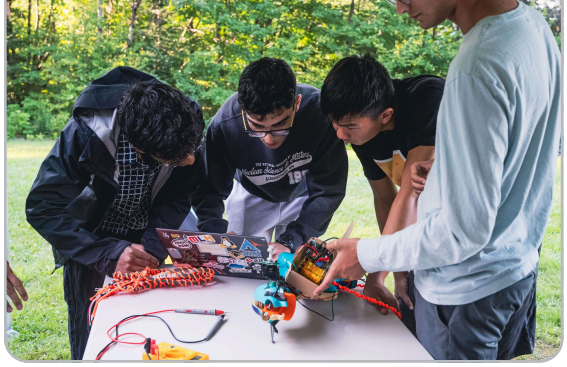
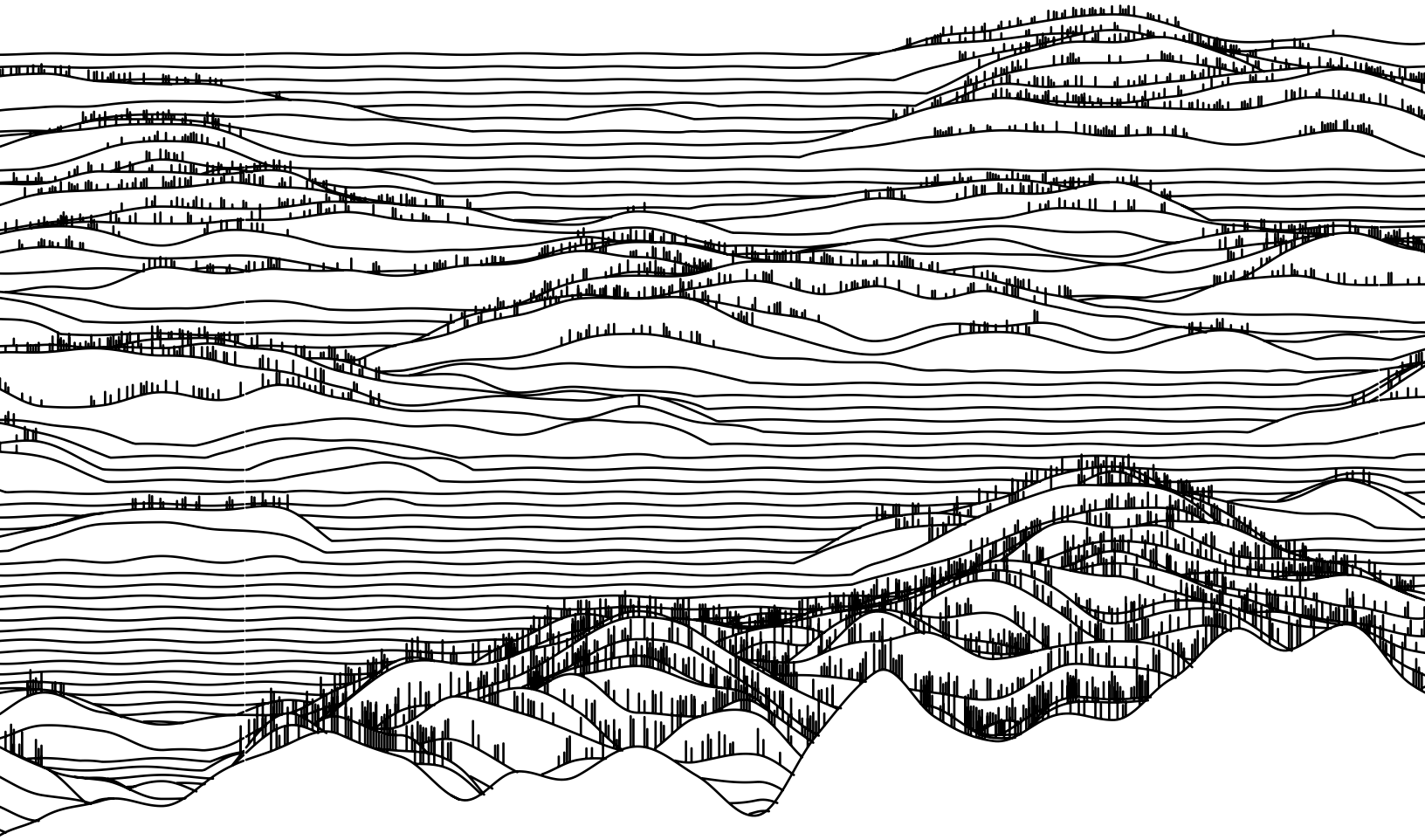


