



BSidesLV Mentorship Program

We at BSidesLV are again asking the InfoSec community to step-up and get more involved. One of the ways we're doing this, is through our mentorship program for new speakers. One of our tracks is "Proving Ground" and the main criteria to get a slot in this track will be being a first time conference speaker. As we all know how hard it can be to find your voice, or even to just translate data into talking points that won't lose your audience, we're looking to pair each of the Proving Ground applicants up with a mid to high profile mentor, with a solid track record of public speaking, who will work with them from CFP to podium.

The process will work like this: When the CFP goes out, potential speakers will have a choice of four tracks to apply for. If they choose Proving Ground, and make it past our CFP review board, they will then be passed on to the Mentor List, where the mentors will be able to choose who they want to work with, based on area(s) of expertise and experience. The mentor will then work with their mentee, answering questions by email as needed and Skyping with them once a week for about 15-30 minutes, to see where they are in their presentation implementation. The mentor will assist with translating data into talking points and assuring their talk is consumable by "Joe Shmoe InfoSec", not just the peers in their area of interest. The day of presentation, the mentor will attend their mentee's talk, to boost morale and assist with the Q&A, if their mentee gets flustered.

This year, all mentors/mentees will be provided with a guaranteed badge to BSidesLV, a BSidesLV Proving Ground t-shirt, special mention during the conference and a badge that will identify them as a part of the mentorship program. We've also implemented a "Sponsor a Mentee" program, to provide travel and lodging and assure that our first time speakers are able to afford to attend BSidesLV. If you need financial assistance in order to be able to attend BSidesLV and are applying to speak in "Proving Ground", let us know when you submit your CFP, in "Other Notes".

If you feel the mentorship program is something you would be interested in contributing to and you have the time to lend a helping hand, please email gksouthwick@bsideslv.org with "BSidesLV 2013 Mentor" in the subject line and a brief introduction of who you are, where you've spoken, what you've presented on and what your area(s) of expertise are. Acceptance into the program is contingent upon your being available to attend BSidesLV during your mentee's talk, so please do not apply if you have scheduled conflicts during Black Hat (Wednesday) or DefCon (Thursday).

We hope that by providing this service, we'll have the chance to "Pay it forward" to the new generation of hackers. Let's give them a chance to find their voice in a welcoming, encouraging environment.

Thanks so much for your interest in the BSidesLV Mentorship Program.