My name is Thomas Manfredonia and this will be my third year on a VEX team. During the past two years on the VEX team the program has done a lot for me. I have gone to different countries, such as New Zealand and Japan, and states, such as Dallas and Florida, for various competitions. I have gotten a lot of opportunities through the programs such as I have improved my public speaking because I have been on various presentation teams at competitions but also during service programs. Vex has helped me grow as a person because it has given me a platform and the opportunity to do something that I love. It has also given me a chance to connect with people on the team and others as well. For example at the Pacific Lodge Boys Home (for wards of the court) I was able to connect to the kids there through the building and programming of square bots. Vex Robotics has changed my life in a variety of ways. Such as inspired me to become and engineer by allowing me to get hands on access to real life situation and through this I have come to see that I want to be an engineer. I<3 VEX!