

For Immediate Release

4/11/2021

CONTACT: Noah Rubin, Founder & CEO of canCode
Phone #: 561-251-7700 Email: noahgidon@gmail.com

Teen-Lead Nonprofit Dedicated to Coding Classes For Kids in Underserved Communities Hosts First - Ever Hackathon Competition

Video Recording from Facebook Live: <https://fb.watch/4QjTrtKlYv/>

- canCode is a nonprofit that teaches underserved youth the basics of computer programming through the creation of a video game at weekly workshops and camps
- canCode has taught over 400 elementary schoolers and engaged 20 teen-volunteer-teachers
- In this competition, canCode tasked 60 middle and high school students to create a project that could be taught in one of our workshops.

SOUTH FLORIDA / 04/11/2021:

South Florida's first-ever "Hackathon" Competition was recently hosted by canCode, a nonprofit founded by 18 year old Noah Rubin. During **canCode's First Teen Hackathon Competition**, teams were asked to create a project that could be taught in a canCode workshop to elementary schoolers. Rubin, a senior from Donna Klein Jewish Academy, Alex Mark, a senior at American Heritage, Gabriella Davis, a junior from Olympic Heights, and Keanu Brayman, a homeschooled junior, planned the event. After a kickoff zoom and 2 hours to work, students submitted their projects. Semi-finalists then presented their projects to a panel of guest judges, and winners were announced! The [video recording](#) from the event can be found on canCodeus' Facebook page **@canCodeus**

Jackson Thrasher, an 8th Grader from Apollo Middle School in Hollywood, FL, was ecstatic upon learning that he won first place and even got more points than any high school submission. "You don't know how much this means to me! I've always wanted to be a software engineer, I want to major in software engineering..." Thrasher went on to say, "this is really big and important to me!"

canCode was started in 2016 by an 8th grader named Noah Rubin with a passion for **community service and computer science**. He started by teaching underserved elementary schoolers at the Youth Activity Center in Boca Raton the basics of coding through the creation of a video game.

After winning a \$15,000 award from the Philanthropy Tank Palm Beach in 2018, Noah began to reach more students and transform the project into a **501c3 nonprofit**. "I was thrilled to find many passionate, like-minded teenagers who wanted to learn how to share their passion for programming as well" said Noah. To date, canCode has engaged over **20 teenage volunteers** to teach weekly workshops to local **community centers**, after school and on school breaks.

Due to the COVID shutdowns, canCode pivoted to online workshops, and turned the initial challenge into an opportunity to grow. canCode expanded from 5 centers to 10 through Zoom workshops. Elementary schoolers have been motivated to come back weekly, and canCode's volunteers worked hard to ensure that there was a fun, engaging, and challenging curriculum to teach every week. Winning submissions will be used in future canCode workshops!

General Winners

To play any of the winning games, click on the Scratch link and press the Green Flag!

First Place, Middle School sponsored by Sunwave:

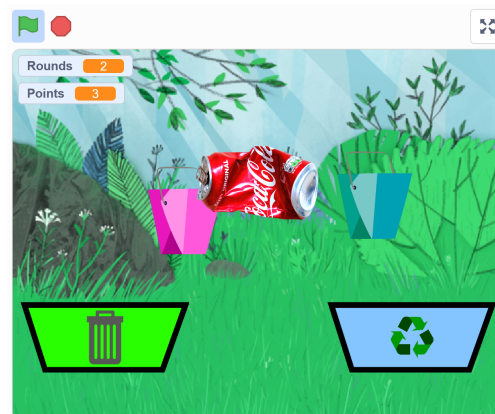
Team Members: **Jackson Thrasher** (8th Grade)

Project Name: **The Recycle Cycle**

Project Description: A game to teach students about recycling. The goal of the game is to sort trash into different categories before time runs out!

