Revolutionize Your Computing Competitions and Tournaments to Increase Diversity

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The Hackathon Fast Track, From Campus to Silicon Valley

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Coding Competitions have become popular venues
Hackathons

Spring 2014
Feb 14–16

$ make hack

48 hours
1,200 hackers
$30,000 in prizes
WHO goes to HACKATHONS?

30% of NEWBIES went to a Hackathon for the FIRST TIME LAST YEAR.

70% of VETS went to a Hackathon before they were COOL.

- 11% female
- 89% male
- 2% over 54
- 16% 35 to 54
- 61% 25 to 34
- 21% 18 to 24
- 1% under 18

PennApps Participants

14.8% Female

Source: From available S’13, F’12, S’12, S’11, F’09 Data
AGENDA

• Introduction - 5 min
• How To Design Better Hackathon - 10 min
  – Recruitment
  – Design
  – Running
• Preparation for Case Studies - 10 min
• Case Study Group Work - 15 min
• Flash Talk Presentations - 18 min
• Wrap Up - 2 min
Top 10 Ways to Increase Girls' Participation in Computing Competitions
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1. Make sure promotional materials represent & appeal to girls
2. Actively recruit girls
3. Provide ongoing encouragement for girls to enter these events
4. Allow students to choose projects focused on social and cultural problems important to them
5. Encourage both individual and group entries
6. Host an open house or “how to” night
7. Emphasize learning and include a range of ways to “win”
8. Include female mentors, educators, and judges in competition events
9. Make the space and time appealing & accessible to all
10. Educate parents, mentors and others involved
Actively Recruit Girls and Women

1. Go where the girls/women are
2. Ask them to ‘bring a friend’
3. Include past female winners and role models
4. Represent a range of people and desirable tasks
Don’t advertise using only words and pictures like these!
Advertise with pics and words like these!

CREATE DESIGN
BUILD INVENT
COLLABORATE
DESIGN

THEME

Wear & Care
PennApps 2014 Winner
DESIGN COLLABORATION Hack Boxes
DESIGN COMMUNAL SPACES
Running an Inclusive Hackathon: Location & Safety

Choose a safe/ accessible location and time: where youth already go--a community youth center or public library.

Establish an anti-harassment policy and clear consequences, no sexual imagery in presentations
*Major League Hacking code of conduct

Separate sleeping areas for women and men
Make the space visually welcoming to all---posters, etc.
Running an Inclusive Hackathon: A Welcoming Space

Greeters and mentors for newbies; help form teams

Staff/volunteers that represent the diversity of participants

Judges from a range of backgrounds.

Tech talks to orient and equalize knowledge

A range of food options--not just pizza and soda.

Resources:
https://medium.com/hackers-and-hacking/running-an-inclusive-hackathon-630f3f2e5e71
Running an Inclusive Hackathon

Recognition and prizes should reward a range of accomplishments.

- Best solution by a beginner team!
- Greatest potential for positive social impact!
- Best teamwork/team spirit!
- Best creation of assistive technology!
- Greatest technical difficulty!
TechTalks

TECH TALKS

These tech talks cover a number of topics useful for hacking!

Arduino and Lilypad from Stitchfest

Angular.js presented by Tubular Labs

Flowbased Programming presented by MIT Lincoln Lab

PennApps Youtube Channel

HTML/CSS
GROUP Work: 15 min
Design Your Own Coding Competition!

• **Select** a team based on K-12, CC, 4-yr, or industry team mates or theme
• **Select** a case study from list
• **Plan** to be more inclusive looking at
  – recruitment, or
  – design, or
  – running or all three areas
• **Report** back - 2 min Flash Talk/Poster
CASE STUDIES: Select One

College
1. PENNAPPS: 2015s.pennapps.com
2. HACKPOLY: www.hackpoly.com
3. UCSBHACKS: www.ucsbhacks.com

Industry
1. WorldWideHackathons: www.hackalist.org/
2. CODECHEF: www.codechef.com
3. MAJORLEAGUEHACKATHON: https://mlh.io

High School
7. STEMGameChallenge: www.stemchallenge.org/stem
8. ProvablyCool: proco.stanford.edu/
10. USAComputingOlympiad: www.usaco.org
11. One of your own
Flash Talks: Presentation Starting Point

10:30 Workshop

Project 1 presentation
Project 2 presentation
Project 3 presentation
Project 4 presentation
Project 5 presentation
Project 6 presentation
Project 7 presentation
Project 8 presentation
Project 9 presentation
Project 10 presentation
Project 11 presentation
Project 12 presentation

Project 13 presentation
Project 14 presentation
Project 15 presentation
Project 16 presentation
Project 17 presentation
Project 18 presentation
Project 19 presentation
Project 20 presentation
Project 21 presentation
Project 22 presentation
Project 23 presentation
Project 24 presentation

Our presentation slides for your information during groupwork
WRAP UP after Flash Talks

• What did you learn?

• What are your next steps?
TAKE AWAYS

**NCWIT Top 10 Ways to Increase Girls’ Participation**

**Hackathon Models that Draw Women**

**New York Times Hackathon 4/6/2015**

**MLH 2015 Hackathons**

**Microsoft International Women’s Hackathon Kit**

**www.stitchfest.org**

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