

By: Nora M and Maya W Members of team 246

Introduction

This story is about a strong friendship between two girls, and how one girl inspired her friend to learn about robotics.



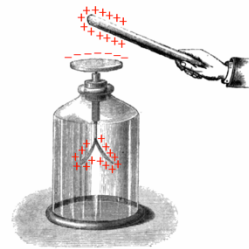
How I met Maya:Nora

It was the first day of 3rd grade, and I didn't know who would be in my class. When I sat down at my desk, I was relieved to see a girl sitting across from me. Her name was Maya. A few days later, we had already become best friends. We did everything together, from working on projects to playing at recess together. We also told each other literally *everything*.

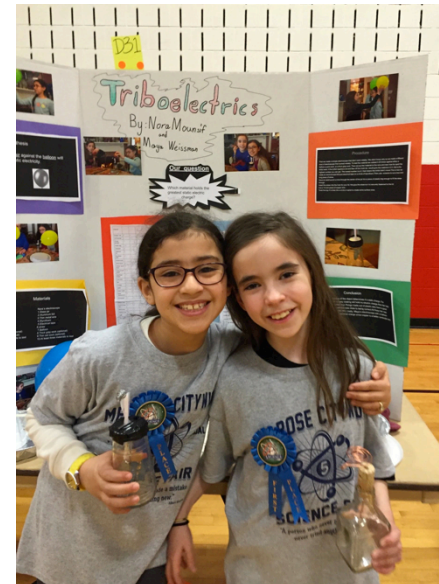


The science fair: Maya

Something we did together was the science fair. Our project was about the amount of static electricity in an object. We each built an electroscope, though mine was slightly different from Nora's. An electroscope is a tool that allows you to measure the amount of static electricity in an object. We made a chart, and using the data from the chart we made a triboelectric series. And guess what- we won the science fair!



electroscope



Discovering VEX IQ:Nora

Every once in awhile, Maya might mention her robotics team. I didn't really understand what she was talking about, so one day I decided to ask her. She told me how they made robots out of plastic pieces and the obstacles they had to overcome. It sounded like so much fun. One day when Maya came over to my house I decided to ask her if I could join the robotics team. She really wanted me to join, but it wasn't her choice entirely.



Convincing the other team members: Maya

Robotics was already fun, but I knew it would be even better with my best friend on the team. My other team members are named Leo and Gabe, and they are both boys. Sometimes I wished there was another girl on our team. Besides her company, Nora is really smart and I knew she would help progress go a lot quicker. Now all I had to do was convince the boys to let her on the team. After several days of persuading the team, I was able to deliver the good news. Nora was officially on the team!



The welcome party:Nora

It was the day of my welcome party. At 6:30pm I officially became a part of the team. That was the time when the team gave me “the shirt”. The shirt is “one of the most important things to join the team”. It is red with this logo printed on it:



At the party we had delectable food. We also played many games such as capture the flag. The highlight of the day, however, was when I received my shirt. The whole team got together, each member holding one part of “the shirt”, and handed it to me very formally.

Nora's welcome party: Maya

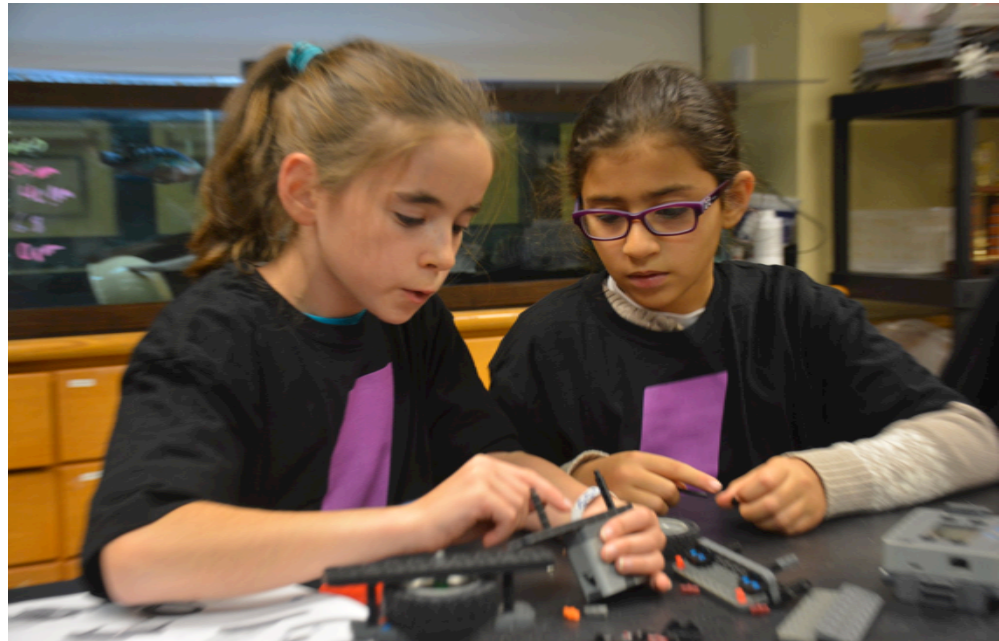
The party was today and I was so happy Nora would be on the team! I couldn't wait until 6:30 when people would start arriving. First came Gabe, then Nora, then Leo. Leo would be coming with the shirt but only me and Gabe knew that. Once everyone was there we all sat on the hammock in my backyard and talked for awhile. Then we played some games. Eventually it was time to give Nora "The Shirt". Nora didn't know what was going on. Once we gave her the shirt we told her "*now you're on the team*".



The first practice: Nora

The next big thing for me after the welcome party was my first robotics practice. I was so nervous! I didn't know what to expect nor what we would do.

The day came and went, and I don't know what I was worried about. We analyzed VEX IQ and talked about what the main obstacles were and how to overcome them. We decided to build two robots, one with a claw and one with an elevator, and see which one worked better. It was so interesting! I knew I would love robotics. We even went to a girl power event at BU Academy!



The match at Hopkinton: Maya

After several months of hard work and determination, our first match approached. Our team of four was split up into two teams of two. Gabe and I and Nora and Leo. All our work paid off, for we won two awards, the excellence award and the skills award. We were super excited!



The good things about joining a robotics team:Nora

I am so glad that I decided to join team 246. All because of this decision, I made some new, fun, hardworking, sometimes crazy friends. Before I joined the team, I didn't know Leo and barely knew Gabe. Thanks to my decision I also have many new learning opportunities such as learning how to program and how to use the controller.



We are a part of team 246B, from Melrose, MA and we thank our coach Gary Garber.

About the author: Maya

Maya Weissman is a 10 year old girl born on November 29th 2006. In addition to robotics, she enjoys gymnastics, piano, and cello. She has one sister and one cat. When she grows up, she wants to go to MIT and become an engineer.



About the author: Nora

Nora Mounsif, born on November 9th, 2006, is a ten year old girl in the 4th grade. Nora has 1 brother. In addition to robotics, she enjoys ballet, tap, jazz, playing the piano and violin. She is also a freshman on the Melrose swim team. She loves school, and wants to be a teacher when she grows up.

