

WordPress Meetup Activity

Your First WordPress Contribution

60 minutes · Beginner · make.wordpress.org

By the end of this activity, you will be able to:

1. **Identify** contributor teams that make up the WordPress open source project.
2. **Explain** the WordPress contributor pathways and what's available to beginners.
3. **Create** the accounts required to begin contributing to Make WordPress teams.
4. **Contribute** to the WordPress project using an official contributor pathway.
5. **Evaluate** which pathways best match your own skills and availability.

What you need for this activity

A device with a modern web browser

Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari

An internet connection

No installation or WordPress account required to start

Access to your email inbox

Account confirmations will arrive during the session

Willingness to create 3 free accounts

WordPress.org, WordPress Slack, and GitHub — we'll do this together in Part 2

What we're doing today

Part 1 — How WordPress Gets Made

10 min

Part 2 — Create Your Accounts

10 min

Part 3 — Choose Your Pathway

5 min

Part 4 — Make Your First Contribution

30 min

Debrief

5 min

How WordPress Gets Made

1. make.wordpress.org — open in your browser. Read the intro. Scroll through the team list.
2. Notice the range: Core, Design, Documentation, Support, Testing, Polyglots, Accessibility, Marketing, and more.
3. Choose 2-3 teams that interest you. Open their blogs. What are they working on right now?
4. Share: Which team caught your attention, and why?

Create Your Accounts

1. WordPress.org account login.wordpress.org/register/

Required for Slack, trac, the plugin directory, and most pathways.

2. GitHub account github.com/signup

Required for several pathways including documentation and Core.

3. WordPress Slack make.wordpress.org/chat/

Log in with your WordPress.org account. This is where the teams communicate.

Choose Your Pathway

make.wordpress.org/handbook/pathways/

Pathway	Focus area
Build	Contribute to Core, Gutenberg, or other WordPress software
Design	UI, UX, and visual contributions to WordPress projects
Write	Documentation, blog posts, release notes
Translate	Localize WordPress into your language
Test	Test WordPress releases and plugins
Organize	Contributor days, events, community building
Promote	Marketing, social media, spreading the word

Make Your First Contribution

1. Open your chosen pathway page and read the full step-by-step instructions.
2. Follow the steps on the pathway page. Take it one step at a time.
3. Capture your result: screenshot your open issue, submitted translation, test report, or contribution.
4. Explore a second pathway if you finish early. Or find your team's Slack channel and say hello.

Common questions

Question	Answer
Do I need to know how to code?	No. Testing, translating, writing docs, and organizing all happen without writing a line of code.
Is my contribution too small to matter?	No. One translated string reaches every WordPress user in that language. One filed issue can fix something that was confusing thousands of people.
What if my email hasn't confirmed yet?	Continue with the accounts you have. You can confirm the others after the session and still complete your contribution.
How do I know which team to join long-term?	Follow what already interests you. Attend a few team meetings in Slack. Most teams hold weekly chats in their channel.

Debrief — 5 Minutes

- 1 What did you just contribute? Hold up your screenshot or share your screen.
- 2 Was it harder or easier than you expected? What surprised you?
- 3 Which team would you come back to — and what would your next step be?

Want to go further?

All 7 contributor pathways	https://make.wordpress.org/handbook/pathways/
WordPress Slack — join your team's channel	https://make.wordpress.org/chat/
Upcoming contributor days	https://events.wordpress.org/
An Introduction to Contributing — Learn WordPress	https://learn.wordpress.org/lesson/an-introduction-to-contributing/
Make WordPress — all team blogs	https://make.wordpress.org



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