

Everything You Wanted to Know About Starting a Robotics Team But Were Afraid to Ask

...

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Understanding the Challenge

Get the Goods

Starting a team requires a set of specialized equipment, training, tinkering, and registration with the league.

Assemble the Team

How do you know who to recruit?

Who is there to help?

What is going on?!?
(panic is totally normal)

Get Roboting!

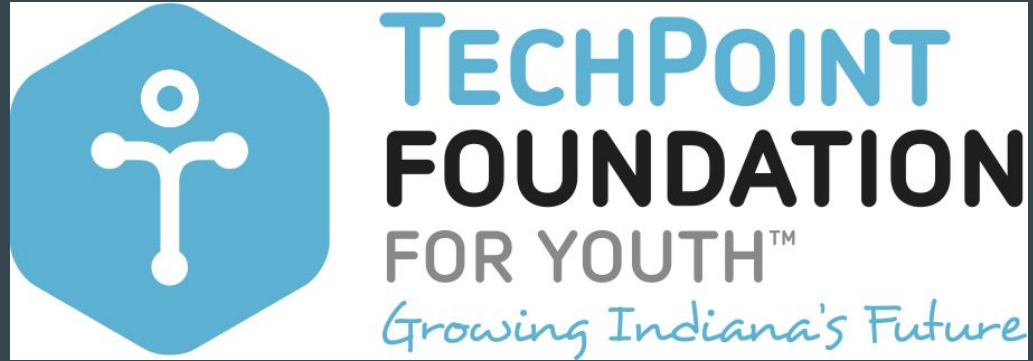
Get out there and compete!

Get the Goods

Knowing what you're getting into
can either ease your mind or
cause more anxiety.



The State Robotics Initiative (SRI) is a collection of grant funds managed by TechPoint Foundation for Youth that provides schools with robotics kits and resources to establish teams.



Is it making a difference?

Totally

2016-2018 Grant Impact



800
Robotics Kits



800
Trained Teachers

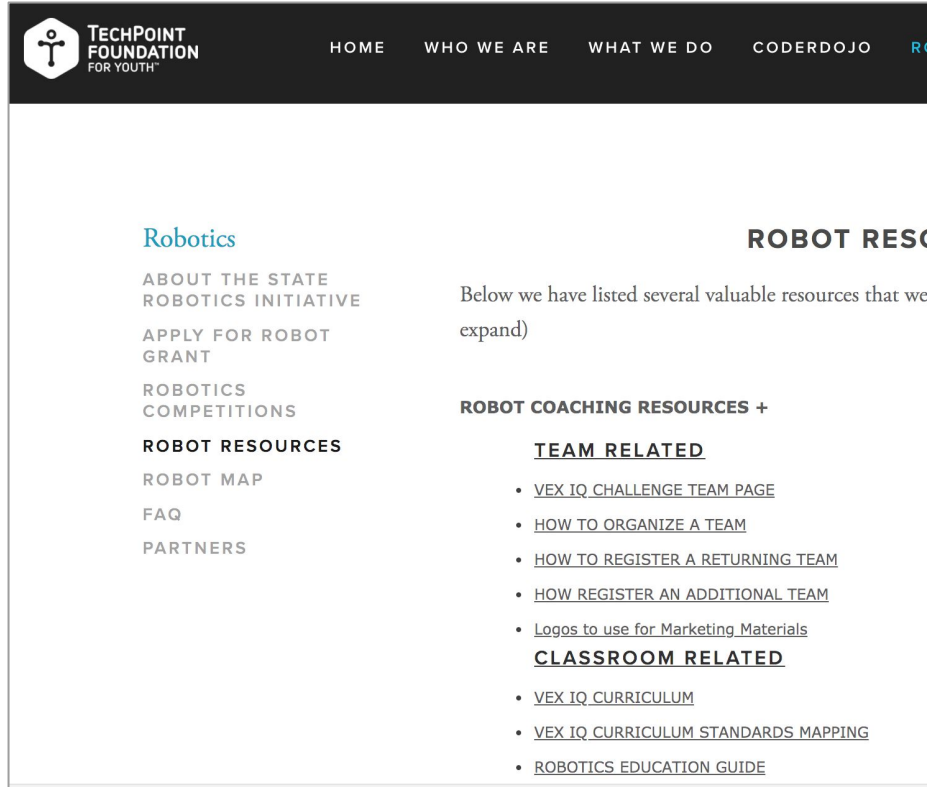


800
Robot Teams



~80,000
Students

TechPoint for Youth
has an incredible
amount of resources
available online.



