

OPPORTUNITY OPEN SOURCE CONFERENCE 4.0

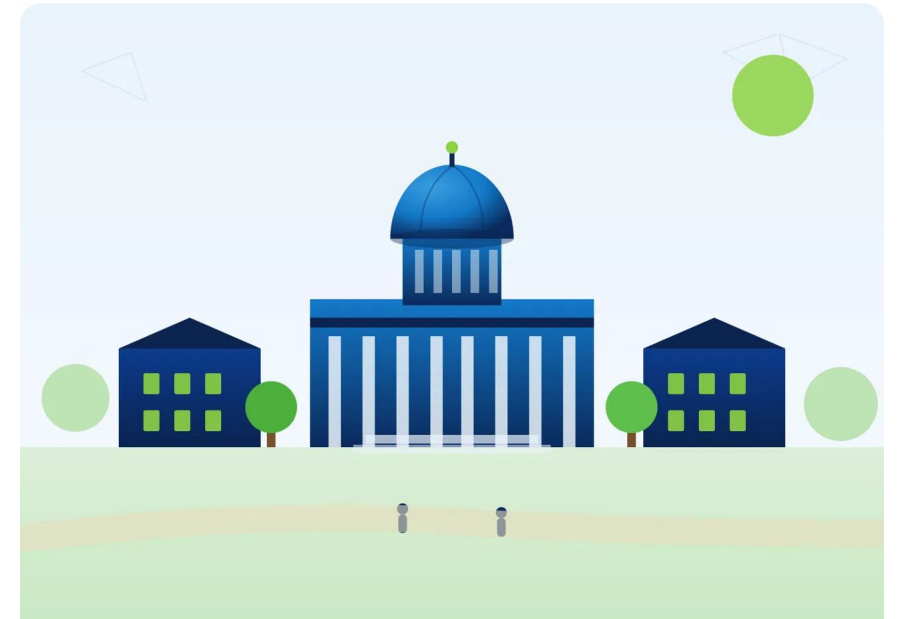
How to Start Your GSoC Journey

A Beginner's Roadmap to Google Summer of Code

Aveek Basu

Chair, Opportunity Open Source Conference

IIIT Allahabad, Prayagraj • 28–30 August 2026



IIIT ALLAHABAD — THE HOST CAMPUS

What is Google Summer of Code?

Run by Google since 2005, GSoC pairs newcomers with established open source organizations to work on real, production codebases. You write real code, get guided by an experienced mentor, and earn a stipend for successfully completed work.

