the program is designed for students or individuals new to open source.
  - Avoid selecting experienced software engineering professionals who are participating in GSoC alongside their full-time jobs
  - Your goal is to choose someone who will not only contribute effectively to your project but also significantly benefit from your mentorship.
- Consider the provided [FAQ definition](#) of an open source beginner during your review

FAQs on Mentoring

Can I mentor multiple students?
The general advice for GSoC mentors is to focus on mentoring just 1 contributor to provide them with your full attention. Being a backup mentor for a second project is acceptable, but mentors should avoid overextending themselves, as this can negatively impact everyone involved. While there's no strict limit on the number of contributors a mentor can have, but first-time mentors are strongly advised to mentor only one contributor.

I'm an Org Admin, can I be a mentor too?

Yes, Org Admins can also be mentors, but it's important to avoid overcommitting. Org Admins are like "super mentors" with additional privileges (like inviting mentors and ranking proposals), and they don't need a separate mentor account. Org Admins often serve as backup or secondary mentors.

As the primary mentor, how much time will I spend mentoring a contributor?
The time commitment for mentoring in GSoC varies depending on the project's length (8-22 weeks) and the specific needs of the project and contributor.

- During the Community Bonding period, expect to dedicate about 5 hours per week to help the contributor get settled.
- Once the coding period starts, plan on spending roughly 2.5-4 hours weekly for tasks like reviewing work, providing feedback, answering questions, and having discussions.

Org Admin Task: Proposal Ranking (now - April 29 1800 UTC)

All Org Admins should read Project Selection for details.

- Org Admins will rank their selected proposals based on discussions with their community members.
- Org Admins will prioritize the projects most important to their org by ranking them the highest.
  - If an OA ranks 10 proposals (#1 - #10) they are asking Google for 10 project slots. If Google grants them 8 projects slots the org will automatically receive ranked projects #1 - #8.
- Mentors are to be assigned when the OA ranks a proposal.
- **Do not accept "okay" proposals. These often will be a waste of mentor time.**
- New orgs will likely only receive 1-2 project slots, no matter how many they request.
- Be sure you have your mentors lined up before the Proposal Ranking deadline.
  - If an Org requests 10 slots and has 5 mentors registered for the 2025 program, Google Admins will give the org 5 slots or less.
  - **Your org needs to demonstrate you have plenty of mentors available to mentor your GSoC contributors.**

What happens if the contributor is selected by 2 organizations?

This year, GSoC contributors can optionally rank their proposal preferences (1st, 2nd, 3rd choice). Only Google Administrators can view these preferences.

During final review, if multiple organizations select the same contributor, Google Administrators will check the contributor's preference. The organization with the higher ranking will typically be granted the contributor. However, if the contributor's preference is for a lower-ranked organization, Google Administrators may allow the higher-ranked organization to "give" the contributor to the preferred organization and select a replacement.

Changing Project Size/ Scope (90 hour, 175 hour, 350 hour project)

- When GSoC contributors submitted their proposals, they specified project size (90, 175, or 350 hours).
- Organizations should ensure these sizes align with your pre-defined project scopes, they can't be changed at this point in the selection process.

Org Admin Task: Changing Project Lengths (after May 8)

On May 8th, Google will announce Contributor projects with default durations:
- 12 weeks for medium/large projects
- 8 weeks for small projects.

Org Admins can adjust the timelines for medium/large projects (10-22 weeks) and small projects (8-14 weeks).
- It's recommended to keep small projects under 14 weeks.
- OAs should finalize these adjustments by the end of the Community Bonding period.
- Project deadlines are provided and must be adhered to; OAs cannot create their own deadlines.
- Timing adjustments can be made throughout the coding period, but having general dates set by the start of coding is a best practice.

Resources

GSoC Mentors-Only Mailing List

Everyone who opted into the GSoC mentors-only group during GSoC registration have been added to the list, which currently has over 11,250 mentors and organization administrators. There are many great conversations in this list from previous years for reference.

Glossary

Project Length: Project length means a 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 or 22 week project. *A project's size (90 hour, 175hr or 350hr) is in no way related to the project length.* A 175hr medium size project can be up to 22 weeks in length. Likewise a 350hr large size project can be anywhere between 10 and 22 weeks (in 2 week increments).

