

Scratch Day Youth Leadership

Providing opportunities for young people in your community to take an active role in leading a dynamic and engaging Scratch Day event can be an empowering and meaningful experience.



Imagine *“When helping/teaching others you learn yourself—whether that be deepening your understanding or just getting better people skills and communication. Also spread the joy and fun and bring people together.”*
Plan
Invite —Scratch Foundation Youth Advisory Board (YAB) member
Post

We asked members of the Scratch Foundation Youth Advisory Board¹ to share ideas on how to involve young people as Scratch Day event leaders. Their tips and ideas are shared here. We hope you’ll gain inspiration from their reflections, as you brainstorm ways to support and involve youth leaders at your Scratch Day event:

1. Empower Youth Leaders

How might you create an environment that will empower young people to step into leadership positions for the activity? Some things you might consider:

- Allow youth to take charge by helping design event posters, selecting activities, and running sessions.
- Assign leadership roles such as technology assistants, setup crew, and activity coordinators.

2. Choose Exciting Activities

Help young people to imagine what kind of activities might be possible. Perhaps start with a 5-10 minute brainstorming session, encouraging group members to write down as many ideas as they can without making any value judgments. At the end of the time, you might also review the [Scratch Day Activity Ideas](#) document. Then, help them to consider the following as you select and/or iterate on suggested activities:

- Offer a variety of activities like coding challenges, robotics, and hands-on crafts.
- Popular Scratch projects include animation showcases, timed coding challenges, and game development with creative twists.
- Consider specific project formats such as “Create a Game in One Hour,” “[10 Block Challenge](#)” (from the [Creative Computing Curriculum](#)), or “[Random Sprite Challenges](#).”

¹ The Scratch Youth Advisory Board is a group of young Scratch enthusiasts who provide feedback, share ideas, and help shape the future of Scratch by advising the Scratch Team on features, community engagement, and educational initiatives.

Imagine *“I’ve always wanted to lead an event, whether in or out of school. I don’t have many opportunities to do that. I hope to improve my leadership capabilities.”*
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3. Create an Engaging Event Experience

Help young people to consider ways they might make their activity enjoyable and engaging for others. Some things they might consider:

- Include stations where participants can choose different activities based on their interests. Consider offering a variety of activities: from low floor (low barrier to entry/little to no experience necessary) to high ceiling (challenging or advanced options/extensions)!
- Ensure interactive and collaborative elements like mini competitions, AI-based challenges, and storytelling with Scratch.
- Make it exciting with prizes (school or Scratch swag, books, or art material bundles), teamwork activities (hopscotch, relay races, board games), and/or special guests (community leaders, local educators, organizational partners).

4. Provide Support and Guidance

What support is needed to help young people feel ready for the event?

- Ensure they feel prepared by providing a clear event schedule and FAQ answers.
- Offer a youth leadership Scratch Day volunteer training session before the event to help build confidence.
- Pair youth leaders with mentors or adult Scratch Day staff/volunteers to answer questions and guide them through event planning.

5. Spread the Word

Help young people consider ways to share details and spread the word about the event, their involvement, and any session/activity they are leading. Event promotion is a great chance to model and discuss respectful conduct, inclusivity, and positive engagement. You might consider the following:

- Guide them on best practices to create posters, social media posts (that they or trusted adults might share, depending on age), and/or school announcements to promote the event. Promotional materials could be created using digital tools or craft supplies or could even be shared Scratch projects!
- Encourage youth leaders to invite their network of friends and classmates, both to attend the event or to volunteer as well.
- Highlight exciting aspects like prizes, teamwork, and the opportunity to showcase projects.

Imagine *“I want others to know the only limit is their imagination! If a generation even younger than mine can understand to think outside of the box at a young age, our future is in good hands.”* —Scratch Foundation YAB member

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6. Set the Tone During the Event

Youth leaders can model positive behaviors during your Scratch Day event, such as tinkering and creative learning, growth mindset, and embracing the Scratch Community Guidelines by being welcoming to all (see our [8.5x11](#) or [18x24](#) printable posters). They can model how they:

- Engage playfully in projects that are meaningful to them and elicit joy.
- Collaborate with peers to experiment, share, and celebrate ideas.
- Develop a mindset that is comfortable with the discomfort of getting stuck and develop strategies for getting unstuck (see our [Debugging Strategies posters](#) for tips).
- Nurture progressive improvement, and provide space for open-ended exploration and sparking curiosity with design prompts (rather than handing learners solutions).
- Celebrate multiple pathways that foster a wide diversity of projects and solutions, as well as support different experience levels.

7. Foster Leadership Growth

Participating in Scratch Day can jumpstart youth volunteering in other community programs.

- Encourage youth leaders to use the Scratch Day experience to build event planning, communication, networking, project management, and public speaking skills.
- Support their leadership journey with mentorship and real-world event coordination experience.
- Acknowledge their contributions to enhance confidence and motivation while inspiring acts of service.
- Consider [a certificate](#), recommendation quote, or other takeaway to formally acknowledge their participation.

8. Learn from Experience

How can you build upon this experience for youth leaders in the future? You might:

- Gather feedback from youth leaders and participants to improve future events.
- Encourage reflection on what worked well and what could be iterated on or enhanced.
- Celebrate successes and recognize efforts to keep the enthusiasm going!

We hope that young people in your community can take an active role in leading a dynamic and engaging Scratch Day event, inspiring everyone to use their “Imagination in Action!”

Tip: If you'd like to translate this document, [click here to make a copy](#) of this Google doc.