

## What VEX Robotics Means To Me

*"The great successful men of the world have used their imagination...they think ahead and create their mental picture in all its details, filling in here, adding a little there, altering this a bit and that a bit, but steadily building - steadily building."*

-Robert Collier

As Robert Collier stated in his quote about success, VEX robotics presents a challenge that all the members of the team must use innovation and imagination to solve. Teams build prototypes, which are then assembled into a working robot. After each competition throughout the year the robot is re-built and modified into a perfected form.

As our robot changes we also grow and develop; in our ideas, our skills, and our team. My name is Morgan Montalvo. I am a fourteen year old member of Eagle Engineering, team 1138, and I started participating in VEX robotics at Chaminade Middle School in 2006. We competed in several tournaments, and soon gained worldwide recognition as the first middle school VEX team in the world. In our first year of competition, we were honored with the Amaze Award which changed my aspirations and inspired an interest in engineering. Two years later we won the Middle School Excellence Award in the World Championships, but we did not reach that goal alone. Other teams offered to help us during competitions along the way which gave us an example of VEX robotics as being a great program of community and gracious professionalism. The bonds that were made between our team members and the other teams made me want to continue with VEX robotics. After we had set an example for other teams, particularly middle schools, we felt a duty to promote VEX to others. We have taught students

as far away as New Zealand, Hawaii, and Japan; and as near as the Burbank Library. We have competed at events such as the Pan Pacific Challenge and The American School in Japan, teaching us valuable skills in international competitions. VEX robotics competitions are a place that encourage fun, education, technology, teamwork, a sense of community, friendship, and gracious professionalism. I cannot wait for the next years to come with VEX robotics team 1138. My love of robotics makes me want to teach others about it too and encourage people I know to join. It also motivates me to learn more. Tours at Northrop Grumman, John O. Arnn Elementary School, and Yokosuka Naval Base have given me a sense of what kind of job I would be interested in, in the field of engineering or technology. VEX robotics has been a wonderful experience for me, and I plan to continue it until I graduate, then I hope to study engineering and robotics in college. It has also inspired me in school, sports, and other activities on how to achieve my goals and aspirations with success.