New for 2021: Now welcoming students from PDX!

Serious Computer Programming for Youth

free pandemic-adjusted workshop:
Python programming on the GNU/Linux operating system

With Dr. Mark Galassi, Los Alamos Research Scientist

This 10-hour workshop teaches students (6th grade and up) to write software in Python on the GNU/Linux operating system. This is an approach that carries over to real work and science/math/engineering internships.

FOR WHOM: Kids from 6th grade up, but please read the notes on age on the web site: younger kids can sometimes do well in this course.

VENUE: Online with Jitsi meet; you will receive the link.

DATES: Sat. June 5 (10am-12:30pm and 1:15pm-5:30pm), continuing Sun. June 6 (1 pm-4:45pm) 2021. (But do check the web site for upcoming courses if you cannot make these dates).

SIGN UP: email Mark Galassi <mark@galassi.org> or call (voice only) +1-505-629-0759.
(NOTE: some schools silently drop outgoing email, so use an email address that works with the outside.)

NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE: no prior experience is required, but typing practice helps!

OVERVIEW
This is a hands-on course focused on students but open to anyone. It will involve much work and a good amount of going beyond one’s comfort zone. The goal is to get started on a path that leads to serious programming, rather than using a toy “for kids” programming environment which will never be used for real work.

The course will start with an unusual but important feature: each student should find an old computer or laptop which is not used much anymore, and we will start by installing the GNU/Linux operating system on it. If you cannot find your grandparent’s or neighbor’s old laptop don’t worry: write us and we will have something for you.

Once each student has installed GNU/Linux on their computer we will start programming in Python and get to the point of writing hundreds of lines of python code with several intelligent algorithms to play a simple strategy game.

After this workshop, students can drop in on fortnightly follow-on mini-courses which use programming to explore the arts, mathematics, social science, humanities, and natural science.

( more information at https://sites.google.com/view/serious-programming/)