What is Counterspell?

This November, we are running a 24-hour hackathon called Counterspell in Boston. Counterspell is Hack Club's largest simultaneous global event ever, with 200+ concurrent locations around the world.

Counterspell is a beginner-friendly game jam for high schoolers where coders, artists, and musicians will spend 24 hours together to build games. Game jams are a subset of hackathons, which encourage participants to improve their coding skills and collaborate with people with all kinds of talents.

Counterspell is a part of Hack Club, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that empowers 30,000+ teenagers around the world to code through a network of coding clubs and events. Hack Club has run and supported countless hackathons, including one on a train across Canada, another on the Pacific Crest Trail, and many, many more!

Our Mission

Our mission is to inspire the next generation of makers worldwide by introducing them to game development in a fun, collaborative environment.

They will work in teams to build projects and advance their creativity, collaboration, and innovation skills. For Hack Club, hacking means problem-solving, innovating, and creating incredible projects and friendships. The Hack Club community is made up of coders, makers, and artists brought together through their shared passion for creating. Hackathons connect creators, and our organizing team would not have met if it weren't for hackathons run by Hack Club!

Hackathons let others see the joy in coding that we do. Game jams give people an opportunity to learn how to code for the first time in a low-stakes environment. The magic of hackathons is being able to draw inspiration from peers who are also innovating and making cool projects, even after the event. Beyond this, making friends and building a community are among the most important parts of hackathons like Counterspell. We aim to help people see our community and inspire them to keep building it themselves. We would never have been inspired to run an event like this without other people doing it before us, and we'd love to inspire people to keep running more hackathons in the future.

Boston is particularly well suited for our event because it is a global center for innovation and research. High school coders are inspired and have countless opportunities here, and by supporting local high schoolers through hackathons, we aim to provide opportunities and foster the next generation of innovators in the Boston area.

By supporting us, you help us further our mission. We can't run this event without you, and we would appreciate any support.

Members of our team have helped organize:

- [Ascend](#), 50+ girls and non-binary teens in Los Angeles for a 36-hour space-themed hackathon!

- [HacKnight](#), 70+ teens at BB&N High School for a 36-hour learnathon/hackathon (in-depth workshops & making projects).

- [NightHacks](#), 160 high schoolers from across the globe came together to create 40 coding projects in a 24-hour online hackathon.

- [Think Like a Programmer](#), 30 Girl Scouts were taught by 10 high schoolers in Boston in collaboration with the Girls Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts.

If you want to sponsor us...

Here are some suggested sponsorship packages! You aren't required to claim every perk (if, say, you're unable to send technical mentors). We're always open to building custom deals!

If you choose to donate without receiving anything in return, your contributions will be tax-deductible, as we qualify as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit being fiscally sponsored by The Hack Foundation (EIN: 81-2908499).

	Free	$250+	$500+	$1,000+
Send your swag!	✅	✅	✅	✅
Logo displayed on our website		✅	✅	✅
Opening ceremony shout-out			✅	✅
Send technical mentors				✅

If you want to host us…

Thank you so much for your generosity! To ensure this event is a success, we've outlined some points of discussion to ensure we set up well in your venue.

Date & Time: Morning of Saturday, November 23 to early afternoon of Sunday, November 24. Unfortunately, we can't be flexible with these dates because our event has to be concurrent with others around the world.

Demographic: High school students (almost all <18) who are excited to code! We're expecting 100+ attendees.

Budget: Because we have a limited budget, we cannot pay to use your space. Consider it as a generous donation! We will pay any cleaning fees needed and are happy to negotiate sponsorship perks in return!

Food: We don't plan on cooking, except for potentially preparing coffee and hot chocolate! We plan on purchasing/catering all other food, but we will require running water and garbage disposal.

Hygiene: We'll need bathrooms!

Loudness: Akin to an active classroom: background music, bursts of excitement, and otherwise chatter between friends.

Rooms: Ideally, hackathons have:
- Large space for opening and closing ceremonies
- Breakout rooms for workshops
- Closed space for setting up sleeping bags
- Assorted areas for general work and play

We can make almost any office environment work, though!

Supervision: As we will host mostly minors, we will have background-checked adults supervising throughout the entire event duration. We will make sure attendees are behaving and being respectful of the space. All Hack Clubbers also follow our Code of Conduct.

Security: We'd love to allow attendees to enter & exit at designated times in the event for fun outdoor activities we plan on organizing, provided their parents have signed the appropriate waiver! Aside from official activities, attendees would be forbidden from leaving the premises save for serious circumstances, pending parental permission.

Technology: We need cell service and Wi-Fi to support 100+ users (~200 devices), and sufficient electricity and power outlets to support 25+ plugged-in electronics. We'd appreciate built-in AV equipment (projectors, microphones, speakers, etc.), but this is negotiable if need be.

Other: If there's anything else we may have overlooked, please bring it up in our emails/call(s)! We aim to have full clarity on what this event entails so it can be a success for everyone.