



Cypher VI: Guide for Mentors

Who can be mentors?

Mentors can be anyone you send from your company! Mentors spend the hackathon helping student teams come up with ideas and develop their projects. Most mentors have technical backgrounds, but that isn't a requirement. Students also need help with things like business plans, presentation skills, and graphic design. To be an effective mentor, it helps to be proactive and ask students what they are working on and if they want help.

When should mentors be at the hackathon?

Students often work their projects around the clock from Friday evening to Sunday morning. Crunch time is typically Saturday afternoon to evening, so it would be most useful to have mentors around at that time. It is also encouraged that mentors be present at opening and closing ceremonies. However, mentors can be at the hackathon whenever their schedule allows. There is no time requirement. While mentors are at the event, they will have full access to the perks that their organization's sponsorship level awards.

Can mentors recruit?

Yes! Mentors represent your company and are free to recruit all they want. Mentoring is an excellent way to get a gauge on students' technical abilities and working style. If you think a student would be a good fit for your company, we recommend you ask them after all projects have been submitted if they are interested in internships or full time work.

Further Questions?

Our team will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please email us at cypher.wm@gmail.com, or email our lead organizer, Ben Ryan, directly at bpryan@email.wm.edu. Information on previous hackathons can be found at cypher.cs.wm.edu.