Hackathon Brief

Welcome to the 2nd CodeHers Hackathon, an exciting opportunity to encourage girls of all ages to showcase their talents and passions in STEM! This online hackathon will take place from January to February 21st, culminating in a live finals and award ceremony on March 7th. Participants will have the chance to work individually or form teams of up to 5 with anyone, regardless of their school.

Joining the hackathon WILL allow you to gain EXTRA XP for the real event!

Register your team and submit your idea [here](#)!

Theme

Women in STEM face systemic barriers—not because of a lack of ability, but because they lack visibility, validation, and voice. However, we believe that women's contributions in STEM are recognised, amplified, and rewarded. Therefore, this year's theme focuses on developing innovative technology tools that directly enhance the lives of girls and women, empowering them to succeed, lead, and thrive.

Suggested ideas:
- A mentorship-matching platform to connect students with women in tech/engineering
- A website to teach women financial literacy
- An app to educate on reproductive health
- A mix of the above!

Judging Criteria

Evaluation Criteria	Description	Marks
1. Relevance to Theme	The project must clearly align with the designated theme of the hackathon, demonstrating explicit connections between the project and the theme.	5
2. Creativity & Originality	Projects should present a unique approach to addressing the identified problem, showcasing innovative features or methodologies that differentiate them from existing solutions.	5
3. Technical Excellence	Evaluates the quality of the code and technical implementation, ensuring projects are free from critical bugs, run smoothly, and maintain user-friendly designs with intuitive navigation	5
4. Implementation Effectiveness	Focuses on how well the project fulfills its intended purpose, demonstrating a high level of functionality and completeness, and potential for future enhancements or scalability.	5
5. Presentation & Engagement (Finals only)	The pitch should be engaging and well-structured, effectively conveying the project's value. Judges will assess public speaking skills, confidence, clarity and audience engagement.	5

Submission & Timeline

Hackathon Launch: January

Hackathon Registration and Submission Deadline: February 21st

Finalist Shortlist: February 28th

Finals, Exhibition and Award Ceremony: March 7th

Teams must submit their projects by February 21st. The submission includes a 1500-character project proposal and a video presentation up to 5 minutes. A prototype (demo and/or code) is strongly encouraged, but not required. The prototype could be a physical item (with photos, videos or slideshows showcasing it), and/or a link to an accessible codebase (we recommend GitHub).

Projects should focus on a technological solution that addresses a problem both deeply personal and widely experienced by women.

The top five teams will present live to the judges on March 7th, followed by a Q&A session. Teams are invited to showcase their ideas at the project exhibition in dedicated booths, regardless of whether they advance to the finals.

Prizes

First Place: Tech Prize, Certificate of Accomplishment, Letter of Recommendation, Trophy
Second Place: Certificate of Accomplishment, Letter of Recommendation, Trophy
Third Place: Certificate of Accomplishment, Letter of Recommendation, Trophy

Popular Vote: Certificate of Accomplishment, Trophy

More awards to come…

Participation Awards: CodeHers 2026 Merch, Certificate of Participation, Extra XP for the event

---

Rules

To ensure fairness for all participants, the following rules are in place:

1. **AI Usage**: While AI tools are allowed, heavy reliance on them is not permitted. Participants should fully understand their code and be prepared to discuss it.
2. **Original Work**: Reusing old projects or code created before the hackathon is strictly forbidden. All submissions must be original.
3. **Collaboration Limitations**: Outside help from teachers, parents, or anyone not on the team is not allowed.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Who can join the hackathon?**
   Any high-school HK student passionate about women empowerment and tech is welcome!

2. **Do I need to be a programmer to participate?**
   Not at all! CodeHers Hackathons welcome problem-solvers of all kinds, as we believe diverse skill sets make stronger teams, and please note that AI is allowed to help you build your project!

3. **Is there a cost to attend?**
   No, there is no cost required to participate! We encourage everyone to give the Hackathon a chance!

4. **What should I bring to a hackathon?**
   Be sure to bring any necessary equipment, such as your laptop or tablet to work on your presentation.

5. **What if I've never been to a hackathon before?**
   That's okay! We strongly encourage newcomers. Hackathons are a great way to learn new skills and bring your ideas to life! No prior experience is required: just an interest in creating, problem-solving, and collaborating.

6. **Can I participate alone?**
   Yes! While teamwork is encouraged, solo participants are welcome.

7. **Am I able to participate in the Hackathon even if I am unavailable on the day of the finals?**
   Yes! Please remember to register for the CodeHers event and hackathon normally. If this applies to you or one of your team members, please email us at hackathon@codehershk.org.

8. **What if there are extenuating circumstances affecting my performance and final submission?**
   No worries, that is completely understandable. If this is the case, please contact us immediately at hackathon@codehershk.org, and we will be sure to judge you as fair as possible!

We look forward to seeing the creativity and innovation from all participants in the 2nd CodeHers Hackathon! Let's inspire and empower the next generation of female leaders in STEM!

Register your team and submit your idea here!

If you have any inquiries, feel free to email hackathon@codehershk.org, and we'll get back to you as soon as we can!