HackJA Mentor FAQs

- What is a hackathon?
  - HackJA is a 24-hour student hackathon for 100-150 high school students planned by New Jersey high school students. In a hackathon, students are assigned tasks and challenges that are related to computer science and information technology. Students also get to participate in workshops and meet with mentors from various companies. It is a valuable experience for all students, regardless of whether they have no coding experience or are advanced coders.
- When is the hackathon?
  - In 2019-2020, our hackathons will be held October 25-26 and February 21-22
- Where is the hackathon?
  - Our hackathons are held at the Junior Achievement of New Jersey Education Center at 360 Pear Blossom Drive, Edison, NJ 08837
- What time should I be there?
  - Our hackathons open at 4pm on Friday and run until 4pm on Saturday. We typically recommend volunteers to sign up for the below shifts but you can volunteer for any times that are convenient for your schedule
    - 4pm-8pm (Friday – welcome, icebreakers/networking, workshops)
    - 8pm-12am (Friday – workshops, project work, networking)
    - 8am-12pm (Saturday – project finalization, workshops, networking, career panel)
    - 12pm-4pm (Saturday – project presentations, networking, judging)
- What if I don't work in coding or technology?
  - No worries! Not all students who attend our hackathons are looking to get into a career that focuses on coding or technology. You can still talk to them about your career path and what advice you have for young people. Your experiences and advice are invaluable for these students!
- What is my role as a volunteer?
  - Share your college, career, and life experiences
    - Most students participating in the hackathon are looking to go to college to get into their chosen career path. Sharing your experiences with college, networking, and getting into your career can be invaluable for high school students, even if your career path might be different than what the student is looking to do!
  - Help students with their projects/challenges
    - As students work on their projects and challenges, they can always use a fresh or more experience perspective on their work. Offer any advice you can; even if you don't have a coding/tech background, you have different and unique insights that can help students achieve their best!
  - Judging
    - After students submit their projects, judges score them to determine prizes! There is no coding or technology background requirement to be a judge. Judges are given rubrics for each challenge. It typically runs from 12pm-4pm on Saturday.
- What if I want to help with a workshop?
  - You can! If you would like to assist with or help design a workshop for our hackathon please reach out to us. If you know about the topic in an existing workshop and wish to participate let us know! Students would love to hear about the connection between coding and careers.