



**MEDIA ALERT: Dec. 10, 2021**

## **SEL programmers coding with Potlatch grade-schoolers Friday**

**WHO** Four software engineers from Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories are helping the 230 Potlatch Elementary School students in grades 1-6.

**WHAT** They're participating in Hour of Code and Computer Science Education Week. Idaho Gov. Brad Little proclaimed Dec. 6-12 CS Ed Week in Idaho at a similar event at Syringa Middle School in Caldwell on Monday. More than 84,000 Hour of Code events are planned worldwide this year, including over 24,000 in the U.S. and more than 100 in Idaho. Hour of Code is a global movement Code.org founded in 2013 that coincides with Computer Science Education Week internationally. CS Ed Week, which has reached more than 1.3 billion learners ages 4-104 in more than 180 countries, is an annual call to action to inspire K-12 students to learn computer science and celebrate contributions of students, teachers, and partners in the field.

**WHERE** Potlatch Elementary School, 510 Elm St., Potlatch, ID 83855

**WHEN** **Friday Dec. 10, 2021**, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. — with a lunch break from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**WHY** Computer science is one of the most in-demand college degrees, computing is used throughout many careers, and CS careers are the number-one source of all new wages in the country. In fact, CS jobs account for more than half of all projected job growth in STEM fields. The Education Commission of the States anticipates computing jobs in Idaho will grow 19 percent by 2027. And according to the Idaho Dept. of Labor, 19 of Idaho's top-20 hot jobs through 2026 require STEM skills — with applications software developers and information security analysts among the top-five in-demand fields. It predicts demand for applications software developers and information security analysts will grow by 30 percent annually between 2016-2026.

**HOW** The Idaho STEM Action Center was created in 2015 because Idaho citizens are not entering the STEM pipeline fast enough to meet current and future Idaho workforce needs. Its goals are to increase equitable access to STEM opportunities, align education and workforce needs, and amplify awareness of science, technology, engineering, and math throughout Idaho. The organization is working with industry, government, educators, and students to develop new resources and support high-quality professional-development opportunities to foster a STEM-educated workforce that ensures Idaho's continued economic prosperity. Visit [STEM.Idaho.gov](https://stem.idaho.gov) for more information and <https://stem.idaho.gov/support-us/foundation> to make a tax-deductible donation to the Idaho STEM Action Center Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, to enhance the investment the state has made in Idaho's STEM community. Contributions provide greater access to STEM camps for children, student competitions, and many other life-shaping programs.

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