

# Gaza Sky Geeks

## Connecting Palestinian Talents to Employee Volunteers

### Palestine's Leading Tech Hub

**Gaza Sky Geeks**, established in 2011 by Mercy Corps with support from Google, is Palestine's leading tech hub that trains, nurtures and supports emerging tech talent and entrepreneurs.

The Palestinian population faces high poverty and unemployment rates, yet they are highly educated, innovative and resilient. **In 2022, Gaza Sky Geeks will graduate over 5,000 participants, 55% women** in a variety of subjects from full-stack development to certifications in cloud computing.

### Gaza Sky Geeks Mentorship Program

The emerging Palestinian tech and startup ecosystem presents a unique opportunity for global volunteers to connect with a large pool of bright and motivated talent, overcoming their biggest obstacle: isolation. Circulation of knowledge is limited and international best practices in technology and leadership skills are hard to access, leaving little room for building the skills and experiences needed to secure internships and job opportunities.

**This is where you can make a difference.** Through virtual and in-person mentorship, Gaza Sky Geeks aims to expose aspiring tech professionals to global best practices in software development, employability skills, and entrepreneurship. We work with companies and individuals who support our talents **through structured employee engagement programs.**



### How You Can Get Involved

#### 1. Structured 1:1 Mentorship

Mentors run regular 1:1 mentoring sessions with mentees to help them land their first job and/or thrive and flourish in it. During the sessions, mentors help students identify their career goals, develop their resumes, prepare for job interviews, and more.

#### 2. One-Time Engagement

Guest lecturer: Share your experience during a community event or interactive workshop targeting our current participants and alumni network. Topics include technical, business, or employability skills.

#### 3. In-Person Volunteering

Travel to Gaza or the West Bank for a week on a guided skills-based volunteering project delivering workshops, bootcamps, or short trainings supporting hackathons and exchange cultures with our Gaza based team.

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*“It is an absolute pleasure to work with incredibly talented people at GSG. Their drive and dedication to break through imposed barriers are motivating and enlightening. GSG is on the verge of showing the world what talent and drive can achieve! I'm excited to be part of the ride.”* – Volunteer Mentor Rami Ayyad, Senior Program Architect at Salesforce

## Mentor Profiles

We look for tech product and program managers, sales, marketing, and finance experts, software engineers, and designers. **Preferable tech stacks and skills include:**

- Cloud Computing
- Cybersecurity
- Data Structure
- Data Science
- Blockchain/ Web3
- Agile/ Scrum
- Coding Challenges
- Recruitment Experience
- Experience working with junior developers and/or early stage startups

## What Meaningful Volunteering Looks Like

### Salesforce Supports the Code Academy

Between October and December 2021, 16 Salesforce employees worked with 16 graduates of Gaza Sky Geeks' Code Academy delivering bi-weekly 1:1s to help graduates land their first jobs. They helped mentees identify their career goals, look for jobs, update their resumes and LinkedIn, and prepare for

job interviews. Within 3 months of this engagement all 16 students were able to secure employment.

### EY Supports Women in Tech

Between July and August 2022, EY employees delivered workshops on financial and tech literacy for female high school graduates during Banat Geeks Bootcamp, which aims to help young women choose their university majors. 90% of the participants of this Bootcamp ended up majoring in tech fields.

### How to Get Started

Throughout the year Gaza Sky Geeks engages hundreds of employee volunteers who contribute significantly to the future of young people in Palestine. Our partnerships team is dedicated to co-designing, promoting and supporting the implementation of your volunteering program to match your volunteers' skills and motivations.

## CONTACT

[partnerships@gazaskygeeks.com](mailto:partnerships@gazaskygeeks.com)

## More Details about Employee Volunteering Options

	Volunteering Format	Time Commitment	How It Works
<b>1:1 Mentorship</b>	Regular 1:1 mentoring sessions	1-3 month commitment, 2 hours monthly dedicated to 1:1s with mentee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share program brief and student profiles.</li> <li>• Mentor onboarding session</li> <li>• Matchmaking</li> <li>• Regular follow ups</li> </ul>
<b>One-Time Engagement</b>	Guest lecturer at a training event	Workshops are usually between 1-2 hours. Preparation time on average is 2-3 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit scoping discussion (logistics, content, skill matching)</li> <li>• Event delivery</li> </ul>
<b>In-Person Volunteering*</b>	Travel to Palestine to deliver a series of workshops, 1:1s or trainings and events	1-2 week visit, including travel time, coordination for visit starts at least 2 months before visit dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit scoping discussion (logistics, content, skill matching)</li> <li>• Permit facilitation</li> <li>• Accompanied visit upon arrival</li> </ul>

*\*Mercy Corps is not responsible for costs associated with in-person volunteering. Mercy Corps is a registered non-profit. Sponsoring employee volunteering engagements may be eligible for a tax deduction. An initial consultation with a Gaza Sky Geeks representative will help to determine the estimated sponsorship fee for implementation.*