



Tennessee  
STEM  
Innovation  
Network



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### STEMspark, TN STEM INNOVATION NETWORK, TN CODE ACADEMY AND LAUNCH TENNESSEE ANNOUNCE YOUTH CODING EVENT FOR #HOURofCODE

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 12, 2013 – STEMspark, TN STEM Innovation Network, TN Code Academy and Launch Tennessee are hosting an “Hour of Code” event in East Tennessee to coincide with Code.org’s Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 9-15). Over 6 million students in 67 countries are expected to participate in the Hour of Code this week. The goal is to get kids to think, create and have fun – all while learning some computer programming.

The event in Knoxville will take place on **Saturday, Dec. 14, 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Min Kao Building on the campus of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (1520 Middle Drive)**. CURENT, the National Science Foundation engineering research center at the University of Tennessee, will host an Open House event where students can get a brief overview of computer programming as well as interact with UT computer science students. The event is designed for middle school students and parents, and onsite registration will be available.

Ninety percent of American schools don’t teach computer science. Fewer students are learning how computers work than a decade ago, but technology is increasingly shaping almost every aspect of how people live their lives. STEMspark joins Tennessee STEM Innovation Network partner hubs across the state to host the largest education event in history in order to generate interest in the computer sciences.

“The Hour of Code is designed to demystify code, to show that computer science is not rocket-science, and anybody can learn the basics,” said Hadi Partovi, founder and CEO of Code.org. “It’s now on track to be the largest learning event in history, proving that the demand for relevant 21st century computer science education crosses all borders and knows no boundaries.”

TN Code Academy, Launch Tennessee, and the TN STEM Innovation Network are encouraging students across Tennessee to register. Those who register are eligible for a wide range of prizes. In addition to the event in Knoxville, there are several events taking place across the state celebrating the Hour of Code and hosted by Tennessee STEM Innovation Network hubs:

**Memphis:** 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13 at the University of Memphis. The University of Memphis computer science department will hold a CS Open House that will include workshops on creating video games and programming Lego robots, interactive demonstrations of current Memphis research projects, talks on CS/IT careers and an introduction of basic programming. Contact [kmalasri@memphis.edu](mailto:kmalasri@memphis.edu) to register.

**Chattanooga:** 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 at the Chattanooga Public Library. The event will be for middle school students and parents. At this event students interface in small group discussions with professionals in different computer science occupations, have lunch and then conduct their hour of code time on either their own laptop that they bring or a Chromebook provided by Engage3D.

For more information about the events, please contact Sammy Lowdermilk of TN Code Academy at 931-379-1039, [Sammy@tncodeacademy.com](mailto:Sammy@tncodeacademy.com) or Marilyn Roddy of STEMspark, [Marilyn.Roddy@STEMspark.com](mailto:Marilyn.Roddy@STEMspark.com).

## About STEMspark

STEMspark is the East Tennessee STEM Education hub of the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network and the nationwide STEMx coalition. STEMspark is a regional partnership of educational, business, scientific and research institutions collaborating to promote and support high quality STEM education in the East Tennessee region. Additional information may be found at <http://stemspark.com/>. Please friend STEMspark on Facebook ([www.Facebook.com/STEMspark](http://www.Facebook.com/STEMspark)), Twitter ([www.Twitter.com/STEMspark](http://www.Twitter.com/STEMspark)) and Pinterest ([www.Pinterest.com/STEMspark](http://www.Pinterest.com/STEMspark))

## About TN Code Academy

TN Code Academy is a program of The Biz Foundry, a Launch Tennessee business accelerator. The program's overall goal is to build a talent pool of coders and programmers, not only in the Upper Cumberland region, but also throughout Tennessee. Additional information about these programs can be found at <http://tncodeacademy.com>

## About the TSIN

The Tennessee STEM Innovation Network (TSIN) is a public-private collaboration between the Tennessee Department of Education and Battelle Memorial Institute designed to promote and expand the teaching and learning of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education in K-12 public schools across Tennessee.

The TSIN comprises six Regional STEM Innovation Hubs and nine STEM Platform Schools. The schools are designed to encourage local educational innovation by investigating and creating new STEM teaching and learning best practices to be shared throughout the state, all while providing their students with the skills necessary to succeed in the 21st century workplace. The hubs are the nuclei of regional STEM activity, representing a formal partnership among school districts, post-secondary institutions, STEM businesses, and community organizations.

Please friend TSIN on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/TennesseeSTEMInnovationNetwork](http://www.facebook.com/TennesseeSTEMInnovationNetwork)), Twitter ([www.twitter.com/thetsin](http://www.twitter.com/thetsin)) and Pinterest ([www.pinterest.com/thetsin/](http://www.pinterest.com/thetsin/))

## About Launch Tennessee

Launch Tennessee is a public-private partnership focused on supporting the development of high-growth companies in the state of Tennessee with the ultimate goal of fostering job creation and economic growth. Launch Tennessee focuses on four key areas: entrepreneurship, commercialization, capital and outreach. Launch Tennessee is in part funded by a grant from the State of Tennessee. Please friend Launch Tennessee on Facebook ([www.Facebook.com/LaunchTN](http://www.Facebook.com/LaunchTN)), Twitter ([www.Twitter.com/LaunchTN](http://www.Twitter.com/LaunchTN)), YouTube ([www.YouTube.com/LaunchTN](http://www.YouTube.com/LaunchTN)) and Flickr ([www.Flickr.com/LaunchTN](http://www.Flickr.com/LaunchTN)).

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