

# TECHCAMPS

## A Guide for Trainers

Thanks for your interest in being a TechCamp trainer! The Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP) at the U.S. Department of State looks forward to working with you to ensure a great event. Here are basic roles and expectations for our TechCamp trainers:

### What are TechCamps?

TechCamps are two-day, fully interactive workshops that connect leading technology experts as trainers with local civil society organizations to build digital capacity and co-create solutions to real world challenges. Through a variety of hands-on demonstrations and trainings, TechCamp trainers teach free or low-cost, and easy-to-implement technologies and strategies that participants then apply to local challenges. Strategic priorities for TechCamps are increasing digital literacy & communications capacity, countering violent extremism and supporting and defending civil society. To get a sense of a typical program, here's a video from [TechCamp Riga](#), focused on tech tools for investigative journalism.

Each TechCamp adheres to a proven, effective model that runs like this:

#### **Evening Before TechCamp**

- Trainer meeting/briefing, often followed by a no-host dinner or drinks

#### **Day 1 - 8:30 am to 5 pm**

- Welcome and Brief (15-20 minutes) Keynote Speech
- Speed-Geeking, where small groups rotate to spend 5 minutes with each trainer
- Two in-depth training sessions, each one hour in length, led by trainers
- Participants work with trainers to identify problem statements to address on Day 2
- Trainers debrief with IIP organizers to prep for Day 2, and report on challenge statements

#### **Day 2 - 8:30 am to 5 pm**

- Participants sign up to work on challenges relevant to their work
- Trainers and participants spend all day applying technologies to solve the challenges. Together they co-create strategies, platforms, apps, websites, organizations, etc etc etc!
- Participants present their solutions
- Q & A or other brief remarks
- Closing remarks

### Role of a Trainer

- Trainers are the heart and soul of TechCamps: While IIP plans the agenda and handles logistics, with a local partner, the trainers facilitate the learning and the doing
- The trainer's first role is to lead multiple rounds of speed-geeking sessions, each 5 minutes in length, to demonstrate his/her area of expertise. All participants will rotate to each trainer's pitch and thus be exposed to the variety of expertise and resources available



- Next, international and local trainers are paired up to lead an hour-long interactive training in their topic and area of expertise. This is repeated two times, with participants signing up for separate sessions.
- For the remainder of Day 1, the international and local trainers work with a small self-selected group of participants, developing 1-2 challenge statements that participants will address on Day 2. Trainers facilitate the brainstorm and help participants refine their ideas.
- At the end of Day 1, trainers report on the challenge statements for Day 2
- On Day 2, participants sign up to work on those challenge statements with the relevant trainers. Typically, participants will return to the same trainers and challenges they worked with on Day 1. Trainers facilitate the problem-solving, help participants develop solutions and guide them in preparing a creative presentation of their solution(s).

## **Pre-TechCamp Preparation**

- Please send a photo and short 5-line bio to [TechCamp@state.gov](mailto:TechCamp@state.gov)
- All travel and hotel logistics will be arranged by our local implementing partner, who will contact each trainer directly via email or phone
- One or two planning calls or Google Hangout/Skype session with IIP team and fellow trainers, to address questions and help set expectations
  - more frequent calls/Hangouts as desired and requested by the trainer
- Preparation and ability to deliver multiple speed-geeking sessions no more than 5 minutes in length, pitching area of expertise and applicable technology
- Preparation and ability to deliver two interactive training sessions, each one hour in length, on topic and area of expertise. Make it interactive! International and local trainers are paired up for this portion and IIP will connect both ahead of arrival at the TechCamp
- Bring all your energy, any materials you'd like to present, and a laptop/mobile device (if you have one)
- Arrival at least one day prior to the TechCamp opening, to participate in a pre-Camp brief and logistics meeting with teams from IIP, the US Embassy and the local implementing partner the night before Day 1

## **Post-TechCamp Role**

- Contribute feedback to us via a short survey, helping us improve and hone the trainer experience
- Commit to participating in upcoming follow-on events or programs. Each TechCamp includes a dedicated budget for follow-on activities to help continue the momentum created in the two-day workshop. We'd love each trainer's involvement in any follow-on project that interests him/her.
  - Previous projects included hackathons, one-day workshops on a specific tool or skill first explored at the main TechCamp, small grants competitions and seed funds for start-up ideas, virtual speakers programs to keep networking and problem-solving work going; etc.
- Continue to stay connected with participants, via the Facebook group that is created for each TechCamp, the email list we'll use for regular, substantive communication with all participants, and via other public diplomacy offerings facilitated by IIP and our Department of State colleagues
- Suggest colleagues to us who would be great trainers for future TechCamps, and consider serving again as a trainer in the future

Questions? Please contact us at [TechCamp@state.gov](mailto:TechCamp@state.gov)

