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Cupertino Library

Press Release

Cupertino Library Holds Second Annual Teen Hackathon

Free Teen Event kicks off 2016 Summer Reading Challenge

Cupertino, CA, May 9, 2016

CU HACKS 2 is the Cupertino Library's FREE, overnight hack-a-thon event for teenage participants. CU Hacks 2 is scheduled for June 11 - 12, 2016. CU HACKS 2 is a collective, community event that fosters STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) learning skills and gives teen coders first-hand experience in working within an engaging, collaborative environment to create and develop projects that have the potential to make a direct, positive impact on the lives of others. Registration opens May 31, 2016 at 10 am.

Cupertino Library and the Cupertino Library Foundation are dedicated to providing CU HACKS 2 as a springboard for the next generation of programmers, hardware enthusiasts, and all-around tech lovers in which they can join together and bring their coolest, most innovative ideas to life. 150 teenagers, ages 14 – 19, will put their engineering, robotics construction, and computer programming skills to the test in this epic event. Teen participants will compete for over \$2800 in prizes, graciously donated by the Cupertino Library Foundation.

During CU HACKS 2, teen participants will have 12 hours in which to combine their critical thinking, technical planning, and coding development skills to produce applications directly relating to the CU HACKS 2 prompt. There is only one catch: the prompt will be kept secret until 72 hours before 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 an experienced hacker, all attendees will exit the event having learned new programming techniques and skills to add to their evolving repertoire. CU HACKS 2 is also an excellent opportunity for participants to network with and learn from like-minded teens, tech innovators, and experienced mentors.

A panel of 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, and applicability. Top finalists will then give a live "pitch" presentation highlighting their projects to the judges and explaining their application's purpose, relevancy and effectiveness.

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An award ceremony will be held shortly after the event at the Cupertino Hotel. At the reception, the winning teams will demonstrate their projects to the public and will be awarded their prizes. Cupertino Library Foundation members, library administrators, local elected officials and community stakeholders will take part in this special event.

According to County Librarian Nancy Howe, "CU HACKS 2 is a great example of the library and community connecting teens to learning using the latest technology. It's thrilling to see the library transformed into a hub of collaboration. CU HACKS 2 is an example of today's public library in action."

"To excel in CU Hacks 2, the participants will need to reinforce their technical expertise with collaborative, creative, and communication skills. These are the abilities that we look for in tomorrow's business and technical leaders. The Cupertino Library Foundation is pleased to sponsor this project-based learning experience for the youths in our community," said Jerry Liu, Cupertino Library Foundation Board member.

The original CU HACKS (2015) gained national attention being the first-ever hack-a-thon specifically for teens held in a public library venue. CU HACKS welcomed a group of 143 teenagers which included 47 female participants, 30 coding mentors, and 64 first-time hack-a-thon contestants.

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.

Recognized as one of America's best 100 public library systems, 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, a 501(c)3 corporation, raises 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 event, visit www.scccl.org/Cupertino, or contact Roslyn Donald, Acting Community Librarian, at 408-446-1677 x 3300.