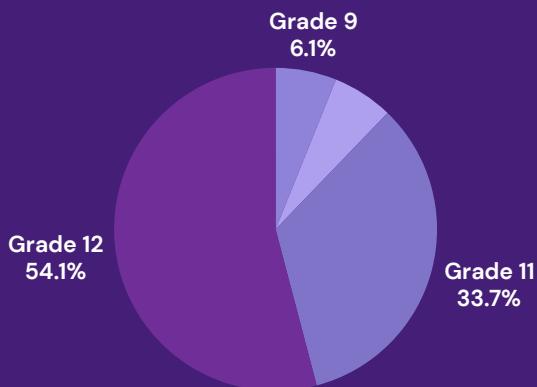# Hack the Skies

Annual Report

2024

Who Are We?

Hack the Skies is a high school student run organization, backed by Hack Club and founded in September of 2023 by students from Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute in Toronto, Canada

The main goal of Hack the Skies is to provide high school students in the GTA community with the opportunity to develop their programming, problem-solving, collaborative, and networking skills. We aim to introduce teenage students to the technology community.

A core part that makes Hack the Skies what it is is the high school student element. We are an organization founded by students, for students. As our founding members are graduating, we encourage students in high school to join Hack the Skies and continue its mission.

Grade 9
6.1%

Grade 12
54.1%

Grade 11
33.7%

"The event itself was **very well** organized and I will definitely be **attending again!**"

Afnan Syed, First-Time Hackathon Attendee (Gr. 10)

Contact Us!

hacktheskies.com
hello@hacktheskies.com
@hacktheskies *on all platforms*

80 16 30
ATTENDEES   PROJECTS   SCHOOLS

Meet Our Team

After attending hackathons and bringing myself into the tech community, I wanted to bring the same opportunity and joy to other students. I also wanted to create something purely of my own efforts and leadership, external to any school club or cause. And to complete such a daunting task, I reached out and assembled like-minded and incredibly capable student leaders in order to work on the most significant project of our high school years.

As a student organization with no dedicated adult, it was a jump into the world of independence and having no experience to lean on. We had to struggle and overcome networking, communicating with organizations, marketing, logistics, and facing all-too-real consequences and responsibility if we failed to fully commit and execute our event.

Jun Nur Mustaqeem
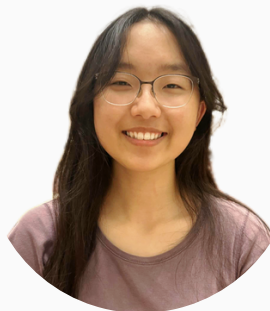*Founder*

Qazi Ayan
Director of Marketing

Nivasan Jeyarajan
Director of Operations

Nicholas Neill
Director of Logistics

Judges & Mentors:

Ketan Anand
Chief Product Officer @ Suuchi

Tejal Parab
Director of Product & Solutions @ Suuchi Inc

Kierstan Hong
Director, Digital @ Ontario Science Center

Dr. C. Dalrymple Fraser

PHD, Post-Doctoral Fellow @ UofT, Department of Philosophy

Lucas Cassidy
Co-Director of Finance

Tianai Liu
Operations Member

Claire Tsai
Co-Director of Finance

Yudong Gao
Game Designer @ OSC Digital Team

Rizoan Azfar
Computer Science @ TMU

Danial Hasan
Software/AI Engineer

Maruf Ahmed
Engineering Student @ TMU

Saga Biggar
Logistics Member

Zain Husain
Operations Member
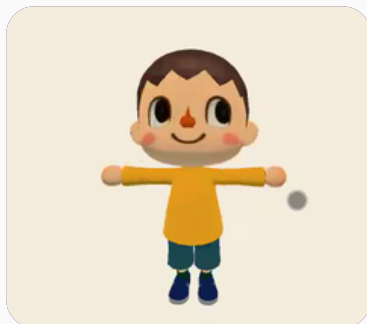
Ahnaf Masud
Operations Member

Chloe Bai
UX Designer @ Ontario Science Center

Hack the Skies 2024

The first iteration of Hack the Skies was held **virtually** through the use of platforms such as **Zoom, Discord,** and our gracious sponsor for the event, **DoraHacks**. Despite the original plan to host the event in-person and having to quickly adapt it to an online environment, we received upwards of **100 applications** and **welcomed 80 participants** from across North America. In the end, the participants created **16 innovative projects** in under **~45 hours**.