Proposal: A document describing the project the contributor wants to work on for your organization. It should include a timeline with clear milestones and specific deliverables.

Ranked Proposals: Org Admins will rank their org's selected proposals to prioritize which proposals they would like to accept. If an org ranks 10 proposals they are asking Google for 10 project slots.

Project slot: Google Admins will grant each org a certain number of project "slots" based on requests, history with GSoC and number of available mentors. The number of project slots granted to an org will translate to the top ranked proposals for that org (in order). 7 project slots means ranked slots #1 - #7 will become that org's Contributor Projects.

Contributor Project: A selected Contributor's Proposal that is among the org's granted, ranked project slots.

Code of Conduct

Be sure to read the [Program Rules](#) and the [Code of Conduct](#) section for GSoC. Your org may also have an additional Code of Conduct which you should be sure to point students to as well. If you have a situation where a prospective student, mentor or org admin violates the GSoC Code of Conduct please notify me as soon as possible at sttaylor@google.com.

Important Upcoming Dates

Use this [link](#) to add the Google Summer of Code dates to your Google Calendar. (Important - your Evaluation deadlines may vary depending on your contributor's project length. **Below are the midterm and final dates for the standard 12 week project**)

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Once new Org Admins and Mentors are added to your org for 2025 they will receive these new emails, please direct them to the archive for all historic emails.

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- [GSoC Mentor Guide](#)
- [Mentor Discussion Panel Notes](#) (new!)
- [GSoC Org Admin Tips](#)
- [GSoC 2025 Mentor and Org Admin Email archive](#)
- [Roles and Responsibilities](#)
- [Preparing Your Org](#)

Receiving Emails from Google Program Administrators

To avoid emails from us possibly being marked as spam please add
summerofcode-noreply@google.com and gsoc-support@google.com as trusted
contacts.

Contact Us
Please use gsoc-support@google.com for questions.

Best,
Stephanie Taylor, Mary Radomile and Lucila Ortiz
GSoC Program Admins

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Sent March 20th
Subject: GSoC 2025: PLEASE READ - Information for Mentors and Org Admins

Welcome to Google Summer of Code 2025! We're excited to have you join us for our
21st year.

This email is an overview of the upcoming months of the GSoC program. There is a lot
of information in this 1 email, please read it carefully.

- **Strict adherence** to deadlines and instructions is crucial due to the large number
  of participants.
- There are never any deadline extensions to GSoC program deadlines.
- This is the longest email of the program with a lot of details - you will likely
  reference this email multiple times over the next couple of months.

Slides are available from today's talk "Preparing your Org for GSoC 2025" for your
reference.

Action Items for Mentors and Org Admins

Mentors:
- Reach out to your Org Admin to learn what is expected of you this year as a mentor.
  - You should already be answering questions from potential GSoC contributors
- Read the [Google Summer of Code mentor guide](), [Mentor Discussion Panel notes](), and the [Roles and Responsibilities]() docs.
- Prepare for incoming contributor proposals starting March 24

Org Admins:
- **Review** the [GSoC Org Admin Tips]()
- **Invite Mentors ASAP** (and be sure they register), then add them to the 2025 program once they have agreed to the Rules and Org Member terms.
  - Review the [previous emails]() we sent to Org Admins for a refresher on how to invite org members.
  - Be sure you have enough mentors to support reviewing incoming contributor proposals.
  - If your org has a particular process for reviewing proposals be sure all mentors understand it.
- **Make sure your Contributor Guidance page is thorough and complete.**
  - Provide the URL in your Org Profile to display on your org's GSoC page to help your contributors understand how to successfully submit an application to your org.
  - Many orgs require a PR or other sort of contact before they submit a proposal, this is encouraged. Don't assume everyone is familiar with a particular technology or communication mechanism.

Be Prepared for GSoC Contributor Inquiries!

Contributor Proposal Submissions:

- **Starting March 24th at 1800 UTC**, contributors can submit proposals via the program website [g.co/gsoc]() (submissions close April 8th 1800 UTC)
- Each contributor can submit up to 3 proposals.
- Proposals can be for the same or different organizations.
- **Submission period ends April 8 at 1800 UTC**

Early Engagement:

- Historically, strong contributors engage with organizations early for feedback.
- Organizations should consider these early contacts, but also give fair consideration to later submissions.