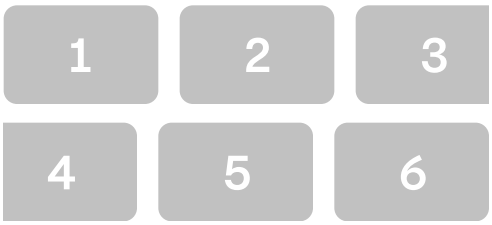
A Year of Creativity and Collaboration

Hack Club's 2023 Annual Report



Drawn by a Hack Clubber with Blot, a **You Ship, We Ship** project

On the front cover:



1 & 2: Karmanyaah, 18 and Kevin, 18 build a flamethrower at Outernet.
3: Lexi, 17 shows off her whack-a-buzzer game at Outernet.
4: Adalina, 16 teaches two Girl Scouts from the Bay Area.
5: Two Girls Scouts from New York City build a game with Sprig.
6: Josias, 16 from Cameroon teaches his coding club to create their first website.

This report was designed in Figma by Hack Clubbers Sarthak Mohanty, 18 from Texas and Toby, 15 from England.

April 2024

Dear Hack Club community,

Thank you to our donors and supporters for making an incredible year possible for young people at Hack Club.

Hundreds more teenagers are coding, connecting, and learning to lead with kindness and thoughtfulness as they grow into the next generation of tech leaders.

Our clubs program strengthened and grew in creative, fun ways under the leadership of Thomas, 18, who joined Hack Club for a gap year. Dieter, 18, built out our social media, creating videos on Hack Club with millions of views.

Nearly 50 technical teenagers got career training in paid positions building Hack Club this year; and HCB, our fiscal sponsorship and financial platform, helped more than 1,000 teen-led orgs.

Hack Club's You Ship, We Ship blossomed into a real program, with at least 1,500 teenagers building their first circuit boards with OnBoard or designing their first video game with Sprig.

Hack Club has been active in building AI fluency in young people since 2019 when a group of teenagers in the community reverse-engineered OpenAI's API to get early access to GPT-2, and student engineers working at Hack Club are pioneering the development of an AI tool that helps beginner students learn to code.

In 2023, more than 600 teenagers traveled to Hack Club's four major hackathons, and we provided travel grants to teenagers who needed it – thanks to your donations.

Young women are increasingly active and coding at Hack Club, thanks to Days of Service, a project launched by two teenagers and staff at Hack Club-- by 2025 we aim more than 1,000 girls will have been trained.

Financially, we nearly doubled our fundraising. $7M was donated to Hack Club in 2023, enabling us to start strong in 2024!

Sincerely,

Zach Latta
Founder of Hack Club

Christina Asquith
Co-founder of Hack Club

CS Training: Clubs and 100+ Hackathons

Our afterschool coding clubs are run by teens for teens, focusing on creating community, building friendships and learning computer science and STEM skills.

100+
in person, teen led hackathons

217
new Hack Clubs across the globe

9000
students served directly

poolesville_hacks

Jaden, 17 and Linkai, 17 from Maryland hosted their second hackathon.

120
attendees

HackPNW

Alex, 16 from Washington hosted his first hackathon.

150
attendees

BEANTOWN BASH

Kevin and Leah, both 18 from Boston, came together to run a hackathon in their city.

100
participants

Waterloo Collegiate Institute Hack Club

Acon, 16 from Canada runs a Hack Club that meets weekly.

