



GCSC Thought Starters

Attracting Volunteers

Volunteer Coaches (Mentors) Role

Engages directly with students. Build relationships, stimulates student learning, and provides coaching on STEM projects. Creates and nurtures opportunities to spark and support student interest in STEM learning and careers. Motivates students to learn more.

Ideally:

- There is at least 1 coach per 2 students in every STEM Bicycle Club meeting and 3-4 coaches in each 3d Printers Club meeting.
- At least some of volunteers are STEM professionals (engineers, scientists, programmers / software developers, graphic designers, bankers, financial / insurance experts, etc.).
- At least one volunteer is a 3d printing / graphic design / bicycle expert or enthusiast.

Places to Look for Volunteers

- School organization's community-outreach coordinator, principle, or counselor frequently have community contacts who can help.
- Local businesses often want to support schools in their community. Talk with local banks, insurance agents, and restaurants about their interest and even leads for other volunteers. *These businesses may also be willing to provide food, funds for small materials, or co-branded tee-shirts for club members.*
- Consider asking current school partners (example, Adopt A Class) to be involved.
- Soon-to-be-retirees from area businesses, previous years' volunteers, parents.
- Local police departments are often interested to support STEM Bicycle Clubs, especially those with bicycle patrols.
- Service clubs and professional organizations such as [NSBE](#), [SHPE](#), [NOBCCHE](#), [WITI](#), [WISE](#), and National Honor Societies.
- Previous years' students frequently want to return as student coaches and will benefit from the additional learning experience.

Recruiting Tips

- Be clear on your "ask". Clearly communicate volunteer tasks, expectations, and time-frames.
- Be flexible on your "ask". Can you break up the time slots and tasks? Can two volunteers team-up to ensure one of them is present at most-all meetings?
- Use a fun flyer / announcement or ad to be distributed during kick off nights, on social media, or community days. Use GCSC templates to communicate in fun, engaging ways or create one of your own.

Also Consider

Will transportation or meeting times be a challenge for volunteers? What options do you have to reduce the challenge?

What are the specific traits you would like your volunteers to have?

Who is currently in your network? In your school's / organization's network?

