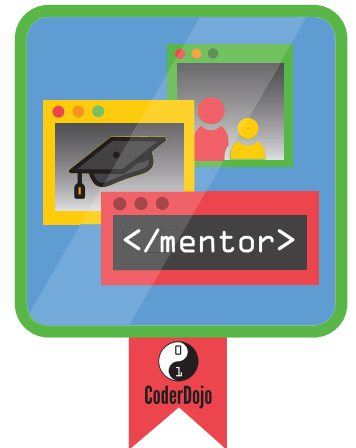# Become a Mentor

CoderDojo

CoderDojo is a free, fun way for children aged 7 to 17 to learn to code. The focus is on self-led learning with Mentors offering assistance. Mentoring at CoderDojo is a rewarding experience that offers the opportunity to positively impact your community. It's also fun!

What is a Mentor?

A CoderDojo Mentor is someone who guides Dojo attendees in their learning and project work. They facilitate learning, rather than teaching in a top-down fashion. The skills of the Mentors often influence the topics the Dojo covers.

What if I don't have technical skills?

You can definitely still help out! Get in touch with your local Dojo (search on dojo.soy/mentor-dojo to find one) and ask how.

They might need help with administration, their social media, helping attendees learn some other skills you have or even helping new attendees learn to code. You can learn with them!

`</mentor>`

CoderDojo

What happens at CoderDojos?

At a CoderDojo, attendees learn by working on projects in an informal atmosphere, talking among themselves, and working together. Mentors get involved only if the attendees can't solve the problem using the internet or by asking their peers.

Attendees are encouraged to choose projects that are of interest to them. Introducing the idea of a project that offers a benefit to their community can help them see the power of technology positively influence the world around them.

What skills are learned at CoderDojos?

What attendees learn varies from Dojo to Dojo, based on the skills of the mentors at that Dojo and the attendees' own interests. Popular topics are:

Coding – Scratch, HTML5, Python, mobile app development
Hardware – Raspberry Pi, Arduino
Soft Skills – Team work, planning, design, testing

Resources for Mentors

The CoderDojo community is based on open source principles and sharing resources and learning. As a result, there are lots of resources available for mentors to use, modify and contribute to. To find them, check out:

Kata
The CoderDojo community resources platform contains advice for mentors and projects you can work through at your Dojo. You can find it at **dojo.soy/mentor-kata**

CoderDojo Community Forums
The forums let you get advice from, and share ideas with, other members of the CoderDojo community around the world. Join at **dojo.soy/mentor-forum**

What about child safety?

The safety of young people attending Dojos is, of course, a priority for everyone involved with the CoderDojo movement. There are resources available addressing child safety and protection on Kata and suggestions/requirements for additional training depending on your location. See **dojo.soy/mentor-cp** for more details.

Start Mentoring

If you've decided you want to become a mentor, the next step is to find a Dojo in your area looking for mentors, or start your own! Check out **dojo.soy/mentor-join** and search for Dojos in your area.

What if I can't find a nearby CoderDojo?

If you don't see a Dojo in your area, then maybe you can start one! Details on what's involved are available on our website.
Take a look at **dojo.soy/mentor-new** for details on how you can put together a team and get your community's first CoderDojo up and running!