Robotics

Twice a week, twelve teenagers enter my friend’s garage and close the door. For the next 3 hours power tools, moving furniture, and audible gasps can be heard from the cul-de-sac around his house. The neighbors always seem to wonder what goes on behind the massive metal doors, but it’s always the last thing they guess: we’re building robots. Of course, we have to employ techniques commonly used in engineering to make our robot designs come to life, but for me it’s more about working as a team and being innovative enough to come up with a design that other teams would have never even imagined. Having never been highly involved in an activity before I started robotics, I was first and foremost an individual. I thought primarily about myself, I looked out for primarily myself, and I was not team oriented at all. However, finding a team of like-minded individuals that all shared a high amount of dedication to their activities changed that. I found that my new teammates worked together to be innovative, building off of each other’s ideas and not being afraid to look crazy in front of their peers. We all respected each other’s opinions, asking “How?” instead of saying “No.” We all devoted ourselves to the good of the team, not carrying out any sole member’s whim. This comfortable environment (which is almost a paradox, given that we meet in a dusty, cold garage six hours a week) lends itself to such a high degree of innovation and execution that I can’t believe the crazy inventions that we are able to produce, not to mention how much we enjoy ourselves in competition. This is why I love it.