

INDIVIDUALS' TOOLKIT FOR NATIONAL CODING WEEK



This toolkit contains ideas for events you can help with during National Coding Week .

www.nationalcodingweek.com



THE **AIM** OF NATIONAL CODING WEEK



Are you someone who wants to help share your digital skills within your local community? Do you have an interest in coding or a passion for technology or are you good at supporting others if they organise an event? Well if that sounds like you, then National Coding Week community needs you!

The aim of National Coding Week is to help build people's confidence and digital skills at fun and engaging events. By helping beginners learn new skills you're providing them with valuable experience that will spur them on to learn more.

National Coding Week has toolkits that help different sectors in the community to get involved. These toolkits are for: Libraries, Hubs, Schools, Meet ups, Businesses and Individuals.

Do you want to volunteer by sharing your skills?

Do you want to participate in National Coding Week and learn new skills?



I WANT TO VOLUNTEER. HOW CAN I?



Volunteering ideas

Your first step is to work out which is the community or sector that would be easiest to help.

Schools - if you're a parent why not volunteer your skills at your child's school or codeclub or local library?

Businesses - if you are a business owner or freelancer why not sponsor or support an event at a meetup, library, codeclub or hub?

Hub - if you are a member of a Hub, NGO or Co-working space why not persuade the members to organise an event?

Library - if you work at your local library or are a member why not volunteer your skills and help the staff run an event.

Meet ups - why not share your digital skills at your local meet up? You can find them on facebook, twitter, meetup, eventbrite and other websites.

Go online - why not share your ideas, thoughts, videos and help inspire others? Tag us in [@codingweek](#) [#NationalCodingWeek](#)

Go it alone - sharing your skills with your family and friends can be a starting point. If you feel confident why not set up an event and promote it to an audience. See who comes then share your skills and make new friends!

National Coding Week is not just coding!

You don't have to teach a hands-on coding session. You could run a general digital skills event instead.

For example, you could host a class on:

- Cybersecurity Essentials
- Big Data – Your Privacy
- Digital Marketing for Beginners
- Careers in Coding
- Websites and User Experience
- Introduction to Open Source
- 3D Printing

Search the National Coding Week Site for the sector toolkits where you will see advice on organising an event along with case studies.

Tool Kits available: Libraries, Hubs, Schools, Businesses, Meet ups, Individuals

TOP TEN TIPS



1. Choose a topic

Choose a topic that is of interest to your community/target audience - after all why should they attend yours?

2. Be clear on your target audience

Be clear about who your target audience is, this will help when marketing and promoting your event. For example if you are a:

- Teacher - your audience could be fellow teachers or children
- Designer - your audience could be coders
- Digital marketing professional - your audience could be web developers, fellow marketing professionals or digital freelancers

3. Choose an appropriate venue

Check costs, refreshments, availability (is it available 45 mins before your event and 30 mins after?). Does it have appropriate audio visual resources including connectors to laptops?

4. Cap number of people

To avoid turning people away, cap the number of people admitted. An event with 10 people may be just as relevant and interesting as an event with 30.

5. Use the right channels

If you're using a Meetup-type app or Facebook make sure you get people to RSVP so attendees know they won't be alone.

6. You don't have to stick to one format

Meetups can be formal or informal and you can alter the format each time you hold one. These are examples you could follow:

- Networking over coffee/cakes/beer/pizza
- A panel discussion
- Guest speak and Q and A
- Presentation
- Hands-on coding session

7. Remember it's non-profit

During National Coding Week we don't expect event holders to charge for holding an event other than to cover costs. We want events to be accessible to all.

8. Encourage everyone

Remember when you hold an event new people may be apprehensive so make them feel welcome and encourage them to return. Don't have too much jargon and include new members in any discussion. After all it's an opportunity to gain feedback and ideas that will sustain your group.

9. Have someone help out

Have someone helping you on the day to meet and greet, take photos and help with the organisation, evaluation and follow up.

10. Have fun!

I WANT TO PARTICIPATE. HOW CAN I?

Events will be all around the county - remember we are all volunteers and therefore we won't know where people are holding events until they publicise them so use your initiative and in the first instance check out:

- Your local library
- Eventbrite
- Meetup
- Facebook

If you are a parent ask your local school if they are participating. Good libraries and schools always get involved.

What if I can't find a local event?

Don't worry – there are many online tutorials available that have been designed for new learners.

Here's a list of free online tutorials suitable for absolute beginners:

- [freeCodeCamp](#)
- [Codecademy](#)
- [Khan Academy](#) (especially [Hour of Code](#))
- [Codewars](#)
- [GA Dash](#)



STORIES OF SUCCESSFUL PAST EVENTS



Here are some stories of how individuals have got involved to inspire you

Starting Small and Growing Big

A Web Designer wanted to reach out to his local tech community when he moved into a new city. The title of his first meetup was Web Design Fundamentals. The first meet up was an informal presentation open to experienced professionals and those who were new to the industry. He branded it as “a great opportunity to meet like-minded people, learn interesting things and have some laughs”.

