

THE WEDNESDAY READER
February 8, 2023

Please note, with the Western Business Education Association's 2023 Conference next week, there will not be a Wednesday Reader for February 15.

Registration is Now Open for Empowered's FREE RiseUp Professional Development

[RiseUp](#) events are the flagship of [Empowered's](#) in-person training and professional development program. These three-day, regional programs are designed to assemble 300+ educators (each) to share a truly unique professional development experience. Speakers, panels, sessions, and leave-to-learns are specifically designed to be hands-on and foster participation and exploration.

The western region [RiseUp](#) will be July 18-20, 2023, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Tracks will be available for current teachers and teachers new to Empowered's curriculum, as well as joint sessions.

Thanks to the generous support of Empowered's donors and financial partners, registration for RiseUp events is free. Meals and snacks are included as part of the program and hotel scholarships are available for those traveling to participate. Professional Development Certificates will be issued to all participants. Teachers attending RiseUp are responsible for their transportation costs and incidentals.

Need more information? Try the [FAQ](#) page or [contact Empowered](#). If attending, be sure to work with your district/school to receive OPI Renewal Units for Professional Development (RUPDs) events.

[Empowered](#), a non-profit organization, partners with and supports K-12 educators. The Empowered Community—with thousands of teachers nationwide—believes that every student deserves an education that helps them discover and develop their own, unique skills and truly prepares them for life ahead.

[Empowered](#) offers 140+ engaging learning activities, training and professional development (including [RiseUp](#) events), support, from our staff and teacher community, and a collection of tools and resources to help bring learning to life.

Scholarships Available for CSTA's 2023 Virtual Conference Registration

The [Computer Science Teachers](#) Association (CSTA) 2023 Virtual Conference will be July 11-13, 2023. CSTA is offering [scholarships](#) that subsidize 100% of the program cost. These scholarships are intended to support teachers whose limited financial resources may prevent them from attending.

CSTA will award as many scholarships as possible to help deserving teachers join this excellent learning opportunity and will give priority consideration to:

- First-time conference attendees
- Teachers of color
- Teachers who teach underrepresented students in Computer Science
- Active CSTA members and volunteers
- Conference presenters (and those who submitted proposals)

Chapter leaders who attend the Chapter Leadership Summit already receive complimentary conference registration and need not apply. Contact conference@csteachers.org with any questions.

To be eligible for scholarships to the 2023 CSTA Conference, you must:

- be a CSTA Basic* or CSTA+ member,
- directly teach computer science to K-12 students, and
- not have access to funding from your school or organization to cover conference registration fees.

If not a CSTA member, you can join as a member for free at csteachers.org/join. [Applications](#) close on April 28, 2023.

CYBER.ORG Hosting CYBER.ORG EdCon 23 in June in Mesa

[CYBER.ORG](#) announces registration is now open for [CYBER.ORG EdCon 23](#). [CYBER.ORG EdCon 23](#) (formerly CEDF) is a national conference designed to inspire and empower novice and expert K-12 cybersecurity educators alike.

Attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Learn ready-to-implement lessons from CYBER.ORG curriculum developers.
- Explore at-no-cost resources from industry experts.
- Gain firsthand knowledge from K-12 educators teaching foundational and technical cybersecurity.

[CYBER.ORG EdCon 23](#) will be held June 20-23, 2023, at the Mesa Convention Center in Mesa, Arizona.

[Early bird registration](#) is \$50 for K-12 Educators & Government, \$100 for Higher Ed & Non-Profit, and \$150 for Industry member and ends April 30, 2023.

[Book Your Stay](#) at the Delta Hotels Phoenix Mesa for \$103 plus taxes per night. The rooming block ends May 19, 2023.

New Year, New Free CodeHS Resources

CodeHS Career Center: The new [CodeHS Career Center](#) helps students match their computer science skills to their passions. With more than 20 industries to explore, find an overview of how CS is used, articles featuring real-world connections, and career examples. [Start Exploring](#).

Project Catalog: Access over 100 projects ranging in programming language, difficulty, length, and theme. With the [CodeHS Project Catalog](#) it is easy to assign new and engaging projects to students who need a little extra practice or a new challenge. [Browse the Catalog](#).

Alternate Exercises: Switch assignments to prevent cheating with [Alternate Exercises](#)—now available in specific courses.

Questions of the Day: Kickstart each class with a [programming question](#) & challenge students to keep up their streak.

Interested in learning more about these resources? Check out CodeHS's most recent webinar recording [here](#).