Managing Contributor Inquiries:

- Expect a **high volume** of inquiries.
  - Inform contributors that responses may be delayed due to volume (you can add this to your Contributor Guidance Info on your GSoC org page).
  - Consider using auto-responders or canned responses.
- Talk to the potential GSoC contributors (via chat, groups email, video chat, etc.).
  - NEVER accept a GSoC contributor based solely on their written proposal. Talking to the person will give you a much better opportunity to see if they are a good fit for your org.

Organizations should:

- Expect a larger influx of applicants and questions when the application period opens March 24th. **Be prepared.**
- **University-based organizations** participating in GSoC are expected to select contributors from outside their own university programs.
  - Selecting one contributor from within the university is acceptable, but selecting more than one is discouraged and could jeopardize future GSoC participation.

Project Size/Scope vs Project Length

IMPORTANT: Project size/scope is not related to project length; they are independent of one another.
Project size/scope (90 hour, 175 hour, 350 hour project)
- When GSoC contributors submit their proposals, they specify project size (90, 175, or 350 hours).
- Organizations should ensure these sizes align with your pre-defined project scopes.
- If discrepancies exist, contributors must edit their proposals to match the organization's intended scope before the April 8th deadline.

Project Length
GSoC project lengths are flexible, ranging from 8 to 22 weeks in two-week increments. The default project lengths are:
- Small 90 hour project: 8 weeks

- Medium 175 hour project: 12 weeks
- Large 350 hour project: 12 weeks

Project length adjustments should be discussed between mentors and contributors to accommodate breaks, exams, or other commitments. Only Org Admins can modify project lengths, and this can only be done after the selected contributors are announced on May 8.

Eligibility

Read the GSoC 2025 Program Rules for all eligibility requirements. The below points come up often so we wanted to call them out.

Mentor Eligibility

- **Mentors must be at least 18 years old when they register as a mentor**.
- Note: Org Admins can also be mentors
  - In smaller orgs, Org Admins commonly mentor GSoC contributors. In larger organizations, Org Admins often serve as backup mentors.
  - Org Admins are already granted mentor abilities in GSoC webapp (no need to also sign up for a GSoC mentor account)
  - Org Admins are responsible for ensuring mentor duties are fulfilled, including finding replacements or stepping in if necessary.
- Mentors should be community members who are familiar with how your project operates. Do not accept random people to be mentors for your org.

GSoC Contributor Eligibility

- The GSoC program is open to all students AND to beginner contributors to open source.
  - For more details on the definition of beginner (as written with help from GSoC mentors and org admins) please see the FAQ.
- All participants must be 18 years old when they register (from non-embargoed US countries).

Ineligible Contributors

- Organizations can not accept contributors who are immediate family members or in the same household as any Org Admins or Mentors for your organization.
- If you are talking with a potential contributor during the contributor application period and they don't submit a proposal through the GSoC website before the deadline then they are not eligible to be accepted.

Reviewing Org Proposals through the GSoC webapp

Starting March 24 after 1800 UTC: You will be able to view Contributor Proposals in your Org Admin/Mentor Dashboard. Below are the details to help you sort through the proposals.

Glossary

Proposal: A document describing the project the contributor wants to work on for your organization. It should include a timeline with clear milestones and specific deliverables. Your organization may ask for other information to be included too, or require a PR, a test, or specify a format.

Ranked Proposals: Org Admins will rank their org's selected proposals to prioritize which proposals they would like to accept. Ranking occurs in the web app by Org Admins after contributor applications close April 8th at 1800 UTC.

Project slot: Google Admins will grant each org a certain number of project "slots" based on requests and history with GSoC. Each slot will be filled with a proposal that becomes a 'Project'.

Project: A Project is a selected Proposal.

