University Validator Initiative Overview

Shark Labs invites your crypto club to deploy a fully funded Solana validator node as part of our pilot initiative. The validator will launch with an initial stake of approximately 50,000 SOL, secured and guaranteed by Shark Labs. Within three months of deployment, we guarantee the stake of ~200,000 SOL through additional staking pools and strategic partnerships. All upfront expenses, including hardware, hosting, and maintenance, are managed by Shark Labs. Once your club commits, deployment will be completed within 1–3 weeks, and your share of rewards will be distributed continuously in SOL to a multi-signature wallet co-managed by club officers and Shark Labs.

Program Details

This initiative aims to support Solana network decentralization and increase on-campus blockchain awareness. In collaboration with the Solana Foundation, Shark Labs will also facilitate Solana-focused events and workshops to engage club members and the wider student community. While Shark Labs handles all technical and financial commitments, we seek your club's collaboration in occasional governance activities (for example, voting on protocol proposals) and brand support - such as sharing announcements on social media or using the club's logo in promotional materials.

Benefits for the Club and University

Hosting a remote Solana validator provides significant educational and financial value. Club members will gain hands-on experience with blockchain node operations, network monitoring, and staking. Participation directly supports STEM learning objectives by giving students real-world exposure to decentralized systems and network security. The validator's protocol rewards generate a recurring revenue stream, delivered in SOL and intended for reinvestment in blockchain-related events, workshops, or student initiatives. Because the node is off-campus, Shark Labs assumes responsibility for deployment, hosting, and maintenance, eliminating any financial or logistical burden on the club. Partnering with Shark Labs also elevates your club's visibility: hosting a high-profile Solana node demonstrates leadership in emerging technology and can attract broader support from university administration and industry stakeholders.

Club Expectations

Although Shark Labs manages every operational detail, we request the club's good-faith support in a few areas. First, allocate a portion of the validator's rewards toward Solana-related events, workshops, or student initiatives. Second, designate a primary liaison, such as the club president or a technical lead, to coordinate logistics, facilitate student participation, and serve as our main point of contact. Third, assist with promotional efforts both online and on campus to build awareness among students, ensuring engagement with the validator's educational opportunities.

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Implementation Timeline

After your club's formal commitment, Shark Labs will complete deployment as soon as possible, likely within 1-3 weeks. The initial stake will be delegated soon after. Over the next three months, Shark Labs will orchestrate additional staking pools and partnerships to expand total stake to 200,000 SOL.

Contact Information

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