

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

Department of Sociology
3120 Lincoln Hall, MC-454
702 S. Wright St.
Urbana, IL 61801-3621

Informed Assent

Please read this assent agreement carefully.

You are being asked to participate in a voluntary research study. The purpose of this study is to create a unique learning environment that will nurture future computer scientists in industry and the academy. Participating in this study will involve attending monthly trainings and weekly meetings about computer science where you will create various projects. Funding for the project is one year. However, we would like to stay in touch with you through middle school, high school and adulthood. You can stop participating at any time. Risks related to this research include a loss of privacy; benefits related to this research include helping other young people like you to learn more about computer science from your stories. The alternative to participating in this study is to get involved with other STEM pathways programs offered by the University of Illinois such as those offered by the college of engineering: <https://pathways.engineering.illinois.edu/>.

Principle Investigator: Ruby Mendenhall is a faculty member at the University of Illinois in African American Studies and Sociology. She is also the Assistant Dean at the Carle Illinois College of Medicine. Her contact information is rubymen@illinois.edu and 217-333-1950. This research is sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

Why am I being asked?

You are being asked to be a participant in a research study about computer science training. The purpose of this research is to train middle and high school students in computer science skills. You have been asked to participate in this research because you are middle and high school and have indicated an interest in computer science. Approximately 50 to 100 participants will be involved in this research at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Your participation in this research is voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate will not affect your current or future dealings with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw at any time without affecting that relationship.

What you will do in this study: We want you to tell us what it is like for you to be a part of this program with 50 to 100 students. This project will provide you with monthly computer science activities that include using spatial analysis to map communities vulnerable to COVID-19, coding, big data analysis, artificial intelligence,

data visualization, math, algorithms, and access to a recording studio to represent computer science concepts using art and music. You will receive unprecedented access to mentors and professional experiences that

include interviewing industry/academic computing scientists for podcasts, giving TEDxYouth talks about their experiences with computer science, questions and answer sessions with Nobel Prize winners, etc.

We want you to tell us what it is like to be a part of this program. The survey/interview at the beginning and end of the project should take 40 to 60 minutes to complete. The monthly surveys/interviews should be about 30 minutes. After the project ends in one year, we would like to continue to keep in touch with you and to see how you are progressing through middle school, high school, college and your career. If there are ways that we can continue to offer support, we would like to do that too.

Due to COVID-19, we are not sure when in-person meetings can take place or when they may be disrupted, so we will plan to hold several trainings via Zoom or some other source of video conferencing. We will also use Zoom because several students will be in urban, rural and micro-urban spaces. We will record the Zoom video meetings, trainings and student participation. We will also ask students and parents to upload videos and pictures of your projects inside your house.

Risks/Things that are Not Good: Other people will be able to see what you say on Zoom. We will work with students about having access to internet. If you do not have access, some of the program content may not be available. We will work hard to avoid this.

Benefits/Good Things: We want to tell your story because we want to help others like you to be able to learn more about computers and working with computers.

Compensation: We are giving your family a total of \$400. You will receive \$100 each quarter that you participate in the program. If you start participating in a quarter and do not complete it, you will receive the \$100.

Voluntary Withdrawal: If you do not want to talk to us anymore, just tell us. We will not be mad and your parent(s) will not be mad. You can tell us to stop at any time and we will stop. If we ask you a question and you do not want to tell us the answer, just say “I don’t want to answer that.” and we will move to another question.

Confidentiality: Let us know if there are parts of your project or your story that you do not want us to tell anyone, and we will not tell anyone about it.

Reporting Child Abuse: We will not ask you to talk about if someone is hurting you, but if you tell us that someone is hurting you, we will have to tell the police. Do you understand? What did we say? That is right.

Further information: If you feel like we were not nice to you or have concerns and complaints, you can tell your parent(s) to call the Institutional Review Board at 217-333-2670 or email them at irb@illinois.edu. Your parents can also call me, Ruby Mendenhall, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign at 217-333-2528.

Agreement: We have talked about what we want you to do. You would like to be part of the program. You know that you can tell us to stop at any time and we will stop. We will not be mad at you and your parents will not be mad at you. You will get a copy of this letter.

Before you sign the form, I want to make sure I was clear about the study.

Can you tell me what we are asking you to do? _____
Can you tell me what the risks (or not good things) are for this study? _____
Can you tell me what the benefits (or good things) are for this study? _____
Do you have other questions about any information that may not be clear? _____

I give permission for my interview to be video recorded _____YES____NO
I give permission for my interview to be audio recorded _____YES____NO

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name (print): _____

Additional Consent for Future Contact:

Your information will not be used or distributed for future use, even if your name is removed.

I give permission to be contacted in the future regarding this and other research. _____YES____NO

Participant's Signature

Date

Signature of Person Obtaining Consent

Date

Investigator's Signature

Date