

cipher—don't learn alone

a kickass code community

Learning to code alone is tedious—trust me.

You may think that learning alone is an opportunity to craft your own process.

But then there's nothing to hold off the onslaught of confusion and frustration. No one to brainstorm ideas and problem-solve with. No one to collaborate with what UI tweaks look better. No one to review your code. No one to tell you when there's an easier approach you didn't see. No one to check your estimates and call them out when they're off by light years.

And there's no one to pick you up when you're feeling down.

Besides, what good are your crazy magical skills if you can't show them off?

You simply can't expect to learn the craft without being exposed to others with different ideas and styles.

That's Why We Founded Cipher.

Cipher is a code-oriented community—it's the one the Peel Region both deserves and needs.

Cipher is a launching pad into the world of programming for high schoolers.

Our goal is to have just enough knowledge to hack something magnificent and incredibly rewarding together because once you get that first taste of how much power you have to create, hacking is an itch that needs to be scratched consistently.

This fall, we will screen applicants to become part of our weekly coding community called “Circles”.

Cipher adopts the element of community from school, but breaks the student-teacher hierarchy, opting for peer-to-peer learning. Consequently, the community offers a more effective model of learning, while maintaining the crucial element of collaboration.

Hackers will work in tandem weekly to move fast and break things with various technologies through project-based, peer-to-peer learning.

Circles will establish a series for related topics. Each series of Circles will tackle a different concept, where we understand, solve and apply the concepts together.

By eliminating the teacher-student hierarchy, Cipher is able

to stray off the beaten path—the community is not bound to a specific curriculum.

Teachers are afraid to experiment what they aren't comfortable with. Programming is uncomfortable and scary constantly—that's the fun part.

Moreover, Cipher will host workshops and conferences open to the rest of the region centred around programming and related industries, such as UX + UI best practises, marketing and shipping a product. Cipher will bring in industry experts whenever possible to lead these events.

As well, Cipher will introduce Cipher Labs where hackers can compete for development contracts from sources in the community. We'll host a series of challenges and the team that performs best can take on the contract. The business in need of the services can choose to donate any amount of money for their project. This gives real world experience to high school students in our Circles, allowing them to obtain a glimpse of what a programming job could be like in the future.

If you or someone you know needs a site or app, reach out to labs@projectcipher.io and we'll get the conversation started!

Our First Initiative is Campfire '15.

We're hosting Campfire as a launch event for Cipher and to kickstart a network of coders within the Peel region.

Campfire is a conference for secondary school students featuring industry professional speakers from start-ups, established companies, and freelancers.

Delegates will also have the opportunity to network with like-minded students over dinner and activities throughout the event.

The conference will be hosted in the evening of August 20th in Brampton City Hall.

Tickets can be purchased at <http://campfire.projectcipher.io/> and join us on the event page!



“

if you're serious about programming, you should demand to work with your peers.

- jeff atwood, cofounder of stack overflow