The event was a considerable success, and it would not have been possible without the help of the highly esteemed judges and mentors, who took time out of their busy schedules to judge the projects, but to also host three notable workshops: **Introduction to Product Management** by Ketan Anand and Tejas Parab from Suuchi Inc., **Communicating Technology: The Art of Storytelling in a Technical World** by Kierstan Hong from the Ontario Science Centre, and **Building a Full-Stack RAG Pipeline Application** with Software/AI Engineer Daniel Hasan.

There were three categories for prizes: **Best Overall** (winning **$120**), **Best Design** (winning **$90**), and **Best Pitch** (winning **$90**). In addition, a raffle was held for a participant to win a $15 gift card, and 12 participants to win four tiers of various **Dorahacks Merch**.

Serve to Conserve 🔗

Best Overall

The app encourages users to rethink how often they shop, how they use their wardrobe, and how they dispose of clothing. We help our users avoid the unsustainable practices of overconsumption by notifying them to donate their infrequently worn items, providing a network to trade their second-hand clothes, and reminding them when they're about to buy something too similar to what they already own. Through features like virtual outfit planning, clothing donations, and trades, the app simplifies making more sustainable choices while rewarding users for their eco-friendly actions.

EcoSort 🔗

Best Design

Eco Lens is a cutting-edge, AI-powered garbage bin designed to address the growing environmental challenge of improper waste disposal. Our solution uses advanced image recognition to detect whether an item is recyclable or non-recyclable and automatically sorts it into the appropriate compartment. An Arduino kit and motor is used to turn the garbage intake bin, dumping the contents of the bin into the correct waste type. Our prototype was made using cardboard.
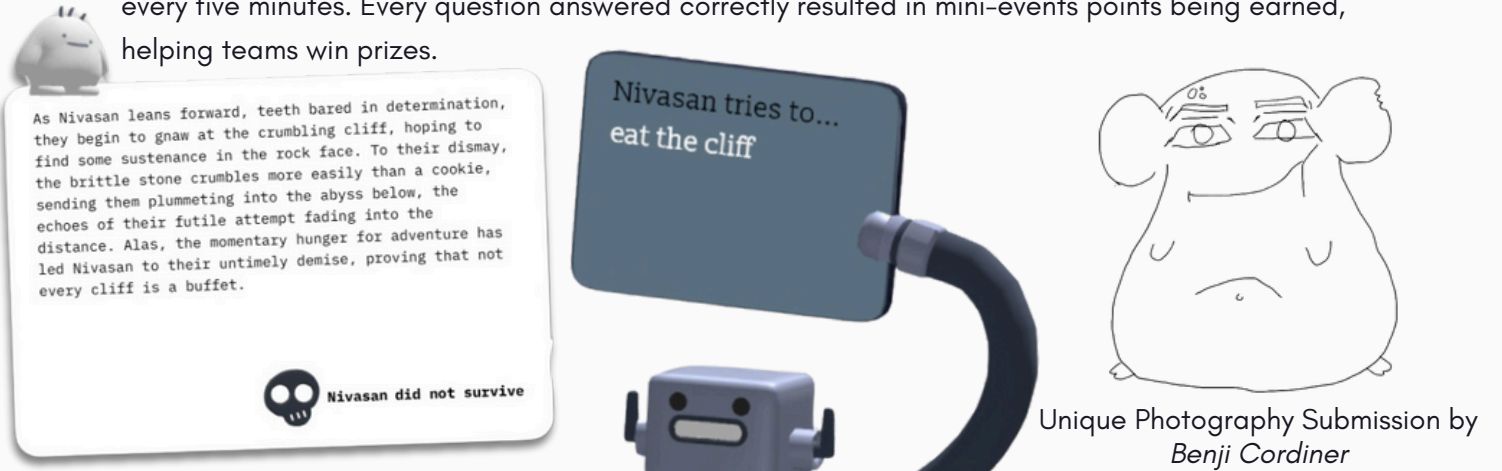