summerofcode.withgoogle.com — explore all 185 organizations for 2026

Beginner-Friendly

Real Codebases

Mentor-Guided

Paid Stipend

Fully Remote

Flexible Hours



Est. 2005

Global mentorship program

185

mentoring organizations in 2026

22,000+

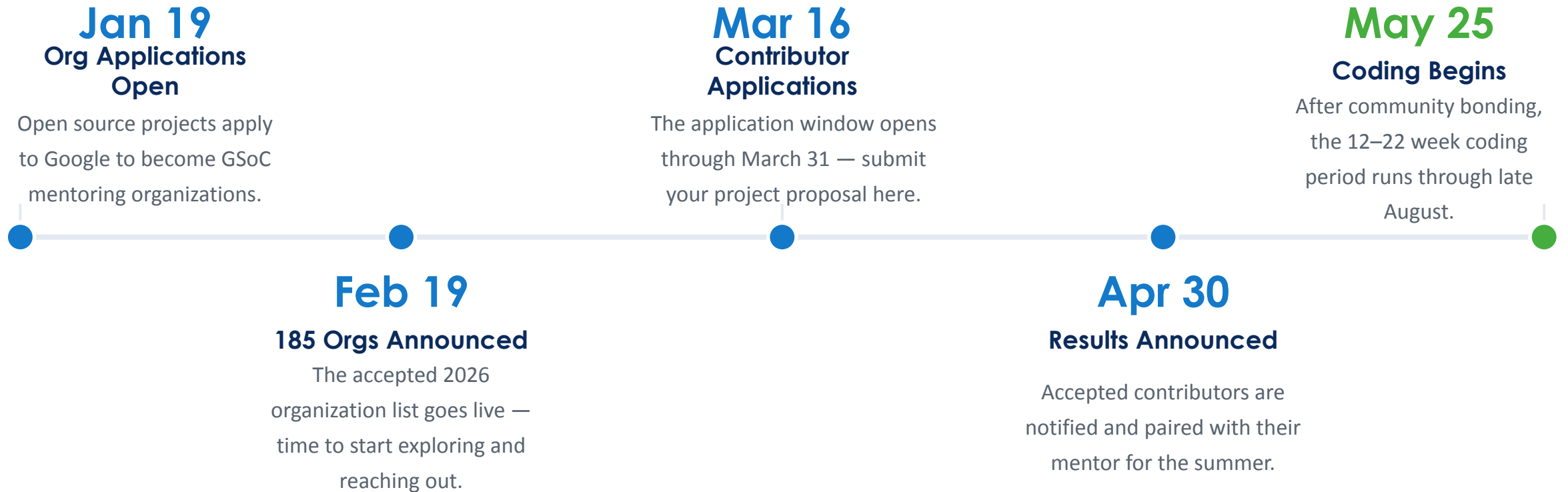
contributors welcomed since 2005

138

countries represented by mentors

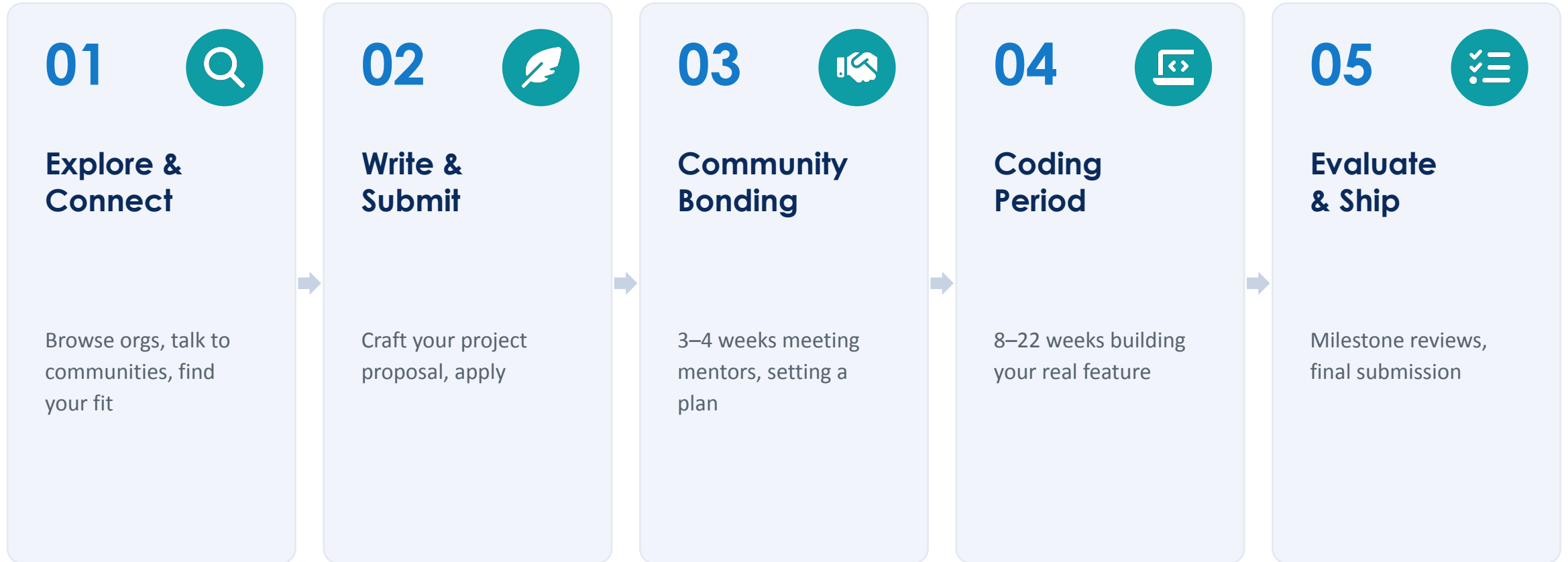
THE 2026 TIMELINE

Five Milestones to Track



Getting paid: stipends are paid in two installments — 45% at the midterm evaluation, 55% at the final evaluation on September 1.

