

Hackathon 2024

Cyberheroes: Securing Our Future!



THE NUMBERS:



Hackathon participants



Spotlight schools



Hackergal Ambassadors participated



Hours of facilitated coding and digital skills training



Speakers



Judges



Women in tech visited schools

EVENT SUMMARY

Our 13th annual **one-week national Hackathon** celebrated the coding and digital skills of Canadian girls and gender diverse learners in grades 6 to 9, and empowered them to become the ultimate defenders of the digital realm!

The week started with a Kick Off event featuring a keynote from an inspirational cybersecurity expert, an interactive Cyberhunt Game which honed the learners' critical thinking, and details on the many learning opportunities and challenges ahead. We checked in with our communities across Canada joining the live stream from their classrooms and got to hear from excited learners eager to begin their projects!

To build participants' knowledge further, two coding webinars were offered during the week, providing valuable tips on adding interactive elements to projects on the Lynx coding platform. Live drop-in hours hosted by Hackergal staff were also made available to address any coding or project-related questions from learners and facilitators.

The week ended with a Closing Event and Career Fair, where participants celebrated their accomplishments and learned about the career journeys of several accomplished women in tech. More Coding Clubs were highlighted in Community Spotlights during our Closing Event, bringing us to a total of 100 learners connecting with Hackergal Staff in person during our Kick Off and Closing Events.

Finally, learners submitted their cybersecurity projects for expert judging in the week following the Hackathon, sharing their innovative solutions to the world's cybersecurity concerns at a competitive level. We were overjoyed by the creative and critical thinking shown by all participants this year!



*% taken from post-event survey respondents

47%

of learners reported this as their first Hackergal event

86%

My confidence in my ability to use/apply my coding and digital skills was improved and/or enhanced.

>30%

of learners live in remote, rural, or Northern communities



Hackergal has raised awareness of women in STEM within our school and community. It has helped girls go from saying "I can't" to "I can, let me show you". During the Hackathon we had a full day celebration. One of our students in grade 8 and another in grade 10 stepped up to host [a virtual session with younger learners at a local elementary school] on how to code a starter project. One year ago this would have been unheard of. To see this was so rewarding.

-Sandra Theobald, Teacher, Perth, Ontario

JUDGES:



Maria Podorojansky
Vice-President,
Enterprise Technology
CIBC



Miyoung Chung
Technical Lead
Flutter



Jeneane Whyte
Director, Information &
Cyber Security
Cenovus

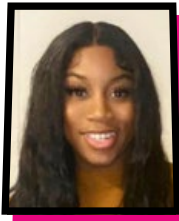
The Hackergal Hackathon has inspired me to keep going further into my coding and graphic design hobbies and always be open to learning new skills and technological tricks. Before I attended a Hackathon, I knew about the existence of coding but I was never really that into it. Now, after attending 3 Hackathons so far, I have become inspired and motivated to keep coding and coding is now one of my favorite hobbies to do.

-Freya M., Learner, Grade 8,
Thunder Bay, Ontario

SPEAKERS:



Laura
Manager
Cryptographic Security



Deidra
Digital Product Owner
CIBC



Aissa
Business Application
FedEx



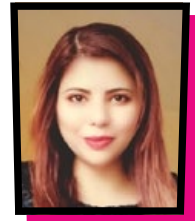
Veronique
Lawyer
Fasken



Sundeep
VP of Cyber Security
Rogers Communications



Heather
Senior Engineer
Coconut Software



Mrigakshi
Manager
Cryptographic Security



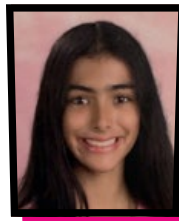
Mariam
Hackergal
Ambassador



Niyah
Hackergal
Scholarship Recipient



Kavi
Hackergal
Ambassador



Zara
Hackergal
Ambassador



Lucy
Founder
Hackergal



Rebecca
Interim Executive Director
Hackergal



Christelle
Interim Program Director
Hackergal



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