

## Online Challenge: VEX Robotics Short Essay Challenge

My name is Katherine Cinnamon and I am a seventh grader at Benton Middle School. I love robotics, especially VEX robotics! VEX robotics has taught me not just about robots, but the combination of engineering, math, physics, and programming. Building a robot is a lot of fun and very challenging. This past summer, I attended a summer camp where I learned how to program RobotC.

Being part of the Robotics teams has persuaded me to go into the field of Mechanical Engineering or Computer Science when I go to College. I truly love building and programming, I think it would be a natural fit for me to pursue one of those career fields. Competing in the competitions is one of the coolest parts of VEX, meeting other teams, working together and ultimately seeing your hard work pay off in how well your robot does on the field.

Twice a week I go back to my Elementary school and I volunteer as a mentor to their robotics team. This past fall they competed in the First Lego League and now they have begun working with VEX IQ. I help teach them how to program and build. I love working with younger kids and helping them learn about robotics. It is so fun to watch their faces light up when they figure out a solution to a problem that they have been facing. It gives me great satisfaction to use the skills I've learned over the years and give back to others. VEX has done a lot for me and I can't wait to see what happens next with robotics!