StarkHacks Code of Conduct

Based on the Hack Code of Conduct: https://hackcodeofconduct.org/

StarkHacks is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all participants. All attendees, sponsors, mentors, speakers, partners, volunteers, judges, and organizers are expected to uphold the following Code of Conduct throughout the event—both in person and during online communication.

TL;DR

- Always act respectfully and professionally.
- If you think your actions or words could make someone uncomfortable, don't do it.
- If you feel unsafe or witness behavior that violates these principles, report it immediately using the procedures below.

I. Harassment-Free Environment

StarkHacks prohibits any form of harassment or discrimination.

Harassment includes, but is not limited to:

- Offensive comments related to sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, appearance, race, ethnicity, nationality, or religion
- Display of sexualized or discriminatory material or images in hacks, presentations, or attire
- Intimidation, stalking, following, or unwanted physical contact
- Unwelcome sexual attention or advances
- Photography, screenshots, or recordings without consent
- Sustained disruption of talks, workshops, or activities
- Any behavior that makes another person feel unsafe, excluded, or targeted

This policy applies equally to all participants, mentors, sponsors, speakers, volunteers, and organizers. Everyone is expected to foster a respectful and collaborative atmosphere.

II. Inclusive Participation

We welcome hackers from all majors, experience levels, and backgrounds. To maintain a positive and inclusive environment:

- Avoid sexualized, violent, or discriminatory content in projects, presentations, or branding
- Refrain from exclusionary jokes or remarks about technical ability, background, or identity
- Respect personal, cultural, and physical boundaries at all times

III. Photography and Media Consent

This section serves as a formal photo and media release for all StarkHacks participants.

- Event organizers, sponsors, and authorized media personnel may photograph, record, or film participants, projects, and activities during the event
- These materials may be used for promotional, educational, and informational purposes, including social media, websites, press releases, marketing materials, and future events
- StarkHacks reserves the right to edit, reproduce, distribute, or publish this media in any format, without compensation or additional approval
- Media content may be shared with event partners, sponsors, and affiliated organizations for legitimate promotional or educational use
- Participants waive any right to review or approve the final materials

If you are not an official photographer, you may still take photos or videos, but you must ask for consent and respect privacy at all times. Do not take photos in sensitive areas such as bathrooms, and comply with all requests to delete photos.

IV. Eligibility

- All participants must be currently enrolled students at an accredited high school, institute of higher education, or their international equivalents
- Anyone not a student of Purdue University must be over the age of 18
- Each participant must register and RSVP in advance
- Participants must present:
    - A valid Purdue ID (for Purdue students), or
    - A valid, unexpired government-issued photo ID or passport
- Foreign national IDs or driver's licenses will not be accepted

V. Conduct and Compliance

- All participants must adhere to this Code of Conduct, all Purdue University policies, and applicable federal, state, and local laws
- Purdue University is a dry campus. Possession or consumption of alcohol is prohibited, regardless of age
- Marijuana (including edibles and paraphernalia), illegal drugs, or controlled substances are strictly prohibited
- Anyone found under the influence or in possession of such substances will be removed immediately
- Cigarettes, vaping, and similar devices are not permitted
- Participants must comply with all instructions from event staff and follow venue rules at all times
- As this event is conducted under Guinness World Records standards, participants must follow directions from official stewards and witnesses. Any attempt to interfere with or falsify official verification will result in immediate disqualification and disciplinary action
- Purdue University regulations prohibit sleeping in campus facilities

VI. Restrictions on Projects

Participants are encouraged to create hardware-based projects that demonstrate innovation, problem-solving, or creative engineering. However, for safety and compliance, the following projects are prohibited:

- Devices involving explosives, open flames, or hazardous materials
- Weapons or weapon-like systems capable of causing injury
  - Items commonly used for personal safety may be permitted with prior organizer approval
- Projects that interfere with building infrastructure (WiFi, power, or security systems)
- Any project violating Purdue safety regulations or applicable law

The organizers have final discretion to determine whether a project violates these rules. Participants unsure about a project should consult an organizer or mentor before starting.

VII. Equipment and Workspace

- You may bring your own hardware or other tools. Any hardware not on the pre-approved list must be approved by the organizers prior to use
- Any damage to equipment, lab space, or property caused by negligence may result in financial or disciplinary consequences
- Overloading power strips, tampering with electrical outlets or WiFi routers, or using damaged cables or components is prohibited
- Unauthorized or dangerous equipment will result in disqualification and removal

VIII. Judging and Submission

- All projects must be submitted by the announced deadline
- Teams must be ready to demonstrate their projects live
- Judges' decisions are final and binding

IX. Intellectual Property

Participants retain ownership of their projects and intellectual property. By participating, you grant StarkHacks permission to display your project for promotional, educational, or archival purposes.

X. Liability and Safety Disclaimer

- Participants are responsible for their own safety and belongings
- StarkHacks, Purdue University, and sponsors are not liable for injuries, losses, or damages during the event
- Unsafe behavior or misuse of equipment will result in immediate removal
- Participants must notify organizers of allergies or medical conditions in advance. Reasonable accommodations will be made where possible, but allergen-free environments cannot be guaranteed

XI. Emergency Procedures

In an emergency, follow all posted evacuation routes and instructions from staff or Purdue officials. Emergency exits and first aid stations will be clearly marked.

For serious incidents:

- Call **911**, or
- Contact Purdue University Police at **(765) 494-8221**

XII. Waiver and Assumption of Risk

By participating in StarkHacks, you acknowledge that participation is voluntary and at your own risk. You agree to hold harmless and indemnify StarkHacks, Purdue University, sponsors, and affiliates from any claims, injuries, or damages arising from participation, including those resulting from your own actions or negligence.

XIII. Guest Policy

- Unauthorized guests are not permitted at any hackathon venue under any circumstances
- Participants may not bring guests
- Anyone found without authorization or proper identification will be escorted out immediately
- Repeated unauthorized entries may result in notification to law enforcement and further escalation

XIV. Reporting and Safety Procedures

If you experience or witness harassment, unsafe conduct, or other violations, contact the organizers immediately. Reports will be handled promptly and confidentially.

Contact Methods:

- Email: **help@starkhacks.com**
- In person: Speak to any volunteer or organizer wearing a "StarkHacks Staff" badge

Organizers can help contact Purdue officials or law enforcement, arrange an escort, or ensure your safety. If you are in immediate danger, call **911** or Purdue University Police at **(765) 494-8221**.

XV. Enforcement

Participants who violate this Code of Conduct may face:

- Verbal or written warnings
- Expulsion from the event without eligibility for prizes or reimbursement
- Notification to Purdue University officials or law enforcement when required

The organizers reserve the right to disqualify and remove any participant at their sole discretion. All decisions by the organizers are final.

XVI. Accessibility and Accommodations

StarkHacks is committed to accessibility and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you require accommodations, please indicate so on your RSVP.

StarkHacks reserves the right to modify or update this Code of Conduct as necessary. The goal is not punishment, but to ensure a safe, collaborative, and respectful environment for all participants.

This Code of Conduct is in effect from December 1, 2025.
Last updated: February 6, 2026.