Nanfa FMS 🔗

Best Pitch

Nanfa FMS serves as an all-in-one fleet management platform that offers logistics operators a host of services from Client Relations Management, to Maintenance Record Logs, to Company Performance Analytics. Nanfa FMS aims to fill the gap in the market for adaptable and intuitive package software that benefits small and large companies alike in an industry that currently offers only highly specialized tools.
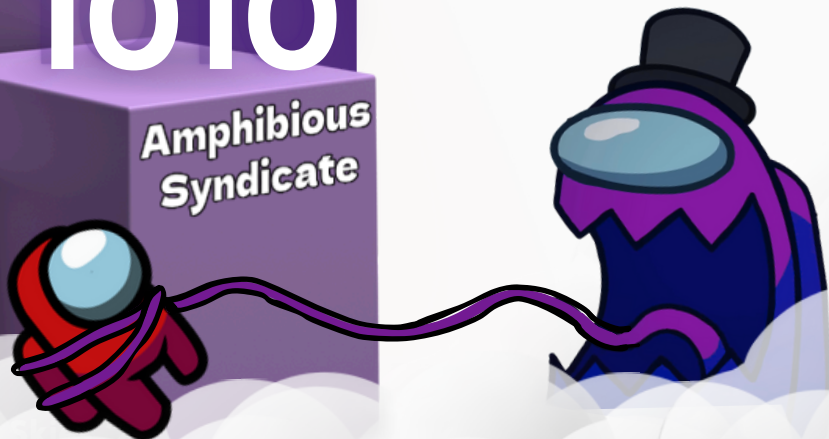
Hack the Skies 2024

In addition to the projects and technical aspects of a hackathon, many mini-events and small contests took place, where participants competed for a **$40 mini-events prize**. One of the most notable contests was the **photography competition**, in which participants submitted photos and others upvoted them. Notable mini-events included **Among Us**, **Gartic Phone**, and **Scribbl.io**. In addition, there was a custom-coded **trivia bot** live on the server, which participants were able to interact with every five minutes. Every question answered correctly resulted in mini-events points being earned, helping teams win prizes.

As Nivasan leans forward, teeth bared in determination, they begin to gnaw at the crumbling cliff, hoping to find some sustenance in the rock face. To their dismay, the brittle stone crumbles more easily than a cookie, sending them plummeting into the abyss below, the echoes of their futile attempt fading into the distance. Alas, the momentary hunger for adventure has led Nivasan to their untimely demise, proving that not every cliff is a buffet.

Nivasan did not survive

Nivasan tries to... eat the cliff

Unique Photography Submission by *Benji Cordiner*

MINIGAMES LEADERBOARD

1550
Error 404

1010
Amphibious Syndicate

875
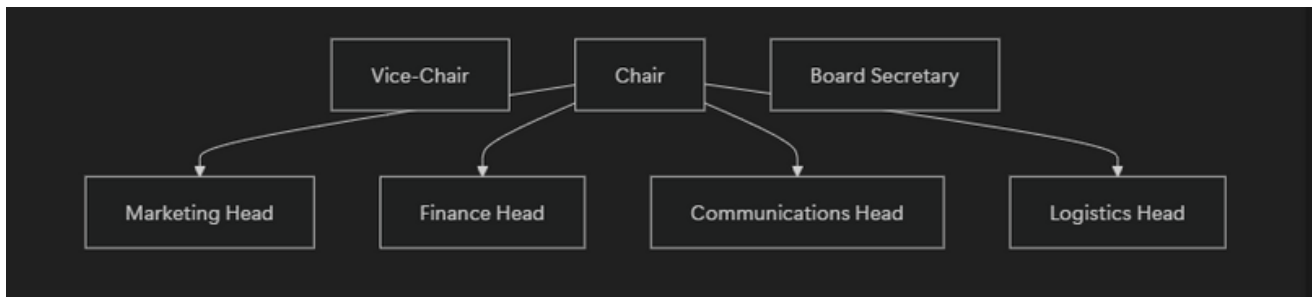Hack the Ground

Photography Submission by *Jason Xue*

Hack the Skies 2025

Hack the Skies 2025 has numerous goals to create an event which is **bigger** and **better** than last year's, one where high school students can meet industry professionals and create innovative projects, while being significantly better equipped to handle tough challenges. Our goals for 2025 are as follows:

- Host an **in-person** hackathon event within the GTA for **100+** high school students interested in technology
- **Expand** our team to include new high school members and continue the vision of a hackathon founded and mostly powered **by high school students for high school students**

With these goals come notable changes in the structure of the organizational team behind Hack the Skies:

- New teams, including Outreach and subdivisions of the Marketing team (incl. web development)
- Changes in team structure, with the introduction of a board of directors, as can be seen below.

With that, we would like to once again thank **Dorahacks** our sponsor for enabling us to host such an amazing event, all of our wonderful **judges and mentors** who stayed up late nights helping teams finish their projects, and of course, the **participants** who made the event possible and have allowed us to continue to thrive.

With all of that said, get ready for...

Hack the Skies 2025