Social Summer of Code (SSoC) is an open-source program that focuses on creating a positive social impact. Much like GSSoC, it is designed to be beginner-friendly, allowing students to contribute to real-world projects while earning rewards and building a strong professional portfolio.

📋 Program Overview

SSoC is organized with a mission to promote open-source culture among students of all skill levels. It follows a gamified approach where your contributions translate into points on a global leaderboard.

- **Duration:** Typically 2–3 months (Summer season).
- **Target Audience:** Open to everyone, but specifically tailored for students and open-source beginners.
- **Key Focus:** Promoting collaboration and learning through active contribution.

🛤️ Step-by-Step Process for SSoC

1. Registration (Early Summer)

Keep an eye on the official SSoC website or social media. You will need to register as a **Contributor**. Projects and Mentors also register during this phase.

2. Project Exploration

Once the list of participating projects is released:

- Browse the repositories based on your tech stack (HTML/CSS, JavaScript, Python, Java, etc.).
- Read the project descriptions to understand which social or technical problem they are solving.

3. Community Interaction

Join the official **Discord or Slack** workspace. This is where you can:

- Introduce yourself to Project Admins.
- Ask questions about the codebase.
- Stay updated on workshops and speaker sessions hosted by the organizers.

4. Contributing (The Coding Phase)

This is the core of the program. The workflow is similar to standard open-source practices:

1. **Find an Issue:** Look for issues labeled with SSoC26 or good-first-issue.
2. **Get Assigned:** Comment on the issue to request assignment. **Wait for the tag** before you start coding.
3. **Fork & Branch:** Create a copy of the repo and a new feature branch.
4. **Submit PR:** Raise a Pull Request (PR) once your work is complete.

🏆 Points and Leaderboard

SSoC uses a tiered system to reward effort and complexity:

Issue Level	Points	Description
Level 0	5 Points	Documentation, typos, or README updates.
Level 1	10 Points	Minor UI changes or small bug fixes.
Level 2	25 Points	New components or logic enhancements.
Level 3	45+ Points	Complex features, major refactors, or core logic.

🎁 Perks and Rewards

- **Certificates:** All participants with at least one merged PR receive a certificate.
- **Digital Badges:** Exclusive badges to showcase on LinkedIn or GitHub.
- **Goodies & Swag:** Top performers on the leaderboard are eligible for T-shirts, stickers, and other tech merchandise.
- **Mentorship:** Direct access to experienced developers who can guide your career path.

💡 Pro-Tips for SSoC Success

- **Don't "Issue-Hog":** Only ask for an issue if you are confident you can solve it within 2–3 days. This keeps the program fair for everyone.
- **Document Everything:** Write clear PR descriptions. Explain *what* you changed and *why*.
- **Engage in Workshops:** SSoC often hosts sessions on Resume Building, Open Source, and Career Advice. These are often as valuable as the coding itself.