Montana Work-based Learning Collaborative: 2023 Montana Teacher Externships

Educator Externships are a unique professional development opportunity where teachers are immersed in a company to learn about the skills and competencies needed to succeed in that industry or career path. The Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative is offering 40 teachers a three-day externship.

The experience strengthens an educator's teaching abilities and brings relevant, real-world context into the classroom. Externships are often transformative for educators, students, and industry partners. Impacting just one teacher allows a company to reach between 20-150 students each year.

You must complete [registration](#) to be considered for the externship. Upon completion of the externship, you will be eligible to receive a stipend paid by the Montana Work-Based Learning Collaborative and up to 20 renewal units. [Register here](#).

Spring 2023 Edition of the Prospects & Junior Prospects Student Business Pitch Competition

Hello and Happy 2023 from all at the Montana Chamber and Chamber Foundation.

The Prospects and Junior Prospects are in full swing. The Chamber Foundation has been engaging with classes to help promote the competition as well as to hear student pitches. The submissions are rolling in and they cannot wait to see what ideas there are this year.

What is The Prospects/The Junior Prospects? If you are unfamiliar with the competition, it is a virtual pitch competition for grades 6-8 (The Junior Prospects) and 9-12 (The Prospects). The requirements are for a student to submit a written pitch and two-minute video, that is it. Business leaders from across the state judge the competition virtually and are able to give their feedback to these budding entrepreneurs.

The students can submit existing businesses that they have already started from a small scale to a full-fledged business. The other category is a new business where students have the opportunity to be creative and think of the next big thing. The new business category is not expected to actually start the business, just share the idea.

The Prize Purse is \$75,000 of unrestricted cash, scholarships, airline tickets, and workforce learning opportunities. New this year for the high school Prospects competition is an in-person pitch competition in Bozeman for the top 10 submissions to compete for an additional \$5,000.

To learn more, please take a look at this [flyer](#).

Important Dates

Junior Prospects

--February 20: Submissions due by midnight

--April 20: Virtual Awards Show

The Prospects

--March 10: Final Submission Date; Submissions due by midnight

--March 24: Final Advancements Announced

--April 20: Virtual Awards Show

--May 21-23: GRAND CHAMPION PITCH COMPETITION, BOZEMAN hosted by the Jake Jobs College of Business and Entrepreneurship at Montana State University and EdChoice.

View this [presentation](#) for complete competition details.

For additional questions or to set up a Zoom meeting with our Workforce Strategists, please contact Tiana Yates, tiana@montanachamber.com, or James Easton, james@montanachamber.com.

Registration Open for NGPF's Cohort 31 Certification Courses

Level up your knowledge in one of five personal finance core content areas with a free [Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) Certification Course.

Cohort 31 runs from February 13-March 16 with an exam window from March 17-24.

Certification Courses are NGPF's most in-depth professional development format. Each course combines nine (9) hours of live virtual sessions over five weeks focused on a core personal finance content area with a 1-hour assessment exam. These courses are 100% free.

BONUS: Complete six certification courses and earn [NGPF Distinguished Educator](#) status.

Cohort 31 courses include

- Behavioral Economics: Mondays, 5-7 pm (MT)
- Career: Tuesdays, 3-5 pm (MT)
- Investing: Tuesdays, 5-7 pm (MT)
- Cryptocurrency Basics: Wednesdays, 3-5 pm (MT)
- Paying for College: Thursdays, 3-5 pm (MT)

[Register](#) today. If completing courses, be sure to work with your school/district to receive OPI renewal units for hours completed.

Updated Curriculum and Upcoming Webinars from Take Charge Today

Looking for some new ideas and resources for teaching personal finance? Check out the updated curriculum resources from [Take Charge Today](#) and learn more from one of the upcoming webinars.

[Card Games Active Learning Tool](#): This Active Learning Tool has you using decks of cards for many different card games for a variety of lessons and concepts. You will find labels to print out and stick on playing cards to use for these activities.

[New Entrepreneurship Unit](#): Introducing our new Entrepreneurship Unit! We are starting out with four lesson plans, including:

- Types of Business Ownership,
- Principles of Business and Personal Ethics,
- Defining Roles of Social Entrepreneurs & Social Responsibility, and
- Understanding Consumers, Decisions & Markets.

Also coming soon are Leadership and Management Styles and Legal Aspects of Business Ownership.

Updated [Financial Statistics Puzzles](#): This Active Learning Tool has been updated with current statistics and now includes statistics from the new Entrepreneurship Unit.

[Spending Boards](#): The Spending Boards from Major Expenditure Mania, Introduction to Spending Plans (Spending Plan Shakeup) and Financial Decisions have all been updated with new and modern options.

