

## Think Global Hack Local Participant FAQ

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### What is Think Global Hack Local?

Think Global Hack Local is a community-oriented hackathon. If you haven't participated in a hackathon before, that means it's a weekend dedicated to focused development on a project. The "community-oriented" aspect means that we're working specifically on projects that help the local community. You'll start a project at the beginning of a weekend and by the end of the weekend you — and your team — will have a completed a custom piece of software that addresses the needs of a local non-profit organization.

### What sort of projects are part of the hackathon?

In the past, we've had projects including the creation of customized content management system, patient scheduling systems for medical providers, a mobile gaming application intended for therapeutic applications with autistic children, fundraising platforms, service tracking systems, and more.

The projects in this hackathon tend to cover a wide variety of technologies, since the project proposals are driven by the particular needs of organizations.

### What skills do I need in order to contribute to the hackathon?

You should be comfortable with at least one programming language (unless you're planning on contributing as a graphic artist or in some other non-coding capacity) and able to adapt to new environments.

Generally, you'll need to learn a lot during the hackathon. It's not expected that you'll have prior experience in writing a CMS, web fundraising platform, or any other potential project, but it should be conceivable to you that you could figure out how to approach these problems in a weekend. Remember that you'll have help from your teammates, our on-site industry mentors, and search engines.

If you're thinking of brushing up on some skills ahead of the hackathon, I'd recommend looking into web development and database management in particular, but these topics are by no means the only ones that will be useful in the hackathon.

### **How much can we realistically get done in a weekend? Will these projects really be used by the community?**

These are questions that you should keep in mind during the hackathon itself as you're working on your project. As part of the project proposals, community members were asked to provide both a "dream small" and "dream big" vision of what the project could be. In selecting projects, we've tried to ensure that the "dream small" vision should be entirely realistic for the hackathon and that this minimal version of the project would still be beneficial to the community.

This hackathon is relatively young, and turning hackathon projects into real solutions used in the community is still an experimental concept. We'd really like every project from the hackathon to be beneficial in some way to the community, but it's important to realize that in order for that to happen you'll need to think about how your project will be handled in "the real world" after the hackathon.

### **How are teams formed?**

At the beginning of the hackathon, each community partner will give a short presentation about their project. After these presentations, hackers have a chance to talk with the representatives of each project before choosing which project to work on. Teams are created on a first-come first-serve basis with team sizes capped so that all projects receive a reasonable number of students.

### **How much sleep can I expect to get during the weekend? Can I sleep on campus?**

This is really up to you. We recognize that not everyone is able or willing to cut back on sleep for more coding and that's okay. You are still expected to spend the majority of the weekend at the hackathon: showing up only for the first and last hour is a good way to seriously annoy everyone who worked away on the project for the whole time.

While planning projects, try to allot your time so that it's possible to finish at least the minimal requirements without overnight heroics. You shouldn't stay up all night because of a sense of obligation, but because you're enjoying yourself so much that you want to keep going.

For anyone thinking of staying the night, you should bring a sleeping bag as the building can get cool at night, and of course a toothbrush and other toiletries. There are a couple showers within ICICS that you can use.

### **What's the food like?**

We'll provide meals through the weekend and try to accommodate dietary restrictions as best we can (we can't guarantee accommodating every request, but please talk to us and we'll try!).

### **Will there be coffee?**

Yes. Oh yes.

**How is intellectual property handled? Can I turn my hackathon work into a startup business after the hackathon?**

We'll ask hackers and community partners to sign an agreement authorizing the community partner to use the work generated during the hackathon under the terms of a [Creative Commons attribution \(CC BY 3.0\)](#) license. You will reserve the right to use your work however you'd like, explicitly including purposes relating to building a portfolio. Note that some projects that involve working with existing code and content might have additional IP considerations.