



# CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE

## HACK DAY

### What is Hack Day?

- A traditional hackathon is a 1-2 day event where individuals or teams collaborate intensively to solve problems through innovative and creative use of technology and coding.
  - Hack Days can be as short as one hour or as long as half a day and can be hosted in-person or remotely
- A Hack Day can include a short coding seminar hosted by community educators, a concept workshop for CAC apps, a Q&A with app developers, and/or remarks from the Member.
- Members of Congress can utilize the principles of a traditional hackathon to host a Hack Day - encouraging student participation in their App Challenge.

### Why Host a Hack Day?

- Great way to spread the word about your Congressional App Challenge and give students a head start on their projects
- A Hack Day can provide students from various backgrounds, especially those with limited technology backgrounds, with an entrepreneurial educational opportunity.
- Wonderful opportunity to collaborate with educators and STEM supporters in your district

### Planning a Hack Day

- Hack Days should be planned at least a month in advance to ensure attendees have time to register
- Promote your Hack Day event through local educators - Principals, Superintendents, Guidance Counselors, and Teachers. Don't forget about after school programs, youth centers, non-profits, libraries, etc...
- Find subject matter experts - someone who can do a short coding tutorial or answer questions. Community based. Community college professors are a great resource. CAC team can help make suggestions on speakers.
- Plan to have one or multiple local STEM educators or other guest professionals who will be able to guide the students and provide feedback.
- Partnering with state universities can be a great way to bring in mentors and spread the word
- Be sure to adequately advertise the hackathon through email reminders and social media posts.

**\*Important Disclaimer:** This is a reference for informational purposes only. This is created to display examples of what other MOCs have done. It is not meant as an event or 'how-to' template. Check in with House Administration Committee for specific guidelines on App Challenge events.



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## IN-PERSON BEST PRACTICES

In-person events are a great way to engage with students in your district. It is more interactive than a virtual event and more likely to have impact on students. Meeting your Member is a big deal!

1. Local schools, community colleges or other government buildings are great places to host Hack Days with little to no cost.
2. Plan for a weekend - more students will be free to join!
3. Food and beverages can be donated.
  - a. Confirm with Ethics before the event!
4. Do not forget to bring your social media team - and don't miss out on a great photo opportunity with the Member!
5. Invite other community organizations, schools and businesses to provide resources and opportunities for the students.

## USEFUL INFORMATION:

Promote your Hack Day on Social Media. Please refer to our Graphics page for example graphics as well as this link for sample texts. For questions, please email [cad@congressionalappchallenge.us](mailto:cad@congressionalappchallenge.us).

## VIRTUAL BEST PRACTICES

Virtual events are great for offices with limited lead time or large geographic districts! It will ensure that students from across the district can attend.

1. Virtual Hack Days can be held over any video conferencing platform such as Zoom.
2. Feel free to use breakout rooms and allow students to communicate in the chat.
  - a. It will help team-building and collaboration.
3. Virtual events can be help in the evening or on weekends.
  - a. Allows for more flexibility as students will not need to travel

## ETHICS

1. When it doubt, it is always best practice to confirm with Ethics regarding MRA and Event specific questions.
2. Member Handbook can be accessed at: <https://shorturl.at/Alcc7>
3. Donated Prizes must be below \$50!
4. Commemorative items like photos with the Member, or certificates are a great option.

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