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News
For Immediate Release

Code Island to Host National Day of Civic Hacking Event

May 28, 2014, Providence, RI -- Code Island, Rhode Island's newly established Code for America brigade, will host a National Day of Civic Hacking event at 1:00 pm on Sunday, June 1, at Brown University's Tri Lab located at 10 Davol Square. The event will focus on adding content to the Rhode Island community wiki, which the brigade is developing.

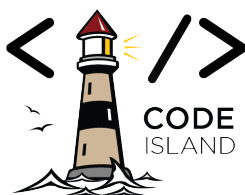
"We tried to create a new type of hacking event that will attract a wide range of people," said Ryan Kelly, one of Code Island's co-captains. "You don't need to know how to code to participate and make a positive impact. You just need to know something about Rhode Island. And if you do know how to code, there's plenty for you to help with as well."

The National Day of Civic Hacking is an annual event started in 2013 to help motivated citizens work with local, state and federal governments as well as private organizations with the common goal of improving their communities through technology. The Code Island event is one of approximately 100 events taking place across the country.

A wiki is a website that anybody can edit using an Internet browser. Community-based wikis can provide a deep level of information about specific aspects of a community in a single website. "The wiki lets us pull together information about all the different cities and towns as well as state and regional issues," said David Johnson, the other co-captain. "Once a page is created, anybody can add more information, so there's no limit to how detailed the page can become." The Rhode Island community wiki is located at www.localwiki.net/ri, and those interested can edit it now or at any time.

Code Island was started in February, 2014, when national non-profit organization Code for America assigned three Fellows to create a "brigade" in Rhode Island to help state and municipal governments improve the technology-based services they provide. Code for America has established dozens of brigades across the country, but always at the municipal level. Code Island is the first state-level brigade, and Code for America selected Rhode Island as the state-level pilot site specifically for its small size.

Code Island has already established a partnership with the Rhode Island state government through the Office of Digital Excellence and Chief Digital Officer Thom Guertin, who is a regular participant. "The state and local agencies have essentially welcomed us to bring our technical expertise to the table and develop solutions for civic issues," Mr. Johnson commented. "It's really a unique opportunity, and I wouldn't miss it for the world."



In addition to the community wiki, Code Island brigade members are working on projects that include creating a tool to let residents examine state finances as if looking at a checkbook register and helping improve information services that connect job seekers with jobs and job skills training.

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About Code Island—Code Island is Rhode Island’s Code for America brigade, established in January, 2014. Code Island seeks to help Rhode Island constituencies gain better access to state and municipal governments. It also seeks to help state and municipal governments improve the technology-based services they provide to their constituencies. Like all Code for America brigades, Code Island is a volunteer organization. Code Island provides high-level technical expertise to government agencies free of charge as a service to the general public.

www.code-island.org

About Code for America—Code for America is working towards a government by the people, for the people, that works in the 21st century. It is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit that helps residents and governments harness technology to solve community problems. It encourages and empowers residents to take active roles in their communities; facilitates collaboration between government staff and fosters forward-thinking approaches to solving problems; and supports civic-minded entrepreneurs and startups.

www.codeforamerica.org

About National Day of Civic Hacking—The National Day of Civic Hacking is an annual event started in 2013 to help motivated citizens work with local, state and federal governments as well as private organizations with the common goal of improving their communities through technology. The event is planned in coordination with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and will be supported by a number of federal, state and local agencies. For the second year in a row, Intel is the national sponsor with additional support from the Knight Foundation. The operations team is led by SecondMuse and includes Code for America and Innovation Endeavors.

www.hackforchange.org