



# Volunteer Handbook

AN OUTLINE OF INDIVIDUAL & CORPORATE OPPORTUNITIES



## ≡ WHO IS PERSEVERE?

### Persevere addresses both sides of the mass incarceration epidemic facing our country.

First, we focus on serving justice-involved individuals and their families, training and certifying incarcerated students as full stack developers, connecting them with meaningful careers, and providing a comprehensive array of programming to ensure their long-term success as contributing members of society. Second, we aim to stop the flow of people entering prison by providing workforce development for Opportunity Youth - people aged 16-24 who are disconnected from school and work.

**Incarcerated individuals who qualify for the program are required to complete a thorough application and skills assessment before being interviewed and approved to join the class.**

### The Persevere Program

- **12 month** program taught in prisons throughout the US. **AZ | TN | SC | VA**
- **6 hr.** classes taught M-F
- Students learn MERN stack
- Total of **1,500 hours** of coding education

### Banyan Labs:

Banyan Labs is the natural next step for Persevere graduates who have served their time and want to hit the ground running. We employ them and help them gain experience in the field, changing lives through education, mentoring, and ongoing support.



### Rachael Rawlings, Volunteer Coordinator

Leading our volunteer efforts and coordinating with each volunteer and developer, is Volunteer Coordinator Rachael Rawlings. Each volunteer additionally works with the program manager and developers associated with their location.

**Contact me: 801.541.1305 | [rrawlings@perseverenow.com](mailto:rrawlings@perseverenow.com)**

# ☰ VOLUNTEERING - FOR INDIVIDUALS

**Volunteers are a vital part of the success of the Persevere program. We simply couldn't do it without their dedication.**

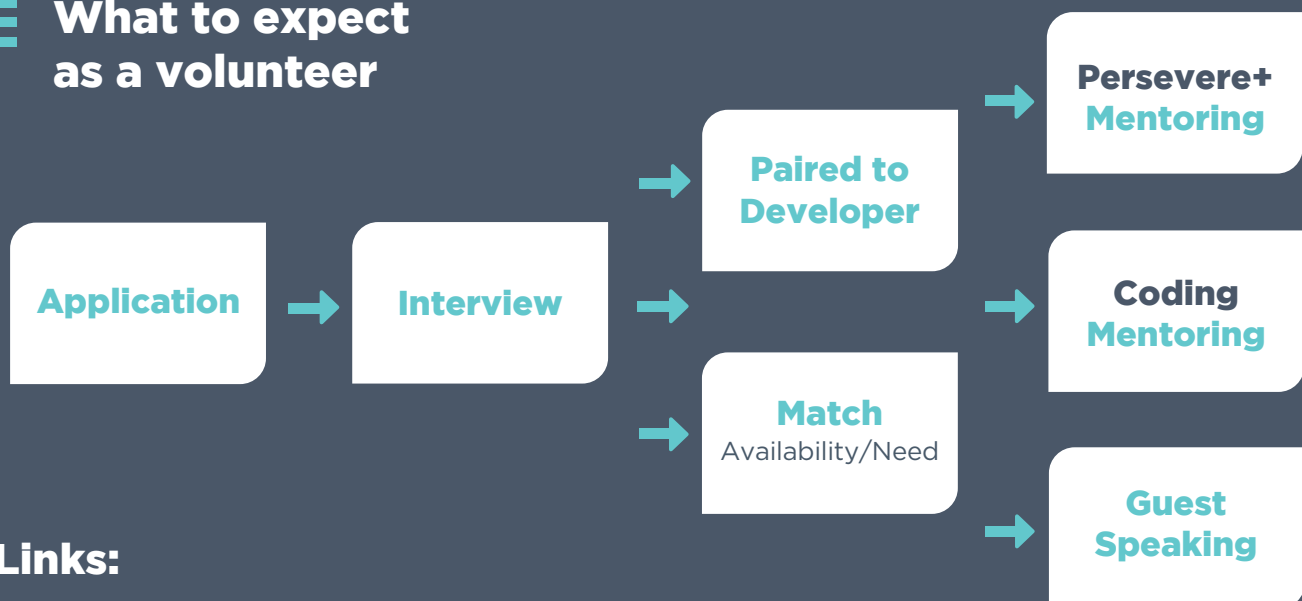
Once the application and interview have been completed, the volunteer will be assigned to one of 3 main categories of services based on their experience, interest, availability, and location. Those categories are:

- **Guest Speakers**
- **Persevere+ Mentors**
- **Coding Mentors**

## General Requirements of a Persevere Volunteer:

- Sign NDA
- Pass background check
- Role Assignment and Training
- Weekly meeting with assigned class or individual
- Monthly meeting with Volunteer Coordinator
- All volunteer positions are remote (for now...)

## ☰ What to expect as a volunteer



### Links:

- Application: <https://perseverenow.org/volunteer/>

# ≡ VOLUNTEERING OPTIONS

## Guest Speakers

- Availability and Preferences are determined through Guest Speaker Survey
- Each Speaker is expected to speak monthly or bi-monthly until all classes that match their availability have been reached
- Invited to bi-monthly volunteer call

## Persevere+ Mentors

- 1 hour training in Persevere+ Curriculum (5 modules: Financial Fitness, Physical Wellness, Emotional Wellness, Family Reunification, Recovery)
- Mentor is paired with a developer by Volunteer Coordinator
- 30 minute introduction meeting between Mentor and Mentee during first week
- Weekly meetings are encouraged to work through Persevere+ modules, but flexibility is afforded according to interest and developer needs
- Monthly check-ins with Mentee and Mentor by Volunteer Coordinator

## Coding Mentors

- Initial pairing is made between Mentor and Developer based on languages known and other skills
- 30 minute introduction meeting between Mentor and Mentee during first week
- Volunteer is added to appropriate Slack channel
- Weekly meetings encouraged between Mentor and Mentee to help with ongoing projects, completing curriculum, reviewing code, or learning a new language
- Monthly check-ins with Mentee and Mentor by Volunteer Coordinator

### Links:

- Application: <https://perseverenow.org/volunteer/>
- Non Disclosure Agreement: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/>

## INTERNS

Our internship program is constantly evolving as new interns join us from various disciplines. We are open to all schools and fields of study. Current and former interns have been focused on computer science, social media, marketing, social work, in both undergraduate and graduate levels of study. Our interns are the best!

### **What's in it for you?**

Along with fulfilling collegiate requirements regarding internships, you'll gain valuable and unique experiences in a dynamic field. Working with adults and the justice system is a rare opportunity for most people, and one that will have a deep and lasting impact on your life.

**Contact Rachael Rawlings: 801.541.1305 | [rrawlings@perseverenow.com](mailto:rrawlings@perseverenow.com)**

## CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS

Sending employees to volunteer at Persevere is a great way to expand your social outreach, develop a network of nonprofits, and explore potential partnership opportunities. Corporate partners are listed on our website, [perseverenow.org](http://perseverenow.org)

**For more information please contact Rachael Rawlings or visit:**  
***[perseverenow.org/volunteer](http://perseverenow.org/volunteer)***