H a c k a t h o n 2 0 2 0: C o d i n g f o r a B e t t e r C o m m u n i t y



# Information for Judges

**1) Hackathon Theme/Problem**

This year’s theme for the Novice Track (teen) Hackathon event is **Participation in Civic Life**. The theme may sound dull, but don’t kid yourself: civic life holds our society together. To prepare for this, you might ask yourself this: What is civic life, and why should anyone participate in it? We are excited to welcome Dr. Sal Peralta, Professor of Political Science, as he presents this topic to the group.

What kinds of apps/projects will kids make in response to this theme? It's a more "open" topic than we've done in the past. In the past, we asked for concrete products like "create a resource to help connect people in our community to survival resources." I'm going to list some ideas for apps we could see with this theme:

* an app to inform users about where and when to vote for local, state, and national elections
* an app to motivate citizens to serve their communities
* an app for a religious organization to manage volunteers for picking up trash
* an animation that tells a story about someone who was or was not involved in community life (like a morality tale)
* the list could go on!

**2) Hackathon Platform: Scratch**

This year, we are using the web-based Scratch platform in the Novice Hackathon. The beauty of Scratch is that it allows for a wide variety of applications to be developed (from interactive "apps" to animations to presentations and other products). In response to the Hackathon Theme/Problem, participants will be invited to design, develop, and present a Scratch artifact.

**3) Schedule**

**2:45pm, Check In (TEALS Room 117)**

Please plan to check in around 2:45pm at the TEALS room (Room 117) in the Biology Building downstairs (From the Z-6 Parking lot, take Entrance 2 in this Picture: Biology Building Entrances). The kids will be finishing up their work around this time with "code stop" at 3pm. You are welcome to wander around and look at what they're working on and ask questions. You can come earlier, too, if you want more time to do this.

**3pm, Code Stop and Transition to Presentation Room (125)**

At 3, we announce code stop, and from 3-315, the kids will pack up their stuff in the TEALS (117) room and head upstairs to Room 125, where we'll have them sit in the first 3 rows of the classroom. In the 4th row, the Advanced Track students will sit. And in row 5, you judges will sit (so all kids in front of you), and maybe a time keeping volunteer and maybe a few Advanced Track students (whom you're not judging). Behind you (in remaining 4 rows), parents may come in and watch the presentations.

**315-415pm in Presentation Room (125)**

We are awarding three awards to the novice/teen track this year:

Computing Excellence Award

Creativity Award

Highest Impact Award

You will each have a stack of Judging Sheets (one per team, in order, and we anticipate 7-10 teams). We will have the teams present in order. Let [Name] or [Name] know if you have any questions about this!

**415-445 (30 minutes), Conference Room**

At 415, or as soon as the presentations end, you will be escorted to the Conference Room. And at that time, the Advanced Presentations will begin. While in the Conference Room, your job is to assign the awards, using your notes and scoring. If you could finish the judging by 445, that would be fantastic. We are trying so hard to end on time this year. :) [Name] or I will likely poke our heads in by 440 to see how you're doing, and you'll communicate your decisions to one of us.

Each team of kids (teams of 2-3) will have 5 minutes total in front of the room, with about 3-4 minutes to present and 1-2 minutes for Q&A. You judges are urged to ask questions of the presenters. With this short amount of time, it may be that you ask one question per team. If the teams are brief, and there's still time, then you can ask another question, for example. The time keeper will sit near you so you can communicate with her about how much time you have left for questioning.

If you finish judging early, you could slip back into Room 125 and watch some of the Advanced Track presentations, if you're interested.

**5pm, Awards Ceremony**

At 5, we hope to begin the awards ceremony and take pictures of the awardees with our sponsor, [Name]. You are of course welcome to that, too!