

Monthly Newsletter

July 2020

What a productive summer ! We conducted our first **Online ALL GIRLS Hackathon**, which garnered 140+ registrations, international judges, and 30+ mentors from NetScout and SSF. Our Oregon Chapter successfully organized **Summer Camps** and raised \$8000. We are now in partnership with **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)** to find deserving, underprivileged students to sponsor. We organized another successful **Nebula Tech Incubator Camp** in July, and will organize a 5-week evenings only camp in August. Our **Donor Spotlight** features Asita and Charan to whom we are most grateful. And finally, we would like you to help spread the words about our **Data Science Panel**, led by our founder, Ajjit Narayannan.

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shooting stars foundation

Girls Hackathon with NetScout

It was a heart-warming experience. We got 140+ registrations from all over the U.S. (Bay Area, Boston, Dallas, Denver, Chicago) just after 1 week of posting our event. Our very first online ALL GIRLS Hackathon, with an international consortium of judges from the U.S., Australia, India, Mexico, and China, and 30+ mentors to help guide the teams. It was an employee engagement / skills based volunteering activity for NetScout. (We thank the NetScout CEO Anil, and staff Latha, Shailesh, Maniam, Dinesh, Sathya, and Karen).

The girls were inspired by our keynote speakers, NetScout Chief Security Officer, Debby Briggs (https://www.idgconnect.com/interviews/1501757/secret-cso-debby-briggs-netscout) and BioBits co-founder Ally Huang, Ph.D. (https://www.linkedin.com/in/allyhuang08). Participants' feedback was that the hackathon is inspiring them to pursue careers in STEM (AI / IoT / SW / Environmental Eng / Web design / UI / Biotech / Math / Biomedical / Robotics), and that they would participate and invite friends to join more events like this.

The opening and closing ceremonies were streamed online at SSF youtube live: Opening Ceremony : Keynote Speaker Talks etc, <u>https://youtu.be/8d6B-weg6jw</u> Closing Ceremony: Feedback from Students, Mentors / Judges / Prizes <u>https://youtu.be/85GHhyvbgHQ</u> We concluded the event with - "Take this passion - Win the world - Make us proud !"



Summer Camps with Oregon Chapter

We are very proud of the PDX Shooting Stars Youth Officers Team for the successful completion of Summer Camp Session 1, which raised more than \$8000 for SSF and received overwhelming positive feedback from 130+ participants and their parents! Many parents and chief guests also turned into donors for the foundation. Thank you!

Thank you Latha and Ramiya for providing this platform. Thank you Meenu for mentoring the high school students day in and day out! Thank you Prabakar, Yashodha and other experts for helping with the curriculum. Thank you to the officers' parents for keeping them motivated, and thank you to all our guests of honor who attended the last day of class and encouraged all the kids!

Great job youth officers - led by Vice-Presidents Adhitya Ananthan, Karthik and Vedanth; Officers Lokesh, Darshan, Garison, Srishti, Vaari, Vignesh and Smrithi - all of whom have spent several months preparing for the camp !



https://shooting-stars-foundation.org/summer-and-spring-camps



IIT India Partnership

We are very excited to announce our partnership with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), who will identify students in need of financial aid for us to sponsor. With the help of Mr. Ramnath Mani, the Chairman or Pan IIT Alumni India, we received about 50 applications from IIT Delhi, Guwahati, Madras, Dharwad, Hyderabad and Thirupati. So far, our dedicated volunteers (Sangeetha, Aarti, Mrs. Aruna, Mrs. Vasugi, Deeptha, Girija, Raji, Priya, Shalini, and Apsara, led by Bharathi) have interviewed 34 students. We approved about 20 and will be continuing the process !



NEBULA Youth Camp - Summer 2020

We have a brand new **5 Week Nebula Incubator Program**, for **Grades 9-12**. Sessions will be held 2 times a month, 2 hours a day in the evenings.

Create your company, pitch your product, develop and demo your own mobile app !

Mentored by professional experts from Google, Amazon, Uber, Amgen etc. each cohort sponsors 3 college students.

Register at www.nebulayouthcamps.org





Donor Spotlight

Our donors Asita and Charan appreciated the SSF donor interview process, which is a critical part of the donor journey. Asita and Charan had a call with scholar Amaresh, who is currently pursuing his engineering degree at JSS Science and Technology University, Mysore. Asita's words: "It was a great moment to meet Amaresh and connect. Charan and I are so glad we are part of the Shooting Stars Foundation." Asita was one of the 2019 SSF STEAMATHON judges. And now, Asita and her husband are donors at SSF, and their son, Tanay, is an SSF Hackathon Officer.



Data Science Panel

Data science is an interdisciplinary approach to finding, extracting, surfacing patterns in and interpreting data for decision-making purposes. Data science is predicted to grow over the next decade, considering that over 90% of the data in the world was generated in just 2 years ! According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, about 11.5 million jobs in the Data science area will be created by 2026.

The founder of Shooting Stars Foundation, *Ajjit Chidambaram Narayanan*, will lead the Tech Panel Series of Nebula Youth Camp on **The Rise and Rise of Data Science**.

We are limited to **75 spots** for the panel ! Register today at <u>www.nebulayouthcamps.org</u>



More Ways to Support Shooting Stars

- Become a High School Officer : Lead Programs, Develop Social Media Content, Mentor Youth
- Adopt a Scholar Help one student graduate from college
- Professional Mentoring : Coach Nebula Incubator Program
- Volunteer with Scholars : Mentor Scholars, Teach them Skills
- Volunteer with SSF : Run Programs, Write Content, Work With Donors !

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