[Weekly Shopping Ad Food Cards](#): Weekly Shopping Ad Food Cards were added to the Major Expenditures lesson for the Eating on a Budget activity. Statistics were also updated in this lesson to reflect current average household spending.

Save the date for upcoming Take Charge Today webinars:

- February 8: Taxes Don't Have to Be Scary
- March 29: Teaching Entrepreneurship

Taxes Don't Have to Be Scary. Paying taxes is part of our civic responsibility, and many of today's students are often paying taxes before they are old enough to vote! If teaching about taxes is

something that scares you, join us in a joint workshop with The Arizona Council on Economic Education for hands-on activities that help students see the benefits derived from paying taxes and build their confidence in understanding income taxes.

Join Take Charge Today on February 8 at 4:30pm (MST) for a one-hour webinar on the Take Charge Today Basics of Taxes and Paying Your Income Taxes lesson plans. We will go over the activities within these lessons and how easy it is to fill out your own tax form. Participants can register to receive one hour of professional development if they choose.

Join the Zoom meeting at <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/85865979442>.

The Teaching Entrepreneurship webinar will be March 29 at 4:30 pm (MDT). The one-hour webinar on our new Entrepreneurship Unit featuring four lesson plans:

- Types of Business Ownership,
- Principles of Business and Personal Ethics,
- Defining Roles of Social Entrepreneurs & Social Responsibility, and
- Understanding Consumers, Decisions & Markets.

Join the Zoom meeting at <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/87161897831>.

CSTA Montana Announces Meeting Schedule

The [Computer Science Teachers Association](#) (CSTA) Montana Chapter Officers met last week to plan out events, meetings, and opportunities for members, and are excited to share they have a truly exciting year planned.

This year, CSTA Montana meetings will be held every second Wednesday of the month from 4:30 pm-5:30 pm with an optional "app-y hour" from 5:30 pm-6:00 pm where you can share, network, and talk with other members across the state.

Please mark your calendars with the following dates for this year's meetings via Zoom:

- February 8
- March 8
- April 12
- May 10
- June 14
- July 12
- August 9
- September 13
- October 11
- November 8
- December 13

To get the Zoom links, contact montana@csteachers.org.

A raffle for fun prizes will be held at all meetings, and will also have teachers sharing lessons, partners sharing their activities and opportunities, reminders about upcoming professional development workshops and community events, updates on CSTA Montana, and of course time for meeting like-minded professionals across the state.

For the next meeting on February 8 from 4:30 pm-5:30 pm, CSTA Montana is looking for one or two teachers to share a "Nifty Lesson." If you have a fun, engaging, exciting lesson that you would like to share with others, please email CSTA Montana at montana@csteachers.org.

[Membership](#) in the Computer Science Teachers Association at the CSTA Basic level is free. For more membership information, visit the [CTSA website](#).

MCEE-Sponsored Stock Market Game Registration Open for Spring 2023 Investors

[Registration](#) is now open for Spring 2023 [Stock Market Game](#) competition sponsored by the Montana Council on Economic Education (MCEE). With the support of Glacier Bank, prizes for a high school and junior high division will be presented

MCEE had over 1100 students and teams competing in the Fall Stock Market Game across 40 schools. MCEE encourages you utilize the program to help students learn financial and investment education while competing for cash prizes. Glacier Bancorp and its family of Montana Banks will sponsor all team fees.

The Stock Market Game is a nine-week simulation in which students are given a hypothetical \$100,000 to invest in the stock market. Students must have at least five separate stocks and/or mutual funds at the end of the simulation, so research and diversification are crucial for success. Top state winners are given cash awards thanks to the generous sponsorship of Glacier Bancorp and its Montana family of banks.

To register for the Stock Market Game, go to the SMG web page, stockmarketgame.org, and click on the link in the upper right hand corner of the page labeled 'Registration'. Follow the instructions to complete your registration.

For further information, contact MCEE Executive Director Dax Schieffer at mcee@montana.edu.

NBEA to Pay Contributors Up To \$200/Lesson Plan for New Lesson Vault

The new [National Business Education Association](#) (NBEA) strategic plan passed by the Board of Directors last November calls for developing a unique lesson plan archive that allows teachers to access relevant, standards-based lesson plans for flexible implementation in the classroom or online environment. NBEA has completed the specifications for proposed lesson plans and is now calling on teachers interested in providing lesson plans to find out more.

NBEA will pay authors up to \$200 per lesson plan submitted. The lesson plans in this new "[Lesson Plan Vault](#)" are designed with a teacher's edition, including teaching tips, objectives, assessments, answer keys, and to be taught in 50 minutes, an easy printable lesson for the learner.

