

OPEN OFFICE HOURS

ADVISER FAQs

What are Venture Cafe Office Hours?

The Office Hours Program is a free program of the Venture Cafe Foundation which aims to connect entrepreneurs to expert advisers. This program allows advisers to post windows of time for open meetings with entrepreneurs and innovators to meet with them and gain from their expertise.

Who can attend Venture Cafe Office Hours?

Anyone. These are open office hours. They are targeted at who considers themselves a Small Business Owner, Entrepreneur, Innovator, or has an idea (“small” or “big”) to improve the human condition. We support those starting out on their first foray to serial entrepreneurs.

What is a typical first meeting like?

While this varies greatly based on the topic area of the adviser, most meetings are 30 minutes. This open Office Hour Program is often where ideas are forged into companies that improve the human condition. Often the advisee has the drive but lacks the guidance to make realistic steps to the next phase.

Please do not expect every entrepreneur you meet in this program to be working on the next Facebook or Tesla. What Venture Cafe has seen repeatedly is advisers having direct positive impact on startups and getting them moving in the right direction.

How do advisees book Venture Cafe Office Hours?

Visit our website here: <http://vencaf.org/book-office-hours/>

Do advisers sign NDAs?

Our Advisers are recommended not sign to Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs). We aim to build relationships based on trust. These Office Hours are about open advice and sharing but please advisees should not feel obligated to share confidential information or trade secrets. Likewise, Advisers should not feel legally obligated to keep nor share any information shared in the meeting.

Is an advisee’s idea protected?

Advisees should know that their idea is not protected by Venture Cafe Staff, partners, or advisers. If they have confidential information or trade secrets they wish to protect, please tell them they should not share them with anyone not legally obligated to protect that information.

OPEN OFFICE HOURS

FAQs

Should an advisee pay an adviser?

No. These sessions are free and open to the community members. If an adviser asks to be paid for time at Venture Cafe Office Hours, that is grounds for termination with the Venture Cafe Foundation Office Hour program.

Can I meet an adviser outside of Venture Cafe?

Advisees should not expect the adviser to be available outside of their office hours at Venture Cafe. As an adviser, you are donating your time during the Office Hour sessions and should not be expected to meet outside those sessions. If an advisee suggests an additional meeting outside of the Cafe locations and hours, please understand that the Foundation has no purview over these meetings.

How many times can an advisee book office hours?

Unless an adviser indicated they would like to meet more or less often, the advisees should limit meetings with advisers to one 30 minute session per month.

What if an advisee says or does something I believe is inappropriate?

Please contact the on-site Venture Cafe Staff or email incidents@vencaf.org immediately!