

Vex Essay

All of us at Free Range Robotics had low expectations entering the New Zealand Vex Robotics regional, but amazingly, we won the tournament and programming challenge. We then had less than one month to fundraise NZ \$20,000 to go to the US for the Vex Robotics World Championship. When our parts order arrived, we only had less than one week to programme the robot.

When our team arrived in the US, we still had low expectations, but after winning our first two games on our own, that idea was dismissed. After playing the qualifiers without losing a single game, we were coming first! Choosing two alliance partners, we easily won the quarter-finals, but in the first match of the semi-finals, we had a technical issue, causing us to be disqualified. We then played the second game, but lost by just one point.

After that was the programming finals. We had been working late on the practice fields each day and now our skill was put to the test. We won!

We also came third in the driving skills challenge.

And we did this all in our first year.

Being in a Vex team has given me so many opportunities I would never have had otherwise. I have always been interested in electronics and programming, but I am now considering attending Massey University. I have learnt skills such as programming in C and video editing with Adobe Premiere. I have even had the opportunity to go to the US!

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