Viewing Proposals

Mentors and Org Admins can now see your organization's Contributor Proposals on your dashboard's Inbox tab.
- **Stars** - (visible only to you) Can be used to help you keep track of your favorite proposals. You can also filter by just your starred or unstarred proposals.
- **Proposal title** - Click to view Proposal Details.
- **Submitted Date** - When the Contributor first submitted their proposal
- **Last Updated** - Will help you see if they have made more changes since they first submitted their proposal
- **Interested Mentors count** - How many Mentors have shown interest in mentoring a given proposal. Only OAs can see the actual Mentor display names.
- **Project Size** - The project size the Contributor indicated for their project. If the project size is not what you were expecting, be sure to contact the contributor to discuss before the Contributor deadline April 8th. The size the contributor indicates on their proposal should match the estimated amount of work in the proposal.
- **Selected to Ignore** - Viewable by Mentors and OAs. Any proposals you may choose to ignore will still be visible by others.
- **Select to Rank**- Viewable by Mentors and OAs. Only OAs can select a proposal to rank, but both can see if a proposal has been selected to go into the ranking queue. Ranking begins when Contributor Apps close on April 8 at 1800 UTC.

Information in Project Proposal

Contributors provide the following information (note that potential contributors **must** submit their proposal as a PDF through the website):

- *Proposal Title*
- *Proposal Summary*
- *Project Size*
- *Project Technologies* (python, javascript, etc.)
- *Project Topics* (cloud, web, robotics, machine learning, etc.)
- *Upload their Proposal as a PDF (they can continue to upload a new proposal pdf until the deadline of April 8th 1800 UTC)*

Ignoring Proposals

Most orgs receive many dozens or even hundreds of proposals, and unfortunately some may be spammy or irrelevant. To ignore these proposals:
1. When Mentors and Org Admins are in the *Manage Proposals - > Inbox* on their GSoC dashboard they can go to the *Selected to ignore* column.
2. Click the ignore icon for a proposal the icon will turn red and will disappear from your screen as it is sent to the 'Ignored' proposals.

The "Ignore" feature in the GSoC webapp allows mentors to filter proposals they're not interested in, but it doesn't automatically mark proposals as spam for the entire organization. However, Organization Admins may choose to use external methods (like spreadsheets or documents) to collect mentor feedback on spam proposals, which they can then use to filter and prioritize during the ranking process.

Proposal Disappeared?

If a proposal disappears from your list, it is because the contributor withdrew the proposal.

Post GSoC Contributor Proposal Period: April 8 - 29

Your org should make your decisions on which contributors to accept based on the contents of their final PDF proposal submitted to the site **and your interactions with the contributor**.
- With the rise of AI likely to make for some impressive looking proposals this year, we strongly encourage you to base the majority of your decision on which contributor proposal to select based on the interactions with the GSoC contributor.
- Remember to consider, 'do I want to spend 12+ weeks mentoring this person?' Sometimes the answer is no and that is okay, not every personality is a good match for every mentor.

<u>All GSoC contributor projects must have at least one mentor assigned</u> for the Org admin to be able to Rank the Proposal.

Please assign a second mentor to act as a backup mentor or co-mentor.

- Mentors should ideally handle no more than one or two contributors as the primary Mentor.
- Organization administrators can also serve as Mentors (they don't need a Mentor profile too)
- The GSoC application doesn't differentiate between primary and backup mentors; this distinction should be made internally.
- Co-mentorship is also an option, but clear responsibility for evaluations must be established to avoid missed deadlines.

Mentoring in GSoC requires significant effort, and burnout is a concern. Mentors are advised to avoid overextending themselves. If difficulties arise or personal circumstances change, they should communicate with their Organization Administrator.

What happens if the contributor is selected by 2 organizations?

This year, GSoC contributors can optionally rank their proposal preferences (1st, 2nd, 3rd choice). Only Google Administrators can view these preferences.

During final review, if multiple organizations select the same contributor, Google Administrators will check the contributor's preference. The organization with the higher ranking will typically be granted the contributor. However, if the contributor's preference is for a lower-ranked organization, Google Administrators may allow the higher-ranked organization to "give" the contributor to the preferred organization and select a replacement.

GSoC Mentor-invite Mailing List

A GSoC mentors-only discussion group has been created for communication and support.

- Those who opted in via their GSoC profile will be added by EOD Wednesday, March 26th
- You can manage your membership and email preferences through the group's interface.

- The list is expected to have higher traffic in the coming months.
- It's a valuable resource for asking questions and getting feedback from other mentors and organization administrators.
- Reviewing past discussions from the same period last year can be beneficial.

