

The Ion Launches Family Tech Night To Educate Young Houstonians on Careers in Tech

Event series welcomes K-12 students to learn skills and participate in projects to gear up for careers in tech

Today's wide-spread adoption of digital technology creates a deep need for tomorrow's workforce to build technology skills no matter where an individual's career path takes them. The Ion, Houston's premiere innovation hub, is meeting the demands of the new digital era by exposing our youngest Houstonians and their families to tech and digital literacy skills and industry-and subject-matter experts who will help students develop their professional network.

Today, The Ion is excited to announce the addition of a new monthly event series, Family Tech Night. Created by The Ion for Houston's families and Houston's local community, the series aims to build students' awareness of and excitement for careers in technology by demystifying tech, showcasing available pathways and opportunities, and empowering students to develop their network of tech leaders. We encourage K-12 students and their families to attend, but learners of all ages and backgrounds are welcome to join us.

Family Tech Night will be held in a variety of formats including workshops, lectures and panels. The sessions will explore timely topics like cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, data science, aerospace, film, music, and much more.

"Family Tech Night is intended to give students and families basic pathways and skills to build technology literacy and bring STEAM education home and to the entire family," said Dr. Christine Galib, Senior Director of Programs at The Ion. "Whether you are seven years old, in the seventh grade, or seventy years old, our events are designed to engage the entire family so any individual cultivates valuable technology skills no matter where they are in their career."

"I am honored to lead Family Tech Night's inaugural event, and look forward to seeing our youngest residents learn technology skills," said Melecia McLean, Managing Director of Girls In Tech Houston. "Every industry today requires proficiency in technology. By encouraging our student participants to take the first step in learning these skills, tomorrow's workforce will be ready for careers in tech."

The first Family Tech Night is March 23 from 5:30 - 6:30 pm CT and will focus on improving cybersecurity awareness. The free, virtual event is open to the entire community, and children must be accompanied by a guardian. The event will be held monthly, and virtually for now, eventually finding its permanent home on The Ion's Forum Stairs, when it's safe.

For more information or to register for the first inaugural event, please visit the event page here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/family-tech-night-melecia-mclean-registration-144493448795?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>