What VEX Robotics Means to Me

Dhruti Tummalapalli – 2059A

From a very young age I was interested with building and putting things together. For example, whenever my dad brought home furniture to put together I would always jump to the task. As I grew older the fascination with building led me to discover robotics, I would look up robots on the internet and read books about robotics designs and processes. When I learned about VEX robotics I immediately wanted to be on a team, but at the time we didn’t have any VEX teams in our community. However when I began High School I was pleasantly surprised, a VEX robotics team was being started at my school. Of course, I applied and luckily got in.

One thing to understand about me was at the time I lacked self-confidence and was very afraid of any situation that would put me on the spot. I could never talk to an audience, didn’t believe in what I could do, and was scared to take up any leadership roles. VEX robotics changed all of this, through it I was able to become a confident, optimistic person who was the Vice President of the VEX robotics club at school and an active participant of the team.

The fact that I began VEX during the infancy of my team added to the benefits that I had through VEX. As the first VEX robotics team in the Greater Sacramento area we felt like we had the responsibility to spread our passion for robotics. We gave presentations and ran workshops at local middle schools, elementary schools, and organization to expose the wonderful world of VEX robotics to our community. These events gave me the opportunity to speak up, to present to larger audiences and increase my confidence. When I first started VEX I wasn’t able to speak under stress, while today after my experience with VEX judging panels, outreach events and fundraising I don’t hesitate one bit to get in front of an audience or in front of a camera and speak up.

In high school, I realized I had a real interest in sciences but my passion for engineering didn’t disappear at all, in fact it increased my interest. VEX robotics helped me develop my idea for a future career. I knew that I would definitely want go into something science related but I couldn’t look past my interest for robotics. I am now aiming to go into the field of bioengineering. VEX robotics also enlightened me to the fact that I love to work in a team environment. It led me to believe that one day I would love to go into management, where I could work with people.

VEX robotics seemed to be the perfect opportunity for me to use my interest for robotics building and even learn a bit of programming. However, I never knew that it would impact my life in ways completely separate from engineering altogether. VEX robotics helped me gain confidence, learn to speak in public, develop leadership skills and guide me towards a career path. THANK YOU VEX ROBOTICS!