He also marketed it well with engaging phrases eg “Tell your friends! Be sure to share this event so nobody misses out”. 37 People attended this event and after running 5 events he had 323 individuals as part of his meetup community.

Jonathan Channing

Jonathan left school with no qualifications and was diagnosed with autism aged 19. Unemployed and without any skills, Jonathan became depressed and a recluse. His life changed when he attended a coding course which fired him up and he was soon learning and practising his skills.

He volunteered to help at National Coding Week and soon after he established his own successful freelance coding business. Jonathan is now the Head of Strategy at National Coding Week.

“Learning to code, gaining confidence and skills and volunteering to help others has dramatically changed my life!”

Volunteering Locally

Sophie Ashcroft

Sophie Ashcroft volunteered to lead an event at her local Hub.

- It was a workshop to help people develop their front-end web development skills using Grid Garden.
- The event was for any adult that wanted to learn to code - whether they had coded before or not.
- There were mentors on hand should any of the participants get stuck or have any questions.

Lucy Witham

Coordinated events at the Digital GreenHouse in Guernsey. Lots of events were held during the week which included coding, 3D printing, online safety, laser etching, graphic design, senior cyber citizenship and digital leadership. Games and competitions were also run which drew in people from all ages and all backgrounds.

Ed Jewell

Ed Jewell, Chief Librarian at Jersey Library volunteered not only to get his local library involved with National Coding Week but he also coordinated with local businesses to get involved. This helped showcase their skills and inspired audiences of all backgrounds to gain confidence in learning digital skills. Events included Women in Tech, Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality, Coding and Careers in Tech.

Louize Clarke

Louize is a business leader in Reading and has volunteered her time to promote the learning of digital skills within her community. Louize Clarke is Director of ConnectTVT a Reading-based platform which aims to connect the tech and digital dots across the Thames Valley. Louize also runs GROW@GreenPark, a vibrant co-working space supporting the local start-up communities.



Volunteering Further Afield

Claire Wicher

Claire volunteers her time to run free coding workshops at CodeUp UK a series of meetups across the country.

CodeUp is the adult version of Code Club, providing free and friendly adult coding tuition. It is an open, friendly and supportive learning environment where any adult can attain new digital skills for zero financial cost.

Last year they ran 7 events for National Coding Week and over 200 people attended.

CodeUp locations:

CodeUp Lancaster, CodeUp Preston, CodeUp Leeds, CodeUp Huddersfield, CodeUp Oldham, CodeUp Wigan, CodeUp Chester, CodeUp Stockport, CodeUp Manchester, CodeUp Salford, CodeUp Sheffield.



Mylo Kaye

Mylo has an inspiring story. After being homeless he established a digital business in Manchester. He has not forgotten his tough times and therefore has volunteered his time and resources to help members of his community. For National Coding Week he mobilised his whole team to spread the love of digital skills throughout the week, holding events in the streets of Manchester and inspiring those within the community to learn more about digital skills.

Ashleigh Godsmark

Ashleigh runs her creative studio stop. and volunteered to help with creating graphics to help promote and spread the word about National Coding Week. Her creative flair and great ideas helped National Coding Week team to build the sector tool kits which now feature on our new website.



Youngsters Inspiring Others



Charlotte ran and organised a coding class for her guide unit. She designed a project and set aims for the attendees, then taught them how to code. The project tasks included changing the colour of the project background, making their name appear, spin and then disappear.

Gwyn has shown a real passion for digital and has taken the time to share his skills with others. He has also attended CoderDojos Coolest projects in Dublin where he presented a game he created using the BBC micro:bit that involved sewing it to a pair of gloves to control the program on the screen. He was also a finalist for VentureFest 2017 with his teams app idea to tackle future energy challenges. At one of the dojos during National Coding Week he also ran a workshop on the working of his project for Coolest Projects.



Inspiring Stories

Daaneshwar's Story

"After attending a couple of CodeUp meetups I saw that they were organising a series of workshops for National Coding Week, one of which covered Java. Some months passed and I continued furthering my knowledge, until one day I felt I had reached a point where I could apply for junior positions in the tech industry. "

Tell Us Your Story

Share what you're doing with National Coding Week.

There are many ways you can share your events with us, but here a few to ensure we notice you.

- Use the hashtag **#nationalcodingweek**
- Tag us in your social media posts..
- Prefix your event title with National Coding Week.
- Send us an email at **hello@codingweek.org**
We love to hear about your events!



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