How GSoC Actually Works



Pick Your Scope, Earn Your Stipend

90 hrs

Small project size

175 hrs

Medium project (default)

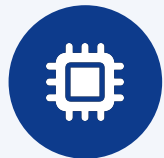
350 hrs

Large project size

8–22

weeks, fully flexible

What Each Size Pays (USD, PPP-adjusted)



Small: \$750 – \$1,650



Medium: \$1,500 – \$3,300



Large: \$3,000 – \$6,600

Paid in 2 installments: 45% at midterm, 55% at final evaluation

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

GSoC Is More Open Than You Think



18 or Older

At the time of registration — there is no upper age limit.



New to Open Source

Beginners welcome — generally under about 2 years of prior open source experience.



No Degree Required

Open to students and non-students alike — self-taught developers included since 2022.

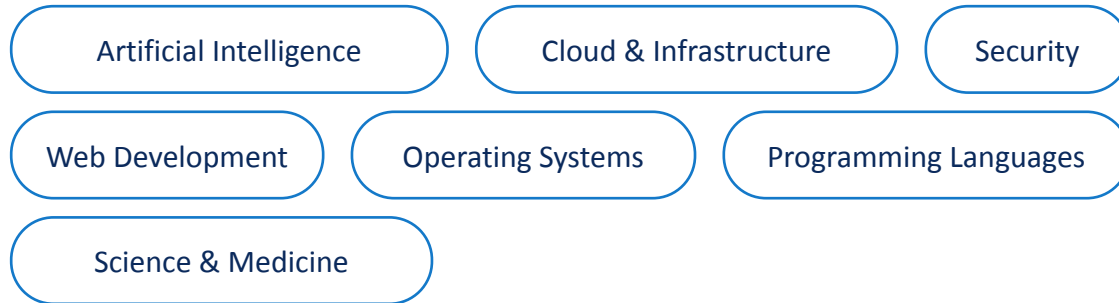


Eligible to Work Remotely

Legally able to work in your country of residence, which must not be U.S.-embargoed.

You also apply as an individual, not a team — and work with just one organization for the duration of your project.

GSoC 2026: Who's Participating



Each year Google reviews applications from open source projects across every domain imaginable, from AI research labs to decades-old infrastructure projects, and selects the strongest communities to mentor new contributors that summer.

185 Organizations Include



185

mentoring organizations spanning every domain in 2026

How to Apply



Shortlist 2–3 Orgs

Browse the mentoring org list at summerofcode.withgoogle.com and pick ones matching your skills and interests.



Engage the Community

Join their chat or forum, fix a small “good first issue,” and talk to maintainers before you apply.



Submit a Focused Proposal

Clear problem, realistic timeline, honest scope — mentors value clarity over jargon, every time.

Submit early, not at the deadline — mentors need time to read your proposal and offer feedback before applications close.

Proposal Mistakes to Avoid



MISTAKE

Showing up only at the deadline.



DO THIS INSTEAD

Engage weeks early — contributors who show up in March rarely have time to write a strong proposal.



MISTAKE

Sending one generic proposal to five orgs.



DO THIS INSTEAD

Mentors can tell — tailor every proposal to that org's specific project ideas.



MISTAKE

Promising a packed, unrealistic scope.



DO THIS INSTEAD

A focused, achievable plan reads as maturity — not a lack of ambition.



MISTAKE

Never opening a single issue or PR first.



DO THIS INSTEAD

Proposals from contributors with zero prior engagement rarely make the cut.



Thank You

Go find your good-first-issue.

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