

Assemble Retrospective Summary

These were sent out to HQ staff that attended Assemble. We got 8 responses.

Generally the responses were very positive, and a few key themes emerged for things we could do to improve the next event. I hope these provide some insights for the future.

Thank you to everyone who sent feedback. - Kara

How to nurture the connections after the event was a big theme for most people:

Hack Club is so fundamentally about the friendships made between teen hackers who don't know anyone else who shares their values. We should do more to foster those relationships.

A couple people noted that a lot of people in these IRL events are not necessarily active on Slack. This has implications both for finding attendees and how to think about events that might engage them afterwards.

Someone asked - In what ways can we facilitate these further connections? Smaller events afterwards?

The Staffing Plan was mentioned. Some ideas for improvement:

- Run of Show was so good, lean into it and get it together earlier
- Get staff involved earlier in roles and schedule to allow them to come up with ideas / areas of improvement
- Clearer messaging around people needing to follow schedule to prevent gaps or overlaps during event
- Allow everyone to spend time interacting with attendees
- Activate and delegate as much as you can, and look to where you might be creating bottlenecks due to overreliance on one person

Another common theme was to make all the planning and prep even more public.

Ideas for the event itself:

- Showcase WIP projects earlier so that it inspires others to push themselves and gives ppl things to share/talk about easily

- Have a “phone a friend” hotline for getting assistance from more experienced engineers if/when people get stuck, or maybe facilitate team formation with one mentor per team?
- Be super clear on judging from the start (this was mentioned a couple of times)
- The first introductions are critical. Find a way to make them a part of the event, and ensure the whole organizing team is there! Help people form groups, and help ensure there is a mentor (especially with the groups with less experience)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Talking with Hack Clubbers reminded me how important Hack Club's existence is. A fair few Hack Clubbers mentioned how much school sucks socially, especially around G8 & 9.

There were a lot of "oh my gosh, I can't believe we're meeting in-person!" moments. That was beautiful, and inspiring.

I thought I was making things for the handful of people in the Slack. I appreciated the reminder that our reach is much wider than just that. I have a different, more accurate model of the average Hack Clubber now.

I also loved meeting some of our alumni that came out to support the event. They really provide a unique perspective and have a lot of insights.

It made Hack Club feel real to me. Like I definitely knew my place of work was real lol, but being all together in one space was magical. It made me truly understand that the work I do everyday is meaningful