

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***Fox Valley Girls Coding Club - XX Coders***

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **The Power Of Code: Fox Valley Girls Coding Club Aims To Get More Girls Into Technology**

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The first girls computer coding club in the Fox Valley held its inaugural meeting on Friday, January 8 at 25N Coworking in Geneva. The club was started to expose more high school age girls to computer science and career opportunities in the tech industry. By providing an informal, engaging and encouraging environment in which to learn coding, the girls can then utilize these skills as they move on to college and future job opportunities.

The club launched with 12 girls from St. Charles North High School, Geneva High School and St. Patrick Catholic School. The student founder of the club, St. Charles North Sophomore Isabella Maki, initially had her sights set on starting a coding club at her high school. However, after finding 2 highly experienced women software developers to volunteer their time to teach the club and connecting with the staff at 25N Coworking to hold the weekly meetings, Maki's focus turned to forming a community club instead. "It seemed like an exciting option to be able to establish the first coding club for the Fox Valley where we could really open up the opportunity for any high school girl in our community to come share the experience of learning to code. With limited computer science offerings at many of the local high schools, this club is a real chance for girls to explore coding, learn how it can apply to what they want to do in the future and let us meet other girls with common interests to really create something amazing," said Isabella Maki.

According to Robin Schroeder, Software Developer at Magenic and Volunteer Club Instructor, there are countless projects and skills that the girls can create and learn

during their club participation. “I am so looking forward to learning what projects the girls are interested in coding,” shared Schroeder. “My mind has been abuzz with ideas of combining 3-D printing with mobile, web, and IoT (Internet of Things). The astonishing thing is that, every single one of these technologies, as well as combinations of them, are in no way out of the realm of what is possible, as either an exploratory proof of concept project or a fully developed project for these girls,” continued Schroeder. “I very much look forward to seeing the possibilities from their eyes and with the help of Dottie Lee, my co-instructor, helping them fully explore their ideas and then translate those ideas into the requirements and process needed to make them a reality - and teaching, teaching, teaching along the way.”

The club is utilizing the Girls Who Code (GWC) curriculum as a foundation for teaching coding skills from the beginner level to more advanced. “As the club continues from year to year, I see founding members of the club taking on a mentoring role to new members,” says Maki. “Getting a chance to receive about 140 hours of computer coding experience before going to college is amazing. We need to see more girls getting into tech and with the help of Robin and Dottie and the GWC curriculum, I think we can create a real movement in our community to show girls that there is power and opportunity in learning to code.”

The next Fox Valley Girls Coding Club, XX Coders, meeting will take place on Friday, January 15 at 5:45 p.m. at 25N Coworking on 3rd Street in Geneva. 25N is a high-tech community coworking and meeting space. Meetings will take place weekly throughout the end of the 2016 school year. The club will resume meetings in September for the 2016/17 school year.

For more information or to check club progress, visit [foxvalleygirlscodingclub.com](http://foxvalleygirlscodingclub.com). There are a few spots still available for high school girls in the community to join for this year. Please email [fvgcc12@gmail.com](mailto:fvgcc12@gmail.com) if interested.

Information on 25N Coworking can be found at [25ncoworking.com](http://25ncoworking.com)

Information on Girls Who Code can be found at [girlswhocode.com](http://girlswhocode.com)