

## Coding For Good Badges - Coding Basics 2

# Women in Computer Science: Margaret Hamilton

- Margaret Hamilton was the person who saved the Apollo 11 moon landing.
- When she was in her 30's, Margaret lead teams scientists at NASA that guided the Apollo moon landings.
- She created software to track the speed and location of the space capsule. It had to signal when a problem happened. Astronauts could also use the computer to answer questions.
- Three minutes before landing Apollo 11 on the moon, one of the astronauts turned on a radar system. That overloaded the computer. The alarm went off, which made the computers ignore the radar and focus on getting the capsule in landing position. That could have caused the spacecraft to crash - or the astronauts would have had to head back to Earth without landing on the moon.
- Since then, Margaret's opened her own company, Hamilton Technologies, where she works with her team to develop new software.
- Margaret was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016 for her work leading the development of flight software for NASA's Apollo Moon missions.