Parents Information

What is CoderDojo?

CoderDojo is an open source, volunteer led movement of free computer programming clubs for young people. At Dojos, young people between 7 and 17 learn how to code, develop websites, apps, programs, games and more. Dojos are set up, run by and led by volunteer members of the community, for their local community. Due to this all local Dojos are autonomous and each Dojo is different based on the skills of it's core team. Teams are comprised of a Champion, Mentors and non-technical volunteers.

CoderDojo has just one rule for the young people attending:

"Be Cool",
Bullying, lying, being disrespectful, wasting people's time and so on is considered uncool.

This information is for Parents that want to help out at the Dojo that they attend, Parents who volunteer are responsible for supporting Champions and Mentors who work with young people at CoderDojo.

It is recommended that Parents of young children attending CoderDojo stay and supervise their child for the duration of the session. If you are attending the session with your child and staying around, please consider helping out with the CoderDojo!

Why help out at your CoderDojo?

Whilst each individual CoderDojo aims to have some professional coders assisting, Dojos also welcome Parents to help out as non tech volunteers or tech volunteers (where applicable) to assisting young people in learning at CoderDojo. Volunteers are involved in once-off events, as well as ongoing activities so you don't have to feel pressured to take part in every Dojo.

Duties & Responsibilities as a Parental Volunteer

Parents of regular attendees and non technical volunteers who want to help out often work in Dojos. A Non tech volunteer can support their Dojo by providing encouragement to young people at the Dojo and helping when:

Planning a Dojo

- Help finding a venue
- Organising and Planning
- Promotion of the next Dojo session
- Help Source Funding or in kind Donations of equipment etc
- Administration and related support services

At the Dojo

- Health and Safety Checks
- Dojo Supervision:
  - Positive reinforcement
  - Encouraging creativity
  - Facilitate Peer to peer learning
- Setting up and cleaning after the session
- Car pooling

It is also not uncommon for parents/non-tech volunteers to learn the basics of Scratch and be able to work with beginners as a CoderDojo Mentor!

Vetting for Parental Volunteers

If you decide to become a volunteer with your local Dojo, rather than just a parental supervisor, you may have to undergo a vetting process depending on your Dojos Child Protection Policy and your regional child protection legislation.

More information about CoderDojo:

Website: http://coderdojo.com/
Zen: http://zen.coderdojo.com/
Kata: http://kata.coderdojo.com/wiki/Main_Page
Videos about CoderDojo:
- **CoderDojo, One Rule: Be Cool!:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k5ciSFjEN1c
- **CoderDojo in 90 Seconds:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_gcHGa8J1E

- **Coding the Future, The Story of CoderDojo so Far:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_bjboMjNr9Q

Intended for RP Pilot Participants   **Last Modified: 05/09/2014**

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