

Global Game Jam – SURVIVAL GUIDE –

What to Know:

We have a Facebook event page that has info about the event. If you are registered on the GDC Facebook group you will have been invited to that page. If not, contact Lanz (lws2@sfu.ca) or Scott (sdi1@sfu.ca) and they will add you.

Be at UBC before 6:00pm. We will be organizing transportation and carrying of equipment as needed so stay tuned on the Facebook page. It is fairly easy to get there via public transit.

Don't expect to be eating properly or getting much sleep. So get plenty of rest and food the night before so that you have energy and don't feel run down.

What if I don't know anyone? How can I make a team?

Teams are formed on the first night of the event and it is facilitated. Many groups are formed from people who just met that day. It is important to find people who feel the same way about the Jam as you. If you REALLY want to work like crazy, find other motivated people. If you want to be more chill and not push yourself too hard, find a group that has that same attitude. That way you will all be happy with the result.

I recommend that you move out of your comfort zone a little bit and try to form teams with new people. The one year we did that, the top 4 games had 3 games that included at least 1 GDC member.

Many people start by looking for a group that has an idea that they think is cool. Working with people you already know is OK too.

What to Bring:

- Paper and Pencil (for brainstorming)
- Pillow
- Blanket
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush and paste
- Shower Stuff (they have a decent washroom facility and showers on the basement level from what I can remember)
- A change of clothes (and maybe some comfy inside shoes)
- A BIG water bottle (stay hydrated!)
- A Camera (it is actually a pretty cool site to see...like a little nerdy city)
- Business Cards (if you want to network)
- Headphones
- An Umbrella (It is good to go outside a few times but it will probably be wet)

- Computer Stuff as needed. (they supply NO computers but do have wireless internet and power)
 - Laptop
 - Or a full desktop set-up.
- Tools for your craft:
 - Tablet? Audio tools? Dual Monitors? What do you need to do quality work?
- **SNACKS!**
 - Instant Ramen Noodles
 - Dried Seaweed
 - Chips
 - Cheese
 - Cookies
 - Bananas, Apples, Oranges (Very Important!)

In Addition to These Items, Lanz Will Be Bringing:

- 2 Electrical Power Bars
- 1 Extension Cord
- A Therm-a-Rest mat (because the floor is not that comfortable... at least on the first night)
- An electric tea kettle (For all your hot water needs)
- Assorted loose-leaf tea.
- A few coffee mugs.

What about Software?

Don't feel too stressed about the software. Many teams will be using publicly available tools. Unity usually offers a 1-month key for their latest version during the event and many teams use open source alternatives.

It really comes down to what you intend to be doing. If you want to try something that is outside of your comfort zone, you may want to research a bit and get some basic software in that field. Ask on the Facebook group for recommendations. If you plan on doing things based on your skills, then you probably already have the software for that.

The important thing is: You can do **WHATEVER YOU WANT!** If you can't program but you want to try then go ahead! If you can't draw but you want to be an artist then go for it! Take risks, have new experiences, and have a great time!

See you there!

- Lanz S.