

Square Root Academy - Who We Are

Science + Technology + Engineering + Arts + Mathematics = **STEAM**. Square Root Academy is a STEAM-based non-profit organization dedicated to educating underrepresented youth (our “Scholars”) on the fundamentals of STEAM while emphasizing collaborative learning, innovation, and academic excellence. This goal is executed under our three key pillars: Community Involvement, Project-based Learning, and Professional STEAM Exposure. We expose Academy scholars to the growing field of STEAM at no cost, while promoting creativity, leadership, and academic excellence.

In fulfilling our mission, we partner with schools, libraries, local governments, other community organizations, and leaders in industry. We develop and implement robust, adaptive, and engaging after-school and co-curricular programs in the physical and digital spaces. We work collaboratively, innovate regularly, and prioritize the continual learning, engagement, and growth of our team members. We commit to excellence in service to our communities and positioning ourselves as **Sacramento’s STEAM Program**.

Location:

Sacramento County
(Various physical sites)

Average Hours per Week:

10-15, for new Scholar
Mentors

Hourly Rate:

\$16-\$18/hr, dependent on
experience

Travel Required:

To 1-2 sites and our HQ
@ Lab 7 in Sac

WE DELIVER TRANSFORMATIVE S.T.E.A.M. EXPERIENCES



Who We Help: Our Local Scholars, in Grades 5-12 - During School, After School, In the Summer, and (sometimes) on Weekends

- Our target population we serve is Scholars who are in grades 5 through 12, and are part of communities underrepresented in STEAM academic and professional fields. For example, did you know that Latinos make up 16% of the U.S. workforce but only 9% of STEAM workers, and that Black women account for only 3% of degrees earned in computing? Team #SquareRoot works to change this fact.
- Our Scholars usually live in school district attendance zones around Sacramento. Currently, a majority of our Scholars attend Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) or Elk Grove Unified School District (EGUSD) schools.
- Most Scholars in our programs join Square Root Academy through engaging recruitment efforts! Some participate as parts of partnerships with Square Root Academy and classes during the school day.
- Our Scholars gather in any of these places: At local schools (during the day or after school); at community centers and libraries; at Lab 7, our facility; and virtually through digital formats, such as Zoom!

What You'll Do

Our **Scholar Mentors, CS Education** are STEAM generalists who are essential to our work with local-area Scholars. They guide the educational experience of our Scholars through encouragement, positivity, and leadership. They support the Scholars' growth in the exploration and understanding of STEAM fundamentals in a classroom setting. They are vital to the academic and developmental success of our Scholars.

This role reports to the Director of Education. Headlines of this role:

- In teams of two, leading, implementing, and teach **Computer Science-centered classes** at one or two sites after school.
- They **regularly learn and grow** through professional development in content and pedagogy, collaborating regularly with each other.
- They skillfully facilitate **meaningful, engaging, and active learning** of our Scholars, helping them see the power within themselves.

Our Scholar Mentors use STEAM mindsets, effective strategies, a commitment to learning, and their hearts and experience to facilitate learning in a range of topics! This position facilitates one or both of the following programs, held 90 minutes a week at local school sites on a M/W or T/Th schedule, generally after the school day and following the academic calendar.

Code/Create I (Grades 7-8)	Middle school youth will use state-of-the-art tablets with keyboards to explore fundamentals in both <i>coding</i> and <i>digital art</i> . The ideal Scholar Mentor has some basic familiarity with these concepts, but more importantly, a desire to learn and engage youth with their own learning!
Code/Create II (Grades 9-12)	High school youth will use brand-new laptops, an engaging platform, and innovative curriculum to learn how to code, ultimately working toward an industry certification known as SWIFT. The ideal Scholar Mentor has taken a couple of programming courses or has programming experience. We provide some time for learning and avenues for support.

Our adaptable, mission-oriented Scholar Mentors also engage in various specific tasks to support their work. They:

- **Uphold** productive learning environments where Scholars respect peers and adults, continually grow, are safe, and build relationships
- **Learn** continually to expand their skills in: *all* STEAM content, project-based learning, equity, and Socio-Emotional Learning (SEL)
- **Participate** and attend collaborations and weekly Team #SquareRoot meetings, both synchronously and asynchronously
- **Partner** in developing and improving upon programs, being an integral part of increasing our impact with Scholars
- **Manage** recordkeeping for our internal use, as well as our partners, and act as a professional liaison to partner sites
- **Participate** and lead in multiple formats, including in-person/digital, synchronous/asynchronous, written/verbal
- **Know** Scholars as individuals, building mentor relationships with them, and connecting them with additional learning opportunities
- **Represent** Team #SquareRoot through professionalism and pride at all class sessions, team meetings, and any Academy related events
- **Embody** and promote the Square Root Academy's STEAM and equity-driven culture and values.

Who You Are

Is Team #SquareRoot where you see yourself making a social impact? Successful Scholar Mentors bring various qualities to the mission:

- **Certification:** Our Scholar Mentors take pride in their commitment to STEAM learning, validated by certification. They generally:
 - Have, or are currently studying to obtain, a Bachelor's degree in a STEAM related field, OR
 - Have a certificate or Associate's Degree in a technical or scientific field
- Our Scholar Mentors who are currently studying for a four-year degree will generally be in their third year of STEAM-related program
- Our Scholar Mentors have an equity-oriented passion and are committed to eradicating disparities in outcomes for youth from marginalized groups. They generally either have experience in working with youth, or a commitment to strong work with them
- Upon employment, our Scholar Mentors will pass statutory requirements for employees working in schools, such as background checks with the Department of Justice, medical clearances (such as TB and COVID-19 tests)
- Our Scholar Mentors communicate professionally, through writing, speaking, and presenting
- Our Scholar Mentors have a team-oriented mindset and demonstrate the flexibility needed in a community-based non-profit organization
- **Schedule:** Our Scholar Mentors commute to local-area sites, or work virtually, dependent on the current needs of the program.
 - Please see above for sample schedules; exact times and locations to be determined but near City of Sacramento.

Why Join Team #SquareRoot?

At Square Root Academy, an equity-driven mission guides the impact of our work. You have the opportunity to help create a change that you want to see in the world. Additionally, we are an organization that promotes self-care, professional development, collaboration, team building opportunities, and growing your leadership - if you're interested. And, working with our Scholars to build their capacities and realize the power within themselves is a profoundly rewarding experience - whether it be for one year, two years, or **hopefully** a career!

Square Root Academy is an equal opportunity employer; promoting equity in our communities is at the core of our work. Continue the conversation with us by visiting our website, www.squarerootacademy.com, or contacting us at admin@squarerootacademy.com. No matter what you do, we encourage you to stay curious! [Revised Sep 13, 2021]