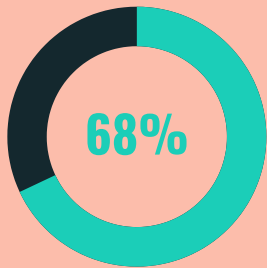


techgirls»

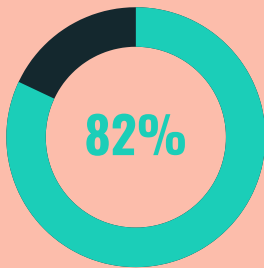
2021 Techgirls Competition Evaluation Report Summary



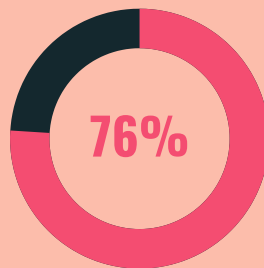
of students are now more confident about developing new ideas using technology

78%

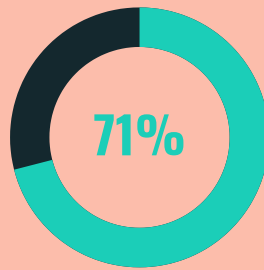
of students had sufficient resources to be a successful participant in the competition



Overwhelmingly, mentors provided the support and direction that teams needed



of students enjoyed learning about technology



of students felt that if they learn a lot about technology, they will be able to pursue many different types of careers

88%

of students felt more comfortable using computers

Why students like science & technology:

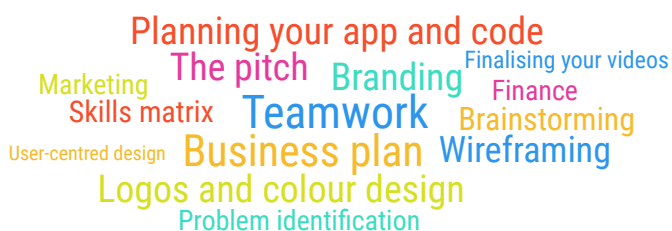
"I have older friends who are Digital Technologies teachers at schools, who are not only about learning but more about doing. They believe in interactive learning in robotics and computing and find ways to engage us."

"I have always enjoyed science and technology subjects and have been able to increase my knowledge in these areas through nomination in other programs like Brainways and STEAM. Attending these programs has helped me further enjoy learning about science and technology."

"Science fascinates me a lot. I haven't had too much experience with technology, but I would like to learn more. I do not have any set plans for my career and I am open to new opportunities in other fields."

"I chose those because I love tech and I want to learn more so I can change the world."

The parts of the competition curriculum students found most useful



80.5%

of students submitted their final project for judging

What students liked most about Techgirls

"I enjoyed thinking and creating our app design but I think we could have focused a little more on time management."

"We had trouble with the business plan. We didn't really understand some of the questions we were asking and we also had some difficulty with the wording. But I feel that I learned a lot by completing the business plan with my team."

"I really liked the competition because I got to build a really cool app with all my friends. What I didn't like was having to do the rest of the competition in lockdown."

"I really liked the new experiences learned, meeting a mentor with lots of skills/experience and generating a meaningful app. I found it really cool as I've always been interested in app creation but have never known how it works."

Mentors: work in the following roles



Mentors: on what worked well

- Girls confidence increased
- Program expectations were clear
- Blackboard helped all involved to be organised
- Great support from the school coach & teachers
- The girls showed great enthusiasm, impressive skills and were committed to the end
- The program is easy to follow and implement
- The program provides significant value to all involved
- There is an effort to involve parents
- Generous support and guidance from the Techgirls team
- The weekly structure of the program helps to keep everyone on track

"Getting to know the girls."

"I really liked my techgirls team. They were smart, amazing, energetic and hard-working during the whole project. I was honoured to work with them. Their coach was also very nice and helpful."

"Almost everything :)"

"The girls were all enthusiastic and really smart and impressive. They coordinated and worked well together despite being in different states and through a lot of stress factors i.e. the pandemic, and I'm proud of them for the entry they put together."

"The learning outcomes are wonderful."

"The structure worked well in that it gave us good guidance around where we should be up to at the various weeks of the competition."

"I loved working with my team this year. The girls were very engaged and worked well as a team and their coach was equally invested. The structure of the programme worked well to assist them in getting to the end goal."

Coaches: why we get involved in Techgirls

- To increase and build the confidence and enthusiasm of their students
- Support students to explore STEM & entrepreneurship
- Provide opportunities to foster STEM skills
- Build a STEM skill culture at school
- Support STEM career choices
- For my own personal development

"I hope to gain some great IT skills and to develop my own critical and creative thinking but also to give the girls an opportunity they wouldn't usually have."

"Students can see the relevance of digital technology and how it can support the creation of development of ideas."

"I hope to increase girl's engagement in STEM and encourage our girls to consider IT or STEM-based subjects as they move into VCE. I also hope to build a culture at the school where girls are supported to achieve their full potential and hope to be a role model for these girls."

"That the 4 little champions I'm coaching feeling encouraged to work in STEM."

"To encourage the girls to see possibilities that they may not have been aware of before. To show them the different areas that they could work in in the IT/Tech field. To teach them how to work as a team in a 'professional' environment. I'm sure I'll learn some things from the girls and from our mentor that will also help me in my career. For us all to learn new things and have a lot of fun along the way!"

Significant Findings of 2021

More teams reached completion of the program and submitted their final projects for judging than in years past. Based on feedback from students, coaches, and mentors, we suggest this is due to the stronger clarification of expectations, clear weekly goals and tasks outlined, and greater access to all resources, in part because of this year's use of Blackboard for the second time as an organisational platform.

A high rate of students indicated the feeling of disappointment because they could not meet in face to face settings. The COVID pandemic's lockdown procedures prevented many students from being able to work cohesively as a live group. This is significant because it highlights how powerful the human element is to effective teamwork; despite the wonders of technology like Zoom and Teams, live, human interaction is always going to be most powerful.

It is also noteworthy how overwhelmingly positive the response was to the program's effectiveness and overall benefits to a range of aspects, from equipping girls with the tools to start their own businesses and work in technology to growing their confidence and inspiring them to achieve their goals. Coaches, mentors, parents, teachers, and most importantly, the student participants, all provided glowing feedback on the Techgirls program and exalted its merits. This certainly bodes well for the future of the program, as we head towards our tenth year in operation.