Code of Conduct

Be sure to read the [Program Rules](#) and the [Code of Conduct](#) section for GSoC. Your org may also have an additional Code of Conduct which you should be sure to inform participants about. If you have a situation where a GSoC participant violates the GSoC Code of Conduct please contact gsoc-support@google.com as soon as possible.

Email Archive

A [GSoC 2025 Mentor and Org Admin Email archive](#) has been created for mentors and organization administrators. This archive will store all important emails sent throughout the 2025 program. The link to this archive will be included in all program emails.

Once new Org Admins and Mentors are added to your org for 2025 they will receive these new emails, please direct them to the archive for all historic emails.

Important Upcoming Dates

Now - March 23: Potential GSoC contributors will actively seek information and feedback on project ideas to prepare their proposals over the next few weeks. Add Org Admins and Mentors as soon as possible

March 24 - April 8 18:00 UTC: Potential GSoC contributors submit proposals through the program website for you to give solid feedback on.

April 8 - 29: Organizations must review all submitted GSoC contributor proposals, determine how many to accept based on mentor availability, and rank them accordingly. Each selected project requires at least one assigned mentor.

April 23: 16:00 UTC *Virtual talk*: **[Community Bonding: Setting your Contributor up for Success](#)**

April 29 18:00 UTC: Deadline to submit ranked slot requests (Org Admins enter requests)

April 29 - May 6: Google Program Admins review and assign org slots

May 7: Organizations receive notification of their accepted GSoC 2025 Contributors

May 8: Accepted GSoC 2025 GSoC Contributor projects are announced

May 8 - June 2: Community Bonding Period: Deadline to notify Google Admins of an inactive GSoC Contributor that you wish to remove from the program

June 3: Coding begins

Helpful Links

[GSoC Mentor Guide](#)
[Mentor Discussion Panel Notes](#): Managing Contributors during application period, Org Admin Lessons Learned, Tips & Tricks to be a Great Mentor (great new resource!)
[GSoC Org Admin Tips](#)
[GSoC 2025 Mentor and Org Admin Email archive](#)
[Roles and Responsibilities](#)

Receiving Emails from Google Program Administrators

To avoid emails from us possibly being marked as spam please add summerofcode-noreply@google.com and gsoc-support@google.com as trusted contacts.

Contact Us

Please use gsoc-support@google.com for questions.

Best,
Stephanie Taylor, Mary Radomile and Lucila Ortiz
GSoC Program Admins

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Sent March 18th
SUBJECT: GSoC 2025: Info Session Thurs 1530 UTC and Org Admin Reminders

Hello GSoC Org Admins and Mentors,

We wanted to send a couple of quick reminders and will send a longer email Thursday afternoon with very detailed information for the next few months that we need everyone to read.

Org Admins

We still have 17 organizations (16 are veteran orgs) that have not added their 2nd required organization administrator.

All Org Admins should be adding Mentors now. Remember, you are about to get swarmed with interested contributors reaching out to you next week (a lot more than these past couple of weeks) so add your Mentors to the 2025 program now. Yes, you

have to add people again this year even if they participated last year as they must agree to the 2025 Program Rules to be a 2025 Mentor or Org Admin.

We want to send the detailed email about the next few months of the program but we are trying to give you another day to get more of your mentors and Org Admins added to your Org so they will receive the email Thursday.

Last year way too many Mentors and Org Admins missed deadlines and ignored the emails we sent, be sure to remind folks to add summerofcode-noreply@google.com and gsoc-support@google.com as trusted contacts so these emails don't to spam (and check your emails once a week for any updates, reminders).

Virtual Session: Preparing your Org for GSoC

Date: Thursday, March 20
Time: 1530-1630 UTC
Join: meet.google.com/gvr-mdrp-jze

This session will be very helpful for *all new Organizations to GSoC as well as all new GSoC mentors and org admins for veteran GSoC orgs.*

Important Upcoming Dates

Now - March 23: Potential GSoC contributors will actively seek information and feedback on project ideas to prepare their proposals over the next few weeks. Add Org Admins and Mentors as soon as possible

March 20 15:30-16:30 UTC: GSoC session for Mentors/Org Admins: Preparing your Org for GSoC 2025

March 24 - April 8 18:00 UTC: Potential GSoC contributors submit proposals through the program website for you to give solid feedback on.

