

The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots. Overlaid on the left side is a large, semi-circular degree scale ranging from 150 to 260. Several concentric circles and dashed lines with arrows are scattered across the slide, suggesting a technical or scientific theme.

WHY YOU SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN A HACKATHON

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WHAT IS A HACKATHON?

- “Hack” and “Marathon”
- A short programming competition, usually an afternoon to a week long
- Often groups of one to five people
- Design a working app/site from scratch
- Demo the app/site to the other developers/judges
- Often sponsored by various companies hoping you will use their API
- Some are devoted to certain social causes
- Others are internal to companies



NUMBER SCRAM

- Number/math game for iPhone
- Available on the iTunes store
- My team created in less than 24 hours
- Won “Best Mobile App” at Hack the Midwest 2012



REASON 1: EXPERIENCE

- Work in a team atmosphere
- Practice good design from start to finish
- Learn new APIs
- Develop with a deadline
- Present your new product to others



REASON 2: NETWORKING

- Meet other professionals in the field
- Meet new friends
- See other awesome projects people are working on
- Maybe find something you want to join in on



REASON 3: BRAGABILITY

- Great event to put on a resume
- Even better if you win a prize
- Tell your friends you have an awesome app, and have them use it
- Invent new words like “bragability”



REASON 4: FUN!

- Spend time away from school
- Do awesome projects
- Build camaraderie with your friends and others
- Show that women can code just as well as men

and of course...

- Free swag
- Free food and drinks



MORE INFO

- HackerLeague (Site listing hackathons around US/world):
<https://www.hackerleague.org/>
- Missouri:
Hack the Midwest (KC): <http://www.hackthemidwest.com>
Compute Midwest (KC): <http://www.computemidwest.com>
Globalhack (St. Louis): <http://globalhack.org/>
Joplin Hackathon: <http://www.joplinhackathon.com>
- Iowa:
Women's Hack Day (Univ. of Iowa): <http://www.meetup.com/IowaTechChicks/>
MacDonald Hackathon (Des Moines): <http://oldmacdonaldhackday.com/>

QUESTIONS?

- I'll post slides to www.sarahwithee.com
- twitter.com/geekygirlsarah
- [linkedin.com/in/sarahwithee](https://www.linkedin.com/in/sarahwithee)