Members working on **Sprig**, a Hack Clubber-made game engine →

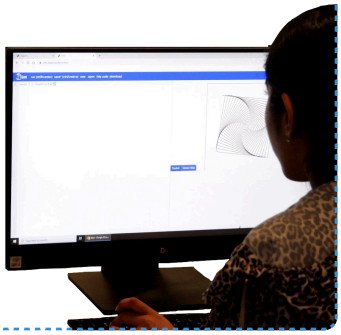
52
club members

South Forsyth High School Hack Club

Sahiti, 17 from Georgia runs a Hack Club that meets bi-weekly.

Member working on **Blot**, a Hack Clubber-made drawing-with-code machine →

65
club members



ForsythHacks

Sahiti also ran the first high school hackathon in the Atlanta area.

Career Training: Internships and Gap Years

In 2023 thanks to generous donors, we tripled the size of our paid summer interns, our full-time gap-year students, and our remote contributors, giving teenagers from every background real-world experiences in engineering, programming, and design.

Interns and staff at Hack Club during the summer of 2023

11

paid interns
over the summer

64%

of employees on
staff are students

10

interns continued
their work in the fall

"Creating a new program for Hack Club was an endeavor I never would've had the chance to embark on anywhere else."

Sarthak, 18 worked on **Days of Service**

"At the beginning of the summer, I didn't have that much experience with Ruby on Rails, and now I'm shipping features to production every week."