April 8 - 29: Organizations must review all submitted GSoC contributor proposals, determine how many to accept based on mentor availability, and rank them accordingly. Each selected project requires at least one assigned mentor.

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[Mentor Discussion Panel Notes](#)
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[Roles and Responsibilities](#)

Contact Us

Please use gsoc-support@google.com for questions.

Best,
Stephanie Taylor, Mary Radomile and Lucila Ortiz
GSoC Program Admins

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Sent 3/8/25
SUBJECT: **GSoC 2025 URGENT - Verify your Org has 2 Org Admins registered for 2025 (33% of you don't)**

Hello GSoC 2025 Org Admins,

We still have 62 Orgs with only 1 Org Admin (33%). Please double check that you have at least 2 Org Admins assigned for the 2025 program. It is **essential and required** that your Organization have 2 Org Admins by EOD March 10, 2025. For orgs that do not have a 2nd Org Admin for 2025 by March 11th your org will receive fewer GSoC contributor slots for 2025.

All of the 2025 Org Admins that submitted the GSoC org applications were notified last week of the urgency to add at least 1 more Org Admin.

The easiest way to verify the number of 2025 Org Members is to log in g.co/gsoc and look at your Org Member list (select from the upper right dropdown). Go to the **By Program** box and select **'2025 | Participating'**. If it only shows 1 person (you) as the Org Admin then either you haven't added the 2025 Org Members yet or they haven't even agreed to the 2025 terms yet.

Every year every Org Member involved in the current GSoC program must agree to the current 2025 Program Rules and 2025 Organization Member agreement. Then the Org Admin decides which of those people to make 2025 Mentors or Org Admins.

<u>Note</u>: Just because people in your community received the email that your org was accepted for 2025 does not mean they are a 2025 Org Admin, most of them are not - yet. That email was sent to every person that has ever been an Org Admin for your org in 2022, 2023 or 2024. (*We are updating this so it won't be as confusing for folks in the future who were thinking they already are 2025 Org Admins because they received that org confirmation email. Only the person that registered the org will receive the notification next year*).

<u>Process for Mentors and Org Admins that need to be added for 2025 program</u>:
Every year you must accept the GSoC Org Member terms and the Program Rules.
1) Log in to g.co/gsoc and agree to the 2025 Program Rules and Org Member agreement
2) Then the current 2025 Org Admins will go to their *Organization Members tab* (upper right in profile) and click 'Add members' button
3) A drop down list of everyone that has agreed to the 2025 terms will appear and the 2025 Org Admins can select the people and correct role (Org Admin or Mentor)

<u>Org Admins- how to add new people to your Organization:</u>
1. Org Admins can invite a new Org Member via the "Invite" button from your Org Members tab (upper right drop down) tab
2. The invitee will receive an email with a registration link and must register and agree to the 2025 program rules and 2025 Org member terms
3. Org Admins go to *Organization Members tab* (upper right in profile) click 'Add members' button
4. A drop down list of everyone that has agreed to the 2025 terms and program rules will appear and Org Admin can select the people and role (Org Admin or Mentor) they wish to add.

Your org needs to be adding Mentors over these next few weeks too, but the 2nd Org Admin for 2025 is the most important to add immediately.

Have the correct information available for potential GSoC applicants to reach out to your org.
Be sure your Org has updated and given public access to the various lists/chat channels, etc. that you are asking the potential GSoC contributors to join. We've already received multiple emails from interested GSoC contributors who haven't been able to access the pages the GSoC orgs have told them to review (project ideas, how to contact the org, etc.)

Potential GSoC contributors have started reaching out
Right now the most proactive and often, best, potential GSoC contributors are starting to reach out to organizations and asking questions about your ideas. We have been encouraging them to do this and some have listened. Please be ready. :)

[**GSoC 2025 Mentor and Org Admin Email archive**](#) for reference for the email sent out last week to the assigned Org Admins as of Feb 27th. We are waiting until more org members have been added for 2025 before we send out a more detailed email about next steps probably late next week...