Lesson plans are subject to approval via a blind review by a task force that will evaluate each lesson against the criteria for each lesson plan. NBEA seeks to have over one hundred lesson plans in the vault by the start of the 2023 school year. NBEA Executive Director Joe McClary said, "this is a great opportunity for us to pay our members what they are worth and build something that could serve the whole community. Our members have asked for this for years, and I'm happy our Board has provided the leadership to make it a priority." Those interested should register their interest with jmccclary@nbea.org before February 1, 2023.

Get more details about the Lesson Plan Vault on the [NBEA website](#).

Applications Now Open in Montana for the Code.org Professional Learning Program

Applications are now open for Code.org's [Professional Learning Program](#) for middle and high school educators. If you are interested in teaching computer science for the 2023-2024 academic year, this is your time to explore the computer science curriculum and collaborate with educators of all experience levels to develop lesson plans and teaching strategies.

What is the Professional Learning Program? Hosted by highly trained facilitators, our professional development workshops will prepare you to confidently bring CS to your students as well as connect with an online and in-person community of peers. Most workshops have scholarship funding available.

[Elementary teachers](#) can sign-up for a one-day workshop near you. Applications are not required for Computer Science Fundamentals workshops and take place throughout the country, year-round.

[Middle and High School teachers](#) will begin with a five-day workshop on Computer Science Discoveries (CSD), Computer Science Principles (CSP), and/or Computer Science A (CSA) in the summer, with academic year workshops thereafter.

--Option 1: Virtual, July 24-28, 2023

--Option 2: University of Idaho—Coeur d'Alene Harbor Center, July 31-August 4, 2023

--Option 3: Raisbeck Aviation High School, Tukwila, Washington, August 7-11, 2023

The cost of CSD, CSP, or CSA is \$1,500/person. This covers the tuition of both the summer and academic year workshops (nine total days of training). Any travel, lodging, or food costs for in-person trainings are separate. Scholarship opportunities are available to cover the costs of Code.org training tuition for qualified applicants.

If you have any questions, please contact [Code.org](#).

Fun Facts & Trivia

Robin Hood is the animated story of England's legendary hero of the common people as told by traveling minstrel Allan-a-Dale.

The story is enacted by an assortment of cartoon animal characters—Robin Hood and Maid Marian are foxes, Little John is a bear, and King Richard and Prince John are lions.

Robin Hood rebels against the villainy of Prince John, and his accomplices, Sir Hiss and the Sheriff of Nottingham.

Prince John has usurped the throne of King Richard, his brother, who was captured on the Crusades.

With Little John, Friar Tuck, and the townspeople of Nottingham, Robin defeats the runty prince, and his minions and Richard is free to return and reclaim his kingdom.

Robin Hood was released on November 8, 1973.

The film features the voices of Phil Harris (Little John), Brian Bedford (Robin Hood), Roger Miller (Allan-a-Dale), Peter Ustinov (Prince John/King Richard), Terry-Thomas (Sir Hiss), Andy Devine (Friar Tuck), Monica Evans (Maid Marian), Pat Buttram (Sheriff of Nottingham), George Lindsey (Trigger), Ken Curtis (Nutsy), and Carole Shelley (Lady Kluck).

The songs, by Johnny Mercer, George Bruns, Roger Miller, and Floyd Huddleston include "Whistle-Stop," "The Phony King of England," "Love," "Oo-de-lally," and "Not in Nottingham."

The song "Love," by George Bruns and Floyd Huddleston, was nominated for an Academy Award.

In several sequences, George Bruns sought to capture the flavor of the period by using medieval instruments such as French horns and harpsichords, and occasionally just a mandolin.

Some 350,000 drawings were made for the production, with over 100,000 painted cels and 800 painted backgrounds.

The Robin Hood legend has long been popular with moviemakers, from the silent version starring Douglas Fairbanks, the Errol Flynn classic of 1938, and Disney's own live-action version *The Story of Robin Hood and His Merrie Men* in 1952.

In 1976, Sean Connery and Audrey Hepburn starred in another Robin Hood film, *Robin and Mariani*.

In 1991, *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* was released starring Kevin Costner as Robin Hood, Morgan Freeman as Azeem, Christian Slater as Will Scarlett, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio as Marian, and Alan Rickman as the Sheriff of Nottingham.

Issues of the Wednesday Reader are archived on the Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) website at www.mbea.info. The Wednesday Readers are under the Newsletter section and listed most recent first.

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"You don't make decisions because they are easy; you don't make them because they are cheap; you don't make them because they're popular; you make them because they're right." ~Rev. Theodore Hesburgh