

This guide covers everything you need to know about the **GirlScript Summer of Code (GSSoC)**, a 3-month long open-source program that helps students and beginners dive into the world of open source.

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## Program Overview

GSSoC is an online, global program that brings together students (Contributors), experienced developers (Mentors), and project owners (Project Admins). Unlike Google Summer of Code (GSoC), GSSoC is **beginner-friendly** and does not require a complex project proposal to get started.

- **Duration:** 3 Months (Typically May–August or Oct–Nov).
  - **Eligibility:** Open to all genders, students, and professionals globally.
  - **Goal:** To help beginners learn Git, GitHub, and contribute to real-world projects.
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## The Step-by-Step Process

### 1. Registration Phase

Generally happening in **February/March** (or late summer for the extended edition), you apply by filling out a contributor form on the official GSSoC website. You'll need to provide your GitHub and LinkedIn profiles.

### 2. Community Bonding Period

Once selected, you are invited to the **Discord Server**.

- **Workshops:** Mentors host sessions on Git, GitHub, and how to find issues.
- **Networking:** You get to interact with Project Admins and fellow contributors to understand the available projects.

### 3. Contribution Period (The Coding Phase)

This is the core of the program.

- **Explore Projects:** Browse the 100+ projects on the GSSoC website. Projects range from Web Dev (MERN, Django) to AI/ML and App Dev.
- **Find Issues:** Look for issues labeled with `#GSSoC25` or specifically `Level 1`, `Level 2`, etc.
- **Request Assignment:** Comment on an issue to ask the Project Admin to assign it to you. **Crucial:** Never work on an issue that hasn't been officially assigned to you.
- **Solve & Submit:** Fork the repo, make changes, and raise a **Pull Request (PR)**.

### 4. Review & Leaderboard

Once your PR is reviewed by a Mentor or Project Admin:

- **Merged:** Your code is integrated into the project.
- **Points Awarded:** Your points automatically update on the GSSoC Leaderboard.

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## Points and Scoring System

GSSoC uses a gamified system to keep contributors motivated. Points are awarded based on the difficulty level of the issue:

Difficulty Level	Points Awarded	Description
Level 1 (Easy)	3 Points	Typos, documentation, or minor UI tweaks.
Level 2 (Medium)	7 Points	Bug fixes or small feature enhancements.
Level 3 (Hard)	10 Points	Complex logic, major features, or refactoring.

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## Perks and Rewards

- **Certificates:** All active contributors receive a certificate of participation.
- **Badges:** Digital badges for hitting milestones (e.g., "Explorer" or "Top Contributor").
- **Goodies:** Top-ranked participants on the leaderboard receive swags like t-shirts, stickers, and other cool tech goodies.
- **Career Opportunities:** Top performers often get prioritized for internships with partner organizations.

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## Pro-Tips for Success

1. **Communicate Early:** If you're stuck, ask in the project's Discord channel or GitHub discussion.
2. **Quality over Quantity:** A single high-quality feature (10 points) is often more valuable for your portfolio than three tiny typo fixes (9 points).
3. **Follow Style Guides:** Read the `CONTRIBUTING.md` file in every repository to ensure your code matches the project's standards.
4. **Be Consistent:** Don't wait until the last week. The leaderboard is competitive, and consistent contributors are more likely to get their PRs reviewed.