School: **Apollo Middle School**

<https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/514051210/>



First Place, High School sponsored by Sunwave:

Team Name: HECOR COMPUTER SCIENCE INDUSTRIES

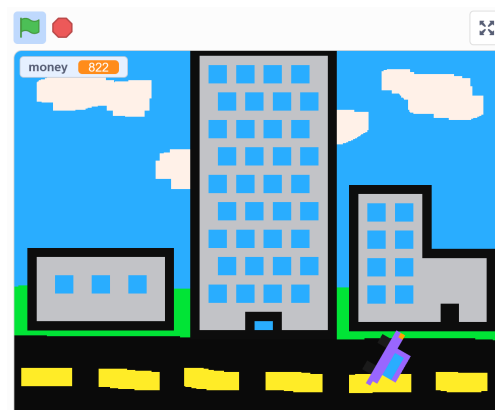
Team Members: **Luke Fisher, Maximilian Meiler, Aleksandar Fecteau** (11th Grade)

Project Name: **The City Simulation Game**

Project Description: A game where kids build a city and click cars to generate money to teach them about costumes and variables.

School: **Spanish River High School**

<https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/514051259/>



Second Place sponsored by Modernizing Medicine:

Awardee: **Evan Vera** (11th Grade)

Project Name: **Bogusly Bodacrow Pacmanacman**

School: **American Heritage Boca Delray**

Creativity Award

High School Fan Favorite Winner

Project Description: A pacman game which can be played in both 2D and 3D!

scratch.mit.edu/projects/514061720/

Third Place sponsored by Microsoft:

Team Name: Master Procrastinators

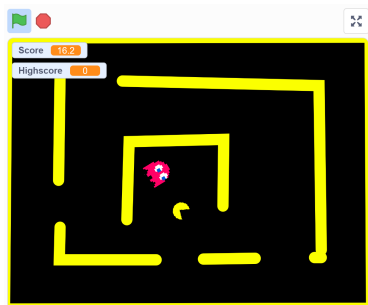
Team Members: **Ethan Baker, Vladimir Pierre, Asher Moffitt** (11th, 10th, 11th Grade)

Project Name: **Spaceship Defender**

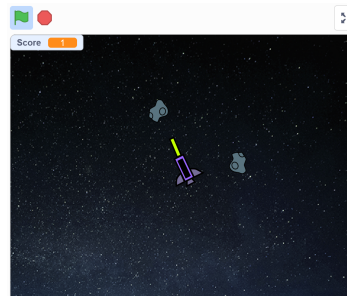
School: **Olympic Heights and G-star school of the arts**

Project Description: Spaceship Defender is a 40 second game where you defend your spaceship from asteroids.

scratch.mit.edu/projects/514046101/



2nd Place - Evan Vera
Bogusly Bodacrow Pacmanacman



3rd Place - Master Procrastinators
Spaceship Defender

Specialty Awards

Technical Award sponsored by Microchip:

Team Name: Team West

Team Members: **Logan Albala & Semyon Baykov**
(10th Grade)

Project Name: **Polar Space Quest**

School: **West Boca High**

Project Description: A Simple game where you pilot a UFO and grab stars before a space polar bear can steal them from you

scratch.mit.edu/projects/514071919/

Creativity Award sponsored by Makey Makey:

Team Name: Katie and Cali

Team Members: **Katie Harris & Cali Reiver** (11th Grade)

Project Name: **Soccer Game**

School: **Spanish River High School**

Project Description: A soccer game where you can kick a ball into the goal. If it goes into the goal a crowd cheers and a message appears!

scratch.mit.edu/projects/514047582

Curriculum Award sponsored by CODE Magazine:

Awardee: **Mohit Gore** (7th Grade)

Project Name: **Make a Concert!**

School: **Leonia Middle School**

Middle School Fan Favorite Winner

Project Description: This project will be a dance/concert sequence, with characters gliding in, then dancing as the stage animates.

