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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Program Lafayette” to bring technology workshops to Lafayette teens

LAFAYETTE, Colo March 6, 2014 – Got teens in grades 6-12? We've got tech! A collaborative partnership between the Lafayette Public Library and Lafayette Tech Meetup is debuting Teen Tech Week - 5 days of free workshops exposing local teens to software, programming and tech workshops March 10 through 14.

This partnership, dubbed Program Lafayette, is the brainchild of Lafayette Tech Meetup and initially began as a conversation in the community about improving access to technology. The goal behind the free workshop series is to get kids excited about using technology and creating cool things. Whether kids are just beginning, or have some experience, the workshops offer a variety of software and hardware topics.

“We’re very excited to collaborate with the local tech community in this way,” said Library Director Betsy Stroomer. “There are not many opportunities for kids and teens to get hands on experience with coding –for free! The Lafayette Tech Meetup members have been very generous, both by volunteering their time to teach and by sponsoring the programs with donations of equipment, supplies, and prizes. But best of all, they are opening up the future to our young people by getting them excited about using technology to solve real world problems.”

The latest installment of Program Lafayette is a series of FREE workshops during Teen Tech Week, March 10-14, at the Library. Workshops include after-school sessions for Git source control and in the languages Python and Ruby. The culmination of the week is an After-Hours Hack-a-thon for up to 48 teens, featuring tech fun, a scavenger hunt, great food, and prizes. All teens, experienced coders, beginners, or those somewhere in-between, are welcome to join in the tech fun.

“Our goal is to bring fun tech experiences to kids in our community,” shared Program Lafayette coordinator Anna Fowles-Winkler. “Many software developers started playing with computers early, and we hope to inspire the next generation with our workshops!”

To register, visit <http://programlafayette.org/?p=25> or www.cityoflafayette.com/Library Each workshop is limited to 20 teens. Bring your own laptop to use, but we will have laptops available.

Git: Social Networking for Your Code

Monday 3/10; 4:30pm - 5:30pm

Git is one of the need-to-know tools for software developers today! Learn the basics of version control and collaboration.

Intro to Python

Wednesday 3/12; 4:30pm - 5:30pm

Learn the basics of Python; choose a project! Program a chatbot that talks about movies, determine the cause of a disease outbreak in cats, or create a simple game.

Intro to Ruby

Thursday 3/13 4:30pm - 5:30pm

Learn to write your own programs using Ruby!

Cypher Scavenger Hunt Hack-a-thon

Friday 3/14; 5:00pm - 10:00pm

Limited to 48 teens

Be part of a team working on a programming task. Prizes will be awarded! Glory will be won! Plus, we'll have pizza, soda, and snacks. Bring your laptop, if you have one. Be ready to code in Python, Ruby, or the language of your choice. We will have laptops for teams to borrow, too.



For additional information contact:

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<http://programlafayette.org/?p=25>

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