Our mission is to empower girls of color to make a lasting contribution to society through the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) industries.

BlackGirlsCode is committed to increasing the number of young women of color in the field of digital and computer technology by:

- Providing them with skills in computational reasoning and computer programming;
- Exposing them to role models in the technology space; and
- Inspire them to become the next generation of tech creators and entrepreneurs by increasing their self-confidence and leadership abilities.

Program

BlackGirlsCode provides its young participants an opportunity to explore basic programming concepts in a “hands on learning” and coaching environment. The program includes six weeks of after-school classes focused on allowing the participants to explore various technology concepts and encourage exploratory learning and discovery using tools such as Scratch, Alice, Python and KidsRuby. Trained course instructors and teaching assistant/mentors are available to support student’s engagement in learning activities throughout each workshop.

The foundation of our class structure is built around a team model which pairs girls into teams of 4-5 students who work jointly on group projects throughout the cohort. The six week class module also includes field trips to local technical companies and guest industry speakers. Our summer enrichment program consists of week-long intensive classes in programming and robotics. Classes will include multi-age students from 7-16.

The BlackGirlsCode program is designed to help build a future for very bright yet often very isolated young ladies by connecting them with visionary members of the technology community to foster opportunities for their continued exposure to STEM fields such as computer programming and the eventual entry into the workforce as tech entrepreneurs and leaders.

Fast Facts

- Website: www.blackgirlscode.com
- 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
- Membership of 200 girls of color, ages 7-16
- 2012 Google R.I.S.E. Award Winner
- Founded in 2011 by Kimberly Bryant
- Facebook
- Linkedin
- Twitter
- YouTube
- Flickr
- Corporate sponsors and partners
- Copyright cleared images for media use
  (Password BGC2012press)

2011 CNN Coverage

NBC coverage of BlackGirlsCode

KCBS interview with Kimberly Bryant
BlackGirlsCode programs are fun-filled, hands-on workshops co-sponsored by technology firms and allied organizations including ThoughtWorks, Symantec, Google R.I.S.E., and CodeRetreat.

No previous computer programming skills are required of BlackGirlsCode participants—just an interest in learning and a commitment to having fun.

BlackGirlsCode activities educate participants in concepts in computer programming by associating them with real-world applications and references. Workshops are fun, engaging and mentored by volunteer industry experts.

BlackGirlsCode empowers girls of color to grasp technology concepts and consider ways that they can make a lasting contribution to society through the STEM fields.
“Our objective is to provide these girls with the technical skills and inspiration to become technology leaders of tomorrow.”

Kimberly Bryant is a Biotechnology/Engineering professional who has spent the last decade in a series of technical Leadership roles for various Fortune 100 companies including Merck, Pfizer, and Dupont. Most recently Ms. Bryant spent five-plus years as a Senior Manager with Bay Area biotechnology company Genentech. Kimberly is a native of Memphis, Tennessee and received her Bachelor’s of Engineering degree from Vanderbilt University in Nashville with a major in Electrical Engineering and a minor in computer science and math. She founded BlackGirlsCode in April 2011 to meet the needs of young women of color who are underrepresented in the currently exploding field of technology.

The BlackGirlsCode program focuses on introducing girls of color between the ages of 7-16 to the field of digital technology and computer programming with a focus on emerging entrepreneurial concepts. The group’s first pilot program was launched in October 2011 in the Bayview Hunter’s Point community under the sponsorship of Bayview Youth’s 100% College Prep Institute. The successful pilot consisted of six weeks of technical instruction in Scratch and other programming methodologies which provide participants an opportunity to explore basic programming concepts in a “hands on learning” and coaching environment.

The pilot program also included field trips and site visits to Bay Area technical companies such as Facebook to allow the participants to explore various technology concepts and encourage exploratory learning and discovery. The program was recently selected from amongst 400+ applicants for a prestigious Google R.I.S.E. (Roots in Science and Engineering) award for 2012 and has been selected as a semi-finalist in the Echoing Green Social Entrepreneur Fellowship Program.

Quotes & References

Kimberly Bryant, Founder

“Although the digital divide is steadily eroding, tremendous barriers remain for the entry of women and minorities into the various technology and STEM fields.”

“Our program is designed to help build a future for very bright yet often very isolated young ladies by connecting them with visionary members of the technology community to foster opportunities for their continued exposure to STEM fields such as computer programming and the eventual entry into the workforce as tech entrepreneurs and leaders.”

“Companies like Google, ThoughtWorks and our other corporate sponsors share our vision for inspiring young women of color to stretch their imaginations and set goals that have been traditionally outside of their ambition and reach.”

“Our objective is to provide these girls with the technical skills and inspiration to become technology leaders of tomorrow.”