scratch.mit.edu/projects/514047503/

Judges Award sponsored by Tech Hub South Florida and Palm Beach Philanthropy Tank:

Team Name: AHS

Team Members: **Eric Pengili, Lara Symons, Lukas Cai**
(11th, 11th, 10th)

Project Name: **List Party**

School: **American Heritage Boca Delray**

Project Description: A short story to teach kids about lists in order to have a guest list for a dance party.

scratch.mit.edu/projects/514074974

Honorable Mentions (High School) powered by Scratch

Semifinalist - Team Chikin

Team Members: **Jacob Raulie, Brandon Raulie**
(9th, 7th Grade)

Project Name: Movement Block Game

Organization: Rogers County 4-H

grlPwr

Team Members: **Kate Doherty & Adara Noble**
(11th Grade)

Project Name: Dance Party

Organization: East Grand Rapids High School
and Spanish River High School

Bongola Girls

Team Members: **Olivia Bisset & Ava Bisset**
(11th, 6th Grade)

Project Name: Variables and Coordinates

Organization: Imagine Middle West

Luciana Esteve (10th Grade)

Project Name: Simple Platformer

Organization: West Broward High

The R Team

Team Members: **Emily Rodopoulos, Jaimee Rissman, Ashley Rubin** (11th Grade)

Project Name: canCode Program

Organization: Spanish River High School

Friends, and Rohit

Team Members: **Brady Aber, Rohit Dasgupta, Harrison Katz** (10th Grade)

Project Name: Circle Pong

Organization: Suncoast High School

Jonathan Hus (9th Grade)

Project Name: Flappy Bird Game

Organization: Rosenblatt High School at Donna Klein Jewish Academy

Brian Chang (12th Grade)

Project Name: Dungeon Game

Organization: Spanish River High School

Honorable Mentions (Middle School) powered by Scratch

OK Coderture

Team Members: **Sriram Nallapaneni, Katherine Chen, Bryan Chen** (8th Grade)

Project Name: Chasing Game

Organization: Detroit Country Day School

David Hamer (7th Grade)

Project Name: Wilderness conversation

Organization: Kealing Middle School

Anjali Mundra (6th Grade)

Project Name: Geometry--Three Dimensional shapes

Organization: Indian Ridge Middle School

Cyberchase

Team Members: **Mark Zagha, Patrick O'Leary, Aidan Phipps** (8th, 8th, 7th Grade)

Project Name: Banana Collect

Organization: A.D Henderson University School

Gulliver Raiders

Team Members: **Maxime Lefebvre, Thomas Atkins** (8th, 8th, 7th Grade)

Project Name: Project Aries

Organization: Gulliver Preparatory Middle School

Acknowledgements

canCode would like to thank the sponsors of this event, the guest judges, and the leadership team that put it together:

Sponsors



Guest Judges

Elie Levy: Founder, CEO of Sunwave.

Colleen Graves: Director of Community, Curriculum, and Creative Content at Makey Makey

Willy Orozco: South Florida Regional Manager for Microsoft Philanthropies TEALS Program

Cynthia Dixon: Software Engineering Manager at Modernizing Medicine

Shane Stebner: Senior Lead Developer at Office Depot

Michelle Bakels: Lead Developer and Instructor at Boca Code

Madison Cuellar: FSU Comp Sci Student and Program Administrator at Tech Hub South Florida

Team

Noah Rubin: Founder, CEO of canCode

Alex Mark: Vice President of canCode

Gabby Davis: Vice President of canCode

Keanu Brayman: Vice President of canCode

Joe Russo: President and CEO of Tech Hub South Florida

Amy Brand: CEO of Palm Beach Philanthropy Tank

John Scarpa: canCode Philanthropist and Mentor

Mary Ellen Gore: canCode Mentor

CONTACT: Noah Rubin

Title – Founder & CEO

Phone #: 561-251-7700

Email: noahgidon@gmail.com

Website: www.canCode.us