Preparing your Org For GSoC 2025 Virtual talk: *March 20 15:30-16:30 UTC*
This session will be helpful for Org Admins and new Mentors to GSoC in particular. But everyone can learn something new during the session.
Meet link: meet.google.com/gvr-mdrp-jze

If you have any questions you can email the GSoC team at gsoc-support@google.com. Thanks!

Best,
Stephanie Taylor

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Sent 2/27/25
Subject: Welcome GSoC 2025 Org Admins - Important Info

Congratulations, your org is one of our 185 mentoring organizations for GSoC 2025! An extra special welcome to the new organizations participating in GSoC for the first time. We look forward to working with all of you this year.

We are sending this email to all accepted Org Admins that have signed up for the 2025 program thus far (as you add more mentors and Org Admins, refer them to the **[GSoC 2025 Mentor and Org Admin Email archive](#)** so they can see the important emails they already missed).

Emails we send during GSoC are very important. You and the mentors (and contributors) are responsible for reading them and meeting all of the required deadlines.

Action Items Org Admins need to address ASAP
1. **Ensure at least two Org Admins are assigned to the 2025 program immediately**. Hard requirement
2. **Invite mentors to your organization now** to handle incoming contributor inquiries. Interested participants will start reaching out to your org now that orgs have been announced. Notes on inviting new org members and adding previous org members to the 2025 program are toward the bottom of this email.
3. **Update/Verify Your Org's Profile on the GSoC site**
   - Ensure your organization's profile page is complete and accurate.

- **Maintain an up-to-date and easily accessible project ideas list** with clear project sizes (90, 175, 350 hours) and difficulty ratings.
  - Make sure your logo looks good on the site. You may also need to tweak the aspect ratio.
  - Verify your tagline makes sense on the main [organizations list](#). This is very important for grabbing attention quickly. Look at other organizations for examples.
  - Ensure that your **Contributor Guidance** is thorough and complete. Even if you just mention the best way for the Contributors to reach out to you (via your Slack, IRC, Discord channel, etc), ensure it is very easy for potential contributors to understand what is is you want them to do (this will save you lots of the same questions over and over again).
  - Prepare your community to respond to inquiries from prospective GSoC contributors starting today.

Inviting Mentors and Org Admins to your org

- **Returning Org Members (2022-2024):**
  1. They must log in to [g.co/gsoc](#) and agree to the 2025 Program Rules and Org Member agreement
  2. Org Admins go to *Organization Members tab* (upper right in profile) click '**Add members**' button
  3. A dropdown list of everyone that has agreed to the 2025 terms will appear and Org Admin can select the people and role (Org Admin or Mentor).
- **New Members:**
  1. Org Admins can invite a new Org Member via the "**Invite**" button from your Org Members tab (upper right drop down) tab
  2. They will receive an email and must register and agree to the 2025 program rules and terms
  3. Org Admins go to *Organization Members tab* (upper right in profile) click '**Add members**' button
  4. A dropdown list of everyone that has agreed to the 2025 terms will appear and Org Admin can select the people and role (Org Admin or Mentor) they wish to add.
- If there are people in that dropdown you don't want to be mentors in 2025 simply don't add them to the 2025 program.
- If someone is not in the dropdown it is because they have not agreed to the 2025 terms yet.

NOTE: Any Org Admins and Mentors you add will receive the next email communication from Google Admins. The **GSoC 2025 Mentor and Org Admin Email archive** is available for them to reference for emails sent before they were added to GSoC 2025 - please encourage them to read it thoroughly.

What is Expected of Org Admins

Refer to the GSoC Org Admin Tips for a comprehensive list of responsibilities and guidance to ensure a successful GSoC 2025 experience for your organization and mentors.
Read the Mentor Guide to understand the flow and tips for the next few stages of the program.

Mentor Discussion Panels

Veteran Org Admins and Mentors held discussion panels in 2024 to address common challenges in GSoC. Their insights are compiled in the Mentor Discussion Panel Notes, which are recommended reading. We address:
- Managing Contributors during application period
- Org Admin Lessons Learned
- Tips & Tricks to be a Great Mentor
- Making the Most of Community Bonding
- How to Keep Contributors involved in your Community after GSoC.

Important Upcoming Dates

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Best,

Stephanie Taylor, Mary Radomile and Lucila Ortiz