

CU HACKS Press Release

CU HACKS is the Cupertino Library's FREE, overnight hack-a-thon event for teenage participants and is part of the Santa Clara County Library District's Teen Summer Reading Challenge 2015. CU HACKS is also the **first-ever** hack-a-thon specifically for teens to be held in a public library venue! Cupertino Library is presenting this event with support from the Cupertino Library Foundation from 5 pm on Saturday, June 20th to 11 am on Sunday, July 21st.

The Cupertino Library and the Cupertino Library Foundation are dedicated in providing this event as a springboard for the next generation of programmers, hardware enthusiasts, and all-around tech lovers to join together and bring their coolest, most innovative ideas to life and win some awesome prizes in the process. Over 150 teenagers, ages 14 – 19, will be putting their engineering, robotics constructing, and computer programing skills to the test in this revolutionary event.

Hackers will be given a 13-hour window to combine their critical thinking, technical planning, and coding development skills to produce applications directly relating to CU HACKS specific prompt. There is only one catch: the prompt will be kept secret until the very start of the event.

Throughout the night, a variety of mentor-led, instructional workshops will be held to assist participants of all skill levels. Whether the teen is a beginner coder, or a hardcore hacker, all attendees will exit the event having learned new programing techniques and skills to add to their evolving repertoire. CU HACKS is also an excellent opportunity for young techies to network with and learn from like-minded teens, tech innovators, and experienced mentors.

Guest judges will assess and score each hack-a-thon project based on a defined set of criteria for evaluating the submission's originality, technical difficulty, user experience, and applicability. The top two finalists in each of the five categories will then "pitch" their projects to a panel of judges, explaining their application's relevancy and effectiveness. Prizes will be awarded to the winning teams.

CU HACKS is a collective community event that fosters STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) learning skills and gives teen designers first-hand experience in joining together within an engaging, collaborative environment in which they can create and develop projects that have the potential to make a direct, positive impact on the lives of young adults in the Cupertino community.

"CU HACKS provides a unique collaborative and learning opportunity to High School Students" stated Gayathri Kanth, Cupertino Community Librarian.

“CU HACKS is an innovative program that establishes the library as a place that engages teens in creating projects that make a positive impact on the lives of teens in the Cupertino community” said Eno Schmidt, President of the Cupertino Library Foundation.

Cupertino Library has more than 330,000 volumes in its collection, circulates more than 2.5 million items annually and welcomes over 850,000 visitors annually. The Cupertino Library operates Monday through Thursday 10AM-9PM; Friday and Saturday, 10AM-6PM; and Sunday, noon-6PM.

Cupertino Library is one of the Santa Clara County Library District Libraries. Known as one of America’s best 100 public libraries, the Santa Clara County Library District promotes knowledge, ideas, and cultural enrichment. Its collection includes more than 1.9 million books, videos, CDs, DVDs, audiobooks, eBooks and extensive online resources accessible from home or work.

For eleven years, the Library has ranked as one of the best in the nation for its size by Hennen’s American Public Library Ratings. Also recognized as one of America’s 2013 Star Libraries by Library Journal, the Santa Clara County Library District is one of the most-used public resources in the region.

Visit Cupertino Library online at www.sccl.org/Cupertino

Sponsor: The Cupertino Library Foundation is a 501(c)3 Public Benefit Corporation with the purpose to raise money to continue programs encouraging life-long learning and self-improvement through the Cupertino Library. The Foundation has the Non-Profit Seal of Approval by Guidestar demonstrating satisfaction of transparency requirements and is a member of the Google for Nonprofits program receiving tools to work efficiently. It seeks major donations from corporations and the business community and from other foundations as well as individual donations and planned gifts and bequests. For further information visit: www.cupertino.libraryfoundation.org

For more information on Cupertino Library’s CU HACKS programming, visit www.sccl.org/Cupertino.