2020 Theme: Mesa “A Smart City”;

What is it? An event where local area high school students’ study and analyze data about an issue or problem in their community.

When is it? January 13-14, 2020. 9am-4pm. Lunch and snacks provided both days.

Where is it? Mesa Arts Center, Ikeda Theater.

Who is participating? Student teams open to all East Valley high school students, businesses, community educational partners.

What is the purpose? To introduce high school students to data science - helping them develop analysis and presentation skills, and discover solutions to community issues using local data.

How will participants be organized? Participants will be organized into teams of 5-6. Teams will be mentored by city and school district staff, and data analysts from select local businesses and schools. Teams will have access to data sets and software tools. Participants should bring their own laptops.

Register at: http://hacktivatemesa.org

What will teams work on? The event will focus on the following community issues:

- Millennials in Mesa – Workforce Talent Attraction
- Recycling in my community
- Educational attainment in my community
- Parking and transportation in a “Smart City”
- Homelessness and affordable housing in my community
- Suicide prevention and mental health in my community
- Opioid abuse in my community

Is it a competition? Teams will have an opportunity to present their chosen community issue, and discuss the data, how they analyzed the data, what they learned about the issue, what patterns or trends the data suggested about the issue, and recommendations for next steps. Awards will be given based on the presentations.

What are the desired outcomes of the event?

1. Spark critical thinking about community issues, and illustrate how data can provide structure in thinking about and solving community issues.
2. Develop data skills such as how to analyze and present data.
3. Increase awareness about the availability of data from the City of Mesa.
4. HAVE FUN!