

AI Tinkerers Hackathons — Sponsor Overview

Status: Canonical public overview for sponsor-facing hackathon questions.

AI Tinkerers hackathons bring selected AI builders together to make working systems around a real technical challenge. The format is deliberately focused: one room or coordinated city network, active building, live demonstrations, technical evaluation, and useful feedback.

For sponsors, the opportunity is to help excellent builders do ambitious work—not to buy a microphone or a list of people.

Who Is In The Room

AI Tinkerers is selective and capacity-limited. Organizers review registrations for:

- evidence of active building, research, experimentation, or technical leadership;
- relevance to the hackathon's problem and format;
- likely contribution to a team, demo, judging process, or technical conversation; and
- the mix of skills and projects needed for a strong room.

This is a meritocracy based on current work and contribution. A prestigious employer or title does not guarantee entry, and unfinished work is welcome when it is real. The goal is to convene leading innovators who are pushing the field forward—not to run a general networking event.

The exact selection process, room size, and number of applications vary by event. Any figures used in a proposal should come from the live event or platform record, not from an evergreen estimate.

The Format

A typical program includes:

1. A clearly framed technical challenge or set of tracks.
2. A build period in which participants work alone or in teams.
3. Technical support from organizers, mentors, and participating sponsor engineers.
4. Working demonstrations rather than pitch-only presentations.
5. Structured judging or peer feedback appropriate to the event.
6. A recap built from projects, demos, and verified event results.

The exact schedule, team rules, judging system, prizes, recording plan, and publishing scope are set for each program. They are not implied by sponsorship alone.

How Sponsors Contribute

The strongest sponsors bring something builders can use:

- a hard, relevant technical problem;
- tools, infrastructure, APIs, models, datasets, hardware, or credits;
- engineers or technical leaders who can answer implementation questions;
- judges or reviewers who give specific, constructive feedback;
- prizes or follow-on support tied to published rules; and
- funding that helps organizers run a high-quality event.

Sponsor participation should remain technical and useful. Product context can be part of the program when it helps builders understand a tool or problem, but a sponsor presentation is not automatically included and sales pitches are out of format.

What A Sponsorship May Include

Depending on the approved program and package, deliverables may include:

- sponsor recognition on the event page and agreed event materials;
- a defined challenge, prize, workshop, office-hours, judging, or mentor role;
- opportunities for sponsor engineers to engage with participants during the event;
- project and demo visibility through public pages or approved recap media;
- aggregate registration, participation, project, judging, or content reporting; and
- opt-in follow-up paths for participants who choose to hear from the sponsor.

Every proposal should name the exact deliverables. Do not assume that all items above are included in every sponsorship.

Data, Privacy, And Follow-Up

Sponsorship does not include unrestricted access to participant profiles, private contact information, attendee lists, application answers, code repositories, judge notes, or the broader AI Tinkerers member network.

Sponsor reporting is limited to the approved program and may include aggregate metrics, public project information, approved media, and feedback collected for that purpose. Direct follow-up with a participant requires that person's consent or another clearly authorized relationship.

AI Tinkerers may facilitate an introduction when both sides want it. We do not promise lead lists, hiring pipelines, customer introductions, alumni-network access, or ongoing private access to participants.

What A Sponsor Cannot Buy

A sponsorship does not guarantee:

- admission decisions or control of participant selection;
- a keynote, speaking slot, judging outcome, or winner selection;

- mandatory use of the sponsor's technology unless the published challenge rules require it;
- attendee or member contact data;
- leads, hires, customers, product adoption, or investment outcomes;
- control of editorial coverage, participant feedback, or public conclusions; or
- promotion through unrelated chapters, newsletters, or community channels.

These boundaries protect the independence and technical credibility that make the program valuable.

What Sponsors Can Learn

An event can produce useful evidence about what builders attempted, what they demonstrated, which implementation problems appeared, and what participants voluntarily shared about their experience. That evidence can inform developer relations, product education, and future technical programs.

It is not a controlled market-research panel or a substitute for recruiting diligence. Any claims about adoption, sentiment, talent, or return on sponsorship should be grounded in the approved data and attributed evidence from the specific event.

Single-City And Multi-City Programs

AI Tinkerers can support local programs and coordinated programs across multiple chapters. Scope depends on organizer capacity, venue availability, timing, the technical brief, and the value of the program to builders. Network scale, city availability, and current event counts must be verified when a proposal is prepared.

A Good Sponsor Brief

Before a proposal is prepared, it helps to know:

- the technical audience and problem the sponsor wants to serve;
- whether the program is intended for one city, several cities, or the wider network;
- preferred timing and any hard deadlines;
- the tools, credits, engineers, judges, mentors, or prizes the sponsor can contribute;
- the outcome the sponsor hopes to learn from or support; and
- any legal, data, brand, or content requirements that could affect the format.

AI Tinkerers reviews the fit, ownership, feasibility, and exact deliverables before making a commitment.

Next Step

Contact AI Tinkerers HQ with the proposed technical problem, geography, timing, and contribution. The team will route the inquiry to the appropriate partnership or local organizer owner and determine whether a single-city or multi-city program makes sense.