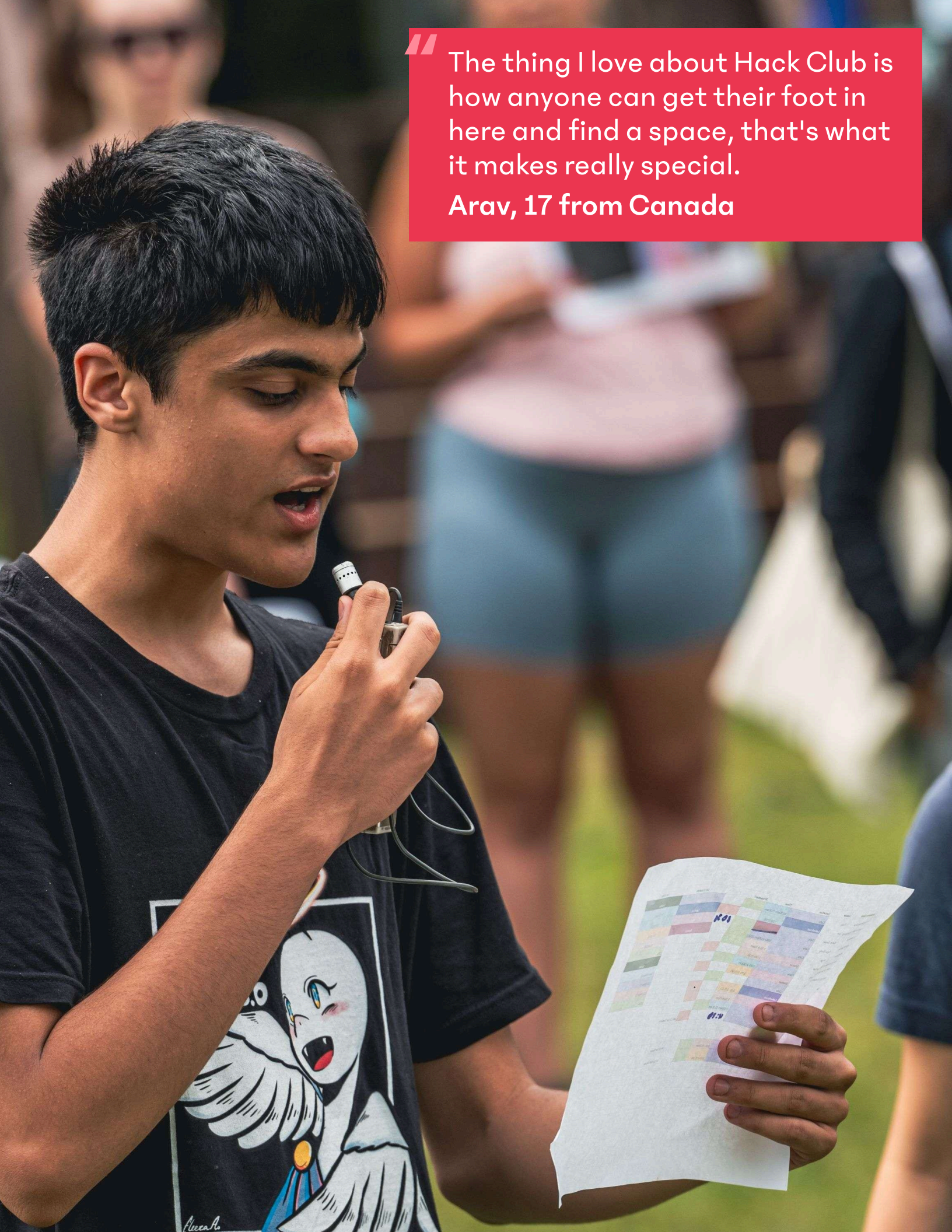
Ian, 15 worked on **HCB**

"You can't run an event alone. Working with all my friends to make Outernet happen was incredibly meaningful to me."

Sam, 18 worked on **Outernet**

After high school, Hack Club alumni go on to do big things in the world.
A few examples:

NEURALINK · NASA · Massachusetts Institute of Technology · Berkeley UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA · Y



> The thing I love about Hack Club is how anyone can get their foot in here and find a space, that's what it makes really special.
>
> **Arav, 17 from Canada**

> I love being part of a strong, welcoming and friendly community, that loves to build awesome things!
>
> **Toby, 15 from England**

An Internet Connection Is All You Need

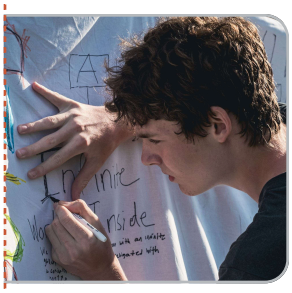
Hack Club is accessible to every teenager with an internet connection. This year we've given over **$200K** in travel grants, and an additional **$80K** in hardware grants through Sprig, Blot, and OnBoard: our You Ship, We Ship projects.

OUTERNET

120 travel stipends

150 participants

Every summer, Hack Clubbers do something special. In 2023, we ventured out to the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont for Outernet — a four-day experimental coding/camping trip. Together, we turned a semi-abandoned campsite into a bustling hacker oasis.



View the documentary at **https://hack.club/outernet-doc**

Words from the slack

> I am so grateful Hack Club exists.
>
> **Sam, 17 from Singapore**

> HOLY SHIT I LOVE HACK CLUB
> I LOVE HACK CLUBB
>
> **Henry, 16 from Vermont**

> Thankful for Hack Club because of the friends that literally cheer me on and get on a zoom call to debug my code with me, encourage me to apply to things I wouldn't have dreamed of, and support me through the hard parts.
>
> **Sahiti, 17 from Georgia**

> I never think I can meet a cooler person than my Hack Club friends and then I meet a new Hack Clubber.
>
> **Arianna, 18 from Kentucky**

> I'm so grateful for all of the years and experiences. I'm especially thankful that I get to be a part of a community like Hack Club; y'all are literally the best
>
> **Courtney, 17 from Alabama**

> Hack Club played an integral role in my self-discovery, giving me a safe place to figure out who I really was and giving me people who were like me, who I could connect with on a deeper level than ever before
>
> **B, 17 from Washington**

> It's been a little over 6 months since I joined! My life has completely changed - I started a Hack Club at my school, got a CS internship, took college-level CS classes, and have completely changed my interests to CS. Thank you Hack Club :))
>
> **Risha, 17 from Washington**

> When I joined Hack Club I didn't even know what exactly is coding (I'm not exaggerating lol) and then I remember [other Hack Clubbers] told me like you should try this or that and I started with Hack Club workshop (that's where I learned first about coding).
>
> **Ramiz, 16 from India**

Closing the Gender Gap

Hack Club has been dedicated to supporting thousands of girls across the globe gain access to computer science and STEM skills.

