

FAQs: Smart School Hackathon

Q. Which schools are eligible to participate in Smart School Hackathon?

A. Participation to the hackathon is by invitation to a limited group of **30-35 schools from Pune and PCMC** area that have **Atal Tinkering Lab facilities, Robotics Lab** or similar facilities. There is no restriction on medium of education – English or vernacular.

Q. Which students can participate in the hackathon?

A. Students studying in **7th, 8th and 9th** class are eligible to participate.

Q. What are the benefits to the students participating in the hackathon?

A. Smart School Hackathon is a **special innovation competition that aims at tapping creativity of younger students** offering:

- Encouragement to students to think innovatively and out-of-the-box
- Special online trainings by experts
- Boost confidence and team spirit
- Plentiful guidance from school for innovation projects
- Exciting prizes under various categories

Q. What is the schedule of the School hackathon?

A. The tentative schedule of the entire hackathon program is as below.

Aug 30, 2019	Formal announcement in Schools/ Unveiling of problem statements
Sep 15 – Nov 15, 2019	Idea submission via Videos on portal
Nov 16, 2019 – Dec 14, 2019	Evaluation of Idea submissions
Oct 1- 31, 2019	Special Online Trainings
Dec 15, 2019	Announcement of Shortlisted teams for Finale
Jan 2020 (Date TBD)	Smart School Hackathon Finale

Q. What role does the school play in the hackathon?

A. The participating school needs to appoint a **Single Point of Contact (SPOC)** to represent it and student teams. The SPOC can either be a school principal, a science teacher or any other active faculty member who can mentor and guide teams regarding ideas, look after team registration formalities. He/she will also be a point of contact for sharing hackathon related updates from our end.

The two other roles that the SPOC needs to play is encouraging team registration and participation, sharing hackathon details with parents and mentor student teams whenever required. The schools can make use of tinkering labs, robotics lab or similar facilities for this purpose.

Q. How would the school SPOC receive Hackathon updates?

A. SPOCs of all participating schools would be added on a **single WhatsApp group for ease of communication updates and resolving doubts**. SPOC will also be responsible to **publish regular updates on their social media handles**.

Q. How should teams be formed? What would be schools' role in team registration?

A. The SPOC appointed by the school must register himself/herself on the Smart School Hackathon registration link ****(the link would be shared soon!)**** and later register his/her school's teams and their ideas. 3 or 4 students from the same school can register in a team and they will have to sign up with a unique team name. **There is no limit on number of teams from the school.**

Q. How should the teams come up with ideas? How are the ideas to be submitted?

A. Smart School Hackathon team would share a few problem statements (PS) on the hackathon portal. Teams are free to select any PS that appeals to them. Teams, under the guidance of their school's SPOC can come up with an idea that can help solve the problem. **The idea can be explained on a 3-minute-long video/PPT where student team will get to describe the problem they have chosen, the idea that they propose and may show a prototype/diagrams explaining their idea.** The video can be uploaded on YouTube as an 'UNLISTED' video. The SPOC is expected to then register a team and its idea YouTube link on the Smart School Hackathon Registration form.

Q. How do ideas get shortlisted?

A. The submitted idea **videos/PPT are viewed and evaluated by our expert panel** and the final shortlisted teams to participate in the hackathon finale would be announced.

Q. When is Smart School Hackathon Finale scheduled?

A. The schedule is yet to be finalized. The tentative date would be **1st or 2nd Saturday of January 2020**.

Q. What happens at the Smart School Hackathon Finale?

A. The Finale would be an **8-hour program where teams would be able to work together and create a usable product as per the idea submitted by them**. Experts would be viewing their products, asking them questions and giving scores to the ideas. **The winning teams would be announced at the end of 8 hours.**

Q. What will be the venue for the Smart School Hackathon Finale?

A. We will announce the venue, once we approach our finale dates for the Smart School Hackathon.

Q. What are the prizes to be won?

A. Prizes towards **Best Team** and **Best Innovative Idea** to be won at the Smart School Hackathon Finale.

Q. What facilities will be provided at the venue for the Smart School Hackathon Finale?

A. **All the facilities at the venue that are essential part of the hackathon** would be accessible to the participating teams **during the 8 hours' time frame**.

Q. What if a team does not win?

A. Winning and losing is part of the game. The overall experience derived from participating in the initiative would benefit the students in a huge manner. Besides this, all students whether their teams win or lose will be given **Participation Certificates for Smart School Hackathon**.