

HackPrinceton 101

November 14th-16th, 2014

BEFORE THE HACKATHON

What should I do before I arrive?

- ➡ Join the [HackPrinceton Fall 2014 Facebook Group](#)
- ➡ Start brainstorming ideas!
- ➡ If you need a team, use the Facebook group to find one

What should I bring with me to the hackathon?

- ➡ Toiletries
- ➡ Change of clothes
- ➡ Sleeping bags and pillows
- ➡ Homework
- ➡ Laptops and chargers

AT THE HACKATHON

First off...

Sign in when you arrive. There will be several HackPrinceton officers around and several signs pointing you towards where you need to go to sign in. The next few hours are pretty chill, with the opening ceremony and snacks!

Team Building

We'll host a quick speed-dating style team building session so you can find people to work with. Come with ideas, come inspired!

The API Fair

After the opening ceremony (where we hopefully succeed in inspiring you for the 36 awesome hours ahead!), the sponsoring companies will be set up at their own tables for you to go around and talk to them. You can chat with company representatives about any hardware/API/anything else they're giving out for hackers to use, any project ideas that they might have for you, what stuff their company works on, any questions you want to ask them about your ideas, etc... Remember, these are all your mentors! Ask away!

Beginner iOS and Web Dev Workshops

If you're a beginner, have no fear! MakeGamesWithUs is hosting beginner iOS workshops for you. If you're interested in getting a quick and dirty tutorial on how to build an app, attend the [Facebook event](#). We are also hosting Intro Web Dev workshops to give you a glimpse into the world wide web.

I Don't Have an Idea...

That's fine! Also, remember that ideas don't have to be the next big thing that takes the world by storm and revolutionizes the tech industry. Just have fun with it! Think of fun, quirky things that you'd like to work on, or even just a small problem or inconvenience in your life that you'd like to solve.

If you still don't feel inspired, don't sweat it. There are several hackers around you who might already have ideas and need man-power or someone with a fresh perspective. That someone could be you. If you think you're not experienced enough with coding, don't let that hold you back! You can still contribute with design, debugging (that missed semi-colon that breaks everything... yeah, catch that!), brainstorming, workflow management, spirit-guru (this person is invaluable), etc. You'll learn a lot and your new team will benefit from your fresh perspective!

I'm Still Anxious...

Take a break, have a snack, and go to one of the workshops being held! Talk to people at the workshops. Who knows, maybe you'll find the team you want to work with there! Or even come up with a project to implement what you've just learned.

If you really don't know what to do, the best thing to do is just talk to someone about their project and ask to join their team. When I'm not sure how to contribute, I sit with someone whose work I find interesting and who doesn't mind talking to me about what they're doing and how they're doing it. At the very least, it's educational and you've met a cool new person.