40%
of attendees at our in-person events are girls

30%
of the Hack Club community are girls

50%
of HCB organizations are female-led

Days of Service

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH girl scouts

In 2023, we launched Days of Service, putting our mission into action by hosting all day hackathons for girls, often in partnership with the Girl Scouts. This past year, more than 200 girls received training at 6 Days of Service events across the US. We also host dinners with women tech leaders so that Hack Clubbers can gain valuable advice, community, and mentorship.

Hack Clubbers Belle, 18 and Abby, 16

horizon
HACK CLUB & GIRL SCOUTS OF GREATER NEW YORK

In March 2023, Belle, from Malaysia, and Abby, from LA, hosted Horizon in NYC kicking off our partnership with the Girl Scouts. They ran a series of workshops and coded all day Saturday with 37 Girl Scouts from NYC. In the evening, they hosted a dinner with 10 professional female tech leaders.

See the rest of our events at **daysofservice.hackclub.com**

Thanks to **Gwynne Shotwell**, we're expanding this program in 2024.

> Hack Club is one of the most important things to me.
>
> **Henry, 16 from Vermont**

> Hack Club feels like home and gave me the confidence to reach out when I had an idea.
>
> **Belle, 18 from Malaysia**

You Ship, We Ship

Not every student has the opportunity to buy or create their own projects. With the You Ship, We Ship project, Hack Club closes this gap.

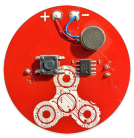
464
total projects shipped

31
countries receiving grants

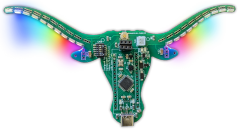
OnBoard

152
grants given

Circuit boards are magical. Teenagers ship a PCB project, submit it to a repository of other projects, and learn about electrical circuits in the process. We give them a $100 grant to see their PCB get made and they get multiple iterations out of it too!



Micha, 16 from New Jersey built a **fidget spinner** without any moving parts



Karmanyaah, 18 from Texas built a **digital level**

sprig

262
devices sent

The original You Ship, We Ship project that continues to introduce new coders to game development and JavaScript. Teenagers build an original game and we ship them a Sprig kit to play their game on!

Cosmin, 16 from Romania built Super Mario

Try his recreation at **https://hack.club/cosmin**

Jeslyn, 16 from Houston built a role-playing game

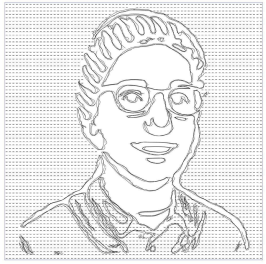
Don't eat the soup at **https://hack.club/jeslyn**

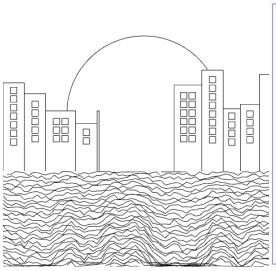
Blot

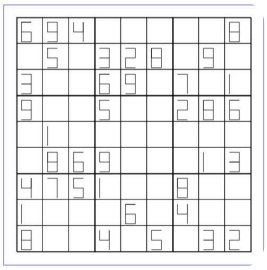
10
devices sent

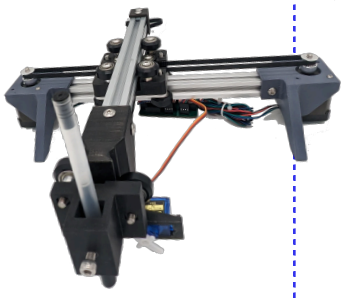
Teenagers write a program that creates art and we'll send them a CNC machine that can draw it. Below are some examples of projects this year. Blot was created in the summer of 2023.

The drawings below made by teenagers are from 4 months of public release.









