START

I'm Josef. I like working on Ruby packaging.

Josef Šimánek / simi / Ruby Elders

- At Ruby Elders, we keep Ruby apps running, up to date, and secure.
- I used to help maintain RubyGems and Bundler, run RubyGems.org, and welcome new contributors.
- Now I work on Ruby packaging through gem.coop. I still enjoy this stuff.

Who has followed the story? Where would you like to start?

THE COOPERATIVE

The people doing the work need a voice.

At gem.coop, we want the people doing the work to have a say in how it is run.

- Clear rules for joining and taking part.
- Members elect the project leadership.
- You can read the rules and see where the money goes.

Having a say shouldn’t depend on whether the person in charge likes you.

Project governance

THE COOPERATIVE

What should be different here?

One person in charge? Members elect leaders, and the rules say who can decide what.

One sponsor paying the bills? We want the service to earn enough to pay for its own work.

No idea what’s going on? The rules and financial records are public.

A coop can still have problems. **We have to follow our rules and listen when someone says something is wrong.**

THE COOPERATIVE

Pay for the work, not control over it.

Servers cost money. So does people’s time: reviewing PRs, making releases, and helping users.

We want to **pay our own bills**, without waiting to see if one sponsor will support us for another year.

We have sponsors today. We’re still working towards that goal.

Public finances · Sponsors

PROJECTS

A place to keep building.

There are a few things to talk about:

1. **The gem server:** publishing and downloading gems.
2. **Gem Fellowship:** grants to help people maintain Ruby projects.
3. **Side projects:** things we want to try out in Ruby.

Some of us work on several of these. That doesn’t make every project part of gem.coop.

PROJECTS

A gem server we can build on.

gem.coop keeps a mirror of gems from RubyGems.org. You can also publish gems in your own namespace.

To try the mirror, change the source in your Gemfile:

```
source "https://gem.coop"
```

Server and documentation

PROJECTS

Your name. Your publishing space.

A namespace gives you your own place to publish gems.

```
source "https://gem.coop/@kaspth" do
  gem "oaken", "~> 1.0"
end
```

Someone else already used the gem name you wanted? In your namespace, you can still use it.

Namespace release

PROJECTS

A little time before a new dependency.

The cooldown mirror waits **48 hours** before showing newly published gems.

```
source "https://beta.gem.coop/cooldown"
```

That gives people some time to notice problems. It **doesn’t mean every gem is safe**.

Cooldown documentation · Beta as checked September 16, 2026.

PROJECTS

Maintenance is work worth funding.

Through the **Gem Fellowship**, gem.coop and Contributed Systems help fund Ruby maintainers.

Contributed Systems promised **$100,000 a year for three years** for work on existing Ruby projects.

This money is for maintainers. It isn’t the budget for running the gem server.

Program announcement · 2026 recipients

PROJECTS

Room to experiment again.

I also want to try ideas that don’t fit into the existing tools.

Ruby Butler is one of my experiments to make everyday Ruby work easier.

rv, **wubular**, **jim**, … **peak**

We can share ideas and help each other. These side projects don’t have to become official gem.coop projects.

My Ruby Butler writing

OUTCOME

Help build the Ruby you want to use.

Why help? Meet people, learn something, and improve tools you use. It can be fun (if meeting people online is your kind of fun).

Ask yourself: **What's the benefit for me? What's the benefit for others?**

What can you do? Try the server. Help us reproduce a bug. Fix some docs, review a PR, or help someone new. It doesn't have to be code.

How to start? Pick a project on GitHub, read how to contribute, and ask about a small task. Or just come talk to me tonight.

Want to become a member? There are rules for joining. Sending a PR or creating a server account doesn't automatically give you a vote.

OUTCOME

I got something wrong too.

People had told me about someone breaking the rules before. I didn’t act as I should have.

When it happened to me, I wanted the rules to apply equally. **I should have done the same for others earlier.**

I still want to work on Ruby and RubyGems. gem.coop is how I keep doing that.

OUTCOME

Thanks for listening!

Any questions?

I’m happy to chat after the meetup too.

Have a different opinion on something I shared? I’d be happy to hear it.

Thanks for spending this time with me. Enjoy EuRuKo!

gem.coop · Ruby Elders · simi on GitHub