

For Immediate Release

February 7, 2018

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Get Ready for a Coding Revolution Across San José

Take the Coding5K Challenge and access quality STEAM learning at your library

San José, Calif. – The San José Public Library (SJPL) is excited to partner with Mayor Sam Liccardo’s office and the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to present the [Coding5k Challenge](#) – a new initiative that will further enhance access and opportunities for FREE, quality STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) learning programs.

As part of SJPL’s and the City of San José’s commitment to increasing the availability of quality STEAM programming to our students, the Coding5K Challenge seeks to increase access to coding focused programs and deepen the quality of the programming through the use of both assessment tools and expert volunteers. The library is working closely with the Schools/City Collaborative, a group of all 19 San José Superintendents and select city staff, to ensure that parents and students are aware of the learning opportunities the Coding5K Challenge offers.

SJPL will also be partnering with local tech companies and expert volunteers who will present programs throughout our 24 branch libraries teaching students how to code. With more than 270,000 K-12 students in San José, your library is committed to providing even more opportunities for coding experience to students across the city, and especially in underrepresented neighborhoods.

Whether a child’s future includes a career in computer science or not, coding experiences expose them to new learning opportunities, and build skills that reinforce academic success; skills like creativity, risk-taking, collaboration, and the idea that learning is a process rather than a product.

SJPL’s goal is to increase its coding capacity to serve **5,000 unduplicated students by the year 2020**. In the 2016/17 fiscal year, SJPL conducted 546 individual coding and robotics events, serving 1,847 unduplicated students across the city.

To kick off this initiative, a media event will be held on [Friday, February 16 at 2 p.m. at the Hillview Branch Library](#). Guest speakers include Mayor Sam Liccardo, City Librarian Jill Bourne and representatives from the Silicon Valley Leadership Group. We’ll also be joined by a group of students from Fisher Middle School who will be participating in a coding class. For more information, visit: sjpl.org/coding5k

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