Entrepreneurs and Financial Literacy: HCB

HCB was built by teenagers in 2018 to provide a platform for all teenagers to raise and spend money, receive grants and learn financial literacy.

Last year, we've helped:

1543
fiscally-sponsored projects

$3M
in funds raised this year

$42K
in hackathon grants given

OBLONG — $196 raised

Reese, 14 from Texas works on a nonprofit that gives free domains to high schoolers building personal websites.

Tandem — $1K raised

Arianna, 18 and Lorenzo, 18 from Kentucky work on an app to connect generations and share stories from the elderly.

Hack OC — $512 raised

Ian and Robert, both 15 and from California, ran a 36-hour high school hackathon with over 70 attendees.

Hackathon Grants

In 2022 after the pandemic, we launched our **$500 hackathon grant** to promote in-person events. Through the program, we've helped 84 in-person hackathons make an impact on teenagers around the country.

Here are two stories of teenagers who made a massive impact in their community.

HACKAUSTIN! — $2K raised

Reese, 14 from Texas ran the only high school hackathon in the South Texas area.

See their finances at
https://hack.club/hack-austin

Leland Hacks — $10K raised

Maggie, 17 from California ran a 12-hour hackathon at her public library.

See their finances at
https://hack.club/leland-hacks

> I'm grateful for an organization that works tirelessly so that I can get good at coding and go to crazy events with the best people.
>
> **Cheru, 16 from Vermont**

> Hack Club is more than a professional establishment: it's (literally) a home.
>
> **Shubham, 16 from California**

Hack Club in the Media

Hack Club is gaining media attention for our impact on tech education, and fostering innovation and collaboration among students.

GROWTH ON INSTAGRAM

2000% ↑
increase in follower count

20M
views over the past year

GROWTH ON YOUTUBE

400% ↑
increase in subscriber count

135K
views over the past year

GROWTH ON TWITTER

17.4K ↑
follower count

Hack Club is the most technically active GitHub organization of young people.

Hack Club Grants Encourage Open Source PCB Designs By Teens

HACKADAY

Front paged Hacker News **3X**

I'm 17 And Wrote This Guide On How CPUs Run Programs
(1337 points)

Show HN: How Did Your Computer Reach My Server?
(659 points)

Show HN: SineRider, A Math Puzzle Game
(181 points)

So many AMAs.

David Heinemeier Hansson
Creator of Ruby on Rails

David Malan
Harvard's CS50 Instructor

Alec Watson
Technology Connections Host

Christina Entcheva
Director of Software Engineering, GitHub

Ben Trit and Owen Trueblood
Founder of ArtMatr

Philanthropy and Budget

Hack Club operates on a philanthropy, revenue, plus volunteerism and peer-to-peer instruction model.

Staff

33 full-time staff
21 part-time staff
64% teenagers

	2021	2022	2023
Total Revenue	$3,074,940	$3,107,145	$7,300,000
Donations	$2,901,439	$3,004,000	$6,800,000
Earned Revenue	$38,661	$103,145	$292,000
Additional Revenue	$134,840		$184,000
Expenses	$1,711,023	$1,805,000	$3,000,000
Net Operating Revenue	$1,363,917	$1,302,145	$4,300,000

Above amounts are in USD ($)

Thank you to our 2023 donors who make Hack Club possible for thousands of teenagers

Thank you to the hundreds of teenagers and strangers who made small donations via our website.

Thank you to our in-kind donors of time and space.

Elon Musk
Tobi Lutke
Tom Preston Werner
Endless Network
Ron Baron
Jack Dorsey
Danhakl Family Foundation
Argosy/John Abele
Craig Newmark
FUTO
128 Collective
Ron Conway
Adam Ross
Max Friedman
Blake Liberman
Emily Panka
Eric Chen
Quinn Slack

Heather Hasson
Trina Spear
Guillermo Rauch
David Kramer
Conrad Kramer
Theresa Preston-Werner
Stormy Peters
Jeff Weinstein
Girl Scouts USA
FIRST Robotics
Girls Who Code

Hack Club 2023
Annual Report