Hour of Code Tips for Virtual Events

Anybody can learn
December 6-12, 2021

HOUR OF CODE

The Hour of Code is a global movement introducing tens of millions of students worldwide to computer science, inspiring kids to learn, breaking stereotypes, and leaving them feeling empowered.

While Hour of Code events are traditionally held in classrooms and other venues across the globe, you don't need to be together in-person to enjoy the fun! You can host a virtual Hour of Code online using these tips.

Start your event together

Start your event with a virtual kick off online together to get participants excited. There are several ways you can begin your event to get students engaged.

Invite a guest speaker

Volunteers are ready to help! Simply use our volunteer map to find guests that are offering to visit remotely. Most are willing to share their experience with computer science and technology to help inspire your students.

Inspirational videos

Show participants one of our inspirational videos that feature role models in real careers that use computer science. Many videos are less than 5 minutes long and feature inspiration from celebrities your students will recognize.

Discuss CS for good

Turn your event into a deeper understanding of computer science by considering the impact of technology on society and our everyday lives. Ask students guiding questions and turn the beginning of your event into an interactive discussion.

What to prepare ahead of time

Select and test your virtual event platform. You're probably familiar with platforms like Cisco Webex, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, Skype, or Zoom. Familiarize yourself with your selected platform, test out its capabilities, and run through your agenda prior to your event date. Consider whether or not you want to allow for some interactivity, potentially through polls, Q&A, or moderated chat.

Plan how students will participate. It may be helpful for you to determine 1-3 Hour of Code activity options for them to choose from ahead of time. This allows you to choose activities that are best suited for their grade level and be better prepared to provide assistance if students run into questions.

Self-led

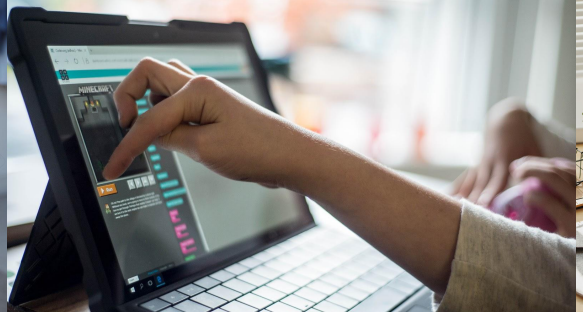
After your kick off, you can have students leave the video conference to work on their Hour of Code activities independently rather than live together. This allows students to immerse themselves in their own projects and gain a stronger understanding of the CS concepts.

Together online

If you prefer your participants to remain on the same video call for the duration of your event, please note that they'll need to have two windows open at all times - one for the video conference, and the other for students to work on their activity.

With parents

For students that are Grade 4 and younger, consider encouraging their parents to host an Hour of Code at home. You can support them with recommended tutorials as well as this helpful How-To for Parents.


What to prepare ahead of time (continued)

Enlist a volunteer. You can find a volunteer suited to your needs by visiting our volunteer map. Many are available for remote participation and are excited to speak about their experience in computer science, how technology impacts their roles, or simply to help you with troubleshooting student questions.

Celebration supplies. Take a look below for ideas on celebrating your virtual Hour of Code. Some may require you to prepare ahead of time such as creating completion certificates for all of your participants.

Celebrate together!

Similar to how you started the event, come together afterwards to celebrate! Here are ideas for making your virtual celebration special:

- Allow students to **share completed projects** with the class. If your conferencing platform allows, you can even encourage students to take a screenshot of their projects and set it as their virtual background!
- **Discuss learnings**: What have they learned about computer science or technology? What did they do when they ran into a problem, how did they solve it?
- Create and **share certificates** for your participants
- Share photos and videos of your virtual Hour of Code on social media. Use **#HourOfCode** and @codeorg so we can highlight your success, too!

Keep learning - go beyond the Hour of Code!

Continue learning in class or online	Find the best learning resources for your classroom at code.org/educate. Or have your students keep going independently on Code.org's online learning platform, where you can track student progress as they learn at their own pace.
Expand computer science at your school or district	Visit code.org/yourschool to learn how to bring a full K-12 computer science pathway and professional development to your school or district. Encourage elementary school teachers to find free, one-day local workshops, at code.org/k5.
Help remove policy obstacles to computer science	Code.org and its partners are working to change policies at the federal, state, and local level to increase access to computer science for all students. Learn about what's happening in your area and how you can help at advocacy.code.org.

"I challenge girls in every single country to learn one Hour of Code."

Malala Yousafzai
Nobel Peace Prize Winner

Mark your calendars for December 6-12, 2021!

Start at HourofCode.com

Hour of Code Frequently Asked Questions

Still have questions?
We have answers.

HOUR OF CODE

Will the Hour of Code take a full hour?
Many students will be able to finish their activities in less than an hour, and that's okay! Students can continue to try new tutorials while other students complete their activity.

Do all students have to do the same activity?
For a virtual setting, we recommend that you predetermine 1-3 activities for your students to try. This allows you to choose activities that are best suited for their grade level and provides you with more familiarity on the tutorials if questions arise throughout the event. However, there is no requirement that every student *has* to do the same activity.

Can I do an Hour of Code not during Computer Science Education Week?
You can do an Hour of Code activity or host an Hour of Code event whenever you want. You don't even have to do it in December! The Hour of Code is a great learning experience any time of year. And you don't have to register your event, all you have to do is get started.

Why computer science?
Every student should have the opportunity to learn computer science. It helps nurture problem-solving skills, logic, and creativity. By starting early, students will have a foundation for success in any 21st-century career path. See more stats here.

I don't know anything about coding. Can I still host an event?
Of course. Hour of Code activities are self-guided. All you have to do is try our current tutorials, pick the tutorial you want, and pick an hour — we take care of the rest. We also have options for every age and experience level, from kindergarten and up. Start planning your event by reading our online how-to guides.

What devices should I use for my students?
Code.org activities work on all devices and browsers. Tech needs for non-Code.org activities can be found on code.org/learn in the specific activity's description. Don't forget we also offer unplugged activities if there are students working without internet access or devices.

Do students need to log on using an account?
No. Absolutely no signup or login is required for students to try the Hour of Code. Signing up for the Hour of Code does NOT automatically create a Code.org account.

How much can one learn in an hour?
The goal of the Hour of Code is not to teach anybody to become an expert computer scientist in one hour. One hour is only enough to learn that computer science is fun and creative and that it is accessible at all ages, for all students, regardless of background. As a result, millions of teachers and students go beyond one hour, to learn for a whole day or a whole week or longer, and many of those students go on to enroll in an entire course or even a college major.

Above all, what all participants can learn in an hour is that we can do this.