

# A STEM in the Park

## Take Home Activity

# STEM

in the **PARK**™

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

## VEX Robotics



Robotics has become an integral part of STEM and STEM education. VEX is found in classrooms, after school programs, churches, as well as part of Boy Scouts, 4-H and other groups. Teams of 4-7 students' mentors and parents combine their skills in an effort to solve a game problem and compete alongside other teams. Students learn mechanical and software skills. Students also learn softer skills including teamwork and good engineering practices.

Robots come in all shapes and sizes and can be found from small put together boxes to complex arms that help astronauts work aboard the ISS (International Space Station). The ability to understand and repair robots is becoming an increasing part the economy and is supporting an increase in employment opportunities. Robotics are increasingly taking over jobs that were once the done by people. Several cases like bomb detecting robots even have some great side benefits. The advent of the internet and its widespread application has created jobs that a few years ago did not exist; such has web developers and security analyst. What this all comes down to is today's fun is tomorrow's career.

So with what you have seen here today would you like to build robots and compete?

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## ***Here are some suggestions to assist you in getting started:***

1. Go to Radio Shack or another department store and purchase a small kit to try out.
2. Check with your school system. There are several programs up and running operated by teachers and volunteers. Should there be a team in your appropriate age range jump aboard.
3. Start your own team. There may even be some funding options for qualified groups.
4. Go to the VEX you tube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/vexroboticstv> here there are many helpful videos that explain this year's competition and how to construct robots. There are also several videos to assist in the programming of the robot.
5. Still want more! Go to [http://www.vexrobotics.com/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://www.vexrobotics.com/wiki/Main_Page) or <http://www.vexrobotics.com/> will give you information about building and programming with specific plans and helpful operating hints.
6. Events across the world are listed at <http://www.robotevents.com/robot-competitions/vex-robotics-competition> you can attend events and they are free to the public. There are events in Marion OH on October 1st at the Tri-River Career Center.

Lastly the program is supported by the RECF (Robotics Education and Competition Foundation). Check out their website <http://www.roboticseducation.org/>.

The REC Foundation's vision is to change the world by inspiring young people in all communities to pursue degrees and careers in STEM fields by providing access to high-quality programs.

While this is a lot of information and websites to explore but you still need a more personal touch you may contact Jeff Demaray at [jeffdemaray@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffdemaray@yahoo.com). Specific questions will be directed to the appropriate places.

***This activity is brought to you by VEX Robotics***