The screenshot shows the TechPoint Foundation for Youth website. The header is dark with the logo and navigation links: HOME, WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO, CODERDOJO, and ROBOTICS. The main content area is white. On the left, there is a sidebar with links: Robotics, ABOUT THE STATE ROBOTICS INITIATIVE, APPLY FOR ROBOT GRANT, ROBOTICS COMPETITIONS, ROBOT RESOURCES, ROBOT MAP, FAQ, and PARTNERS. The main content area on the right is titled "ROBOT RESOURCES" and contains the text "Below we have listed several valuable resources that we expand)". Below this text, there are two sections: "ROBOT COACHING RESOURCES +" and "TEAM RELATED". The "TEAM RELATED" section lists four links: VEX IQ CHALLENGE TEAM PAGE, HOW TO ORGANIZE A TEAM, HOW TO REGISTER A RETURNING TEAM, and HOW REGISTER AN ADDITIONAL TEAM. Below this, there is a section titled "CLASSROOM RELATED" which lists three links: VEX IQ CURRICULUM, VEX IQ CURRICULUM STANDARDS MAPPING, and ROBOTICS EDUCATION GUIDE.

TECHPOINT FOUNDATION FOR YOUTH

HOME WHO WE ARE WHAT WE DO CODERDOJO ROBOTICS

Robotics

ABOUT THE STATE ROBOTICS INITIATIVE

APPLY FOR ROBOT GRANT

ROBOTICS COMPETITIONS

ROBOT RESOURCES

ROBOT MAP

FAQ

PARTNERS

ROBOT RESOURCES

Below we have listed several valuable resources that we expand)

ROBOT COACHING RESOURCES +

TEAM RELATED

- [VEX IQ CHALLENGE TEAM PAGE](#)
- [HOW TO ORGANIZE A TEAM](#)
- [HOW TO REGISTER A RETURNING TEAM](#)
- [HOW REGISTER AN ADDITIONAL TEAM](#)
- [Logos to use for Marketing Materials](#)

CLASSROOM RELATED

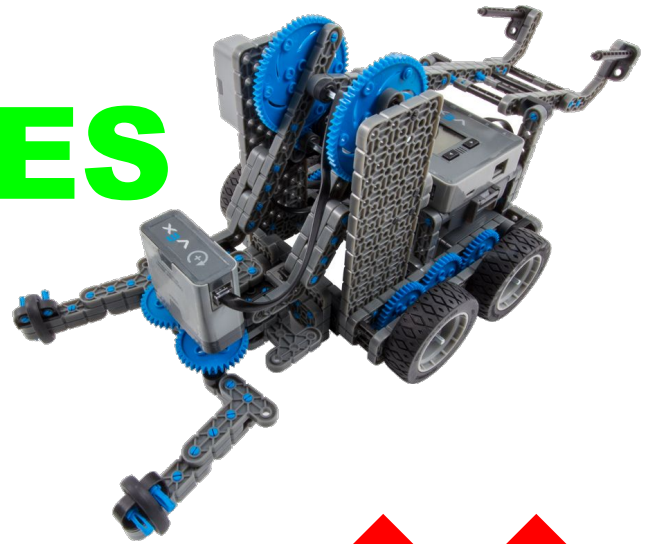
- [VEX IQ CURRICULUM](#)
- [VEX IQ CURRICULUM STANDARDS MAPPING](#)
- [ROBOTICS EDUCATION GUIDE](#)

Just so you know:
It's NOT First Lego
League (FLL).



It's a different
competition,
different league,
different pieces.

YES



Just so you know:
It's NOT Battlebots.



In tournament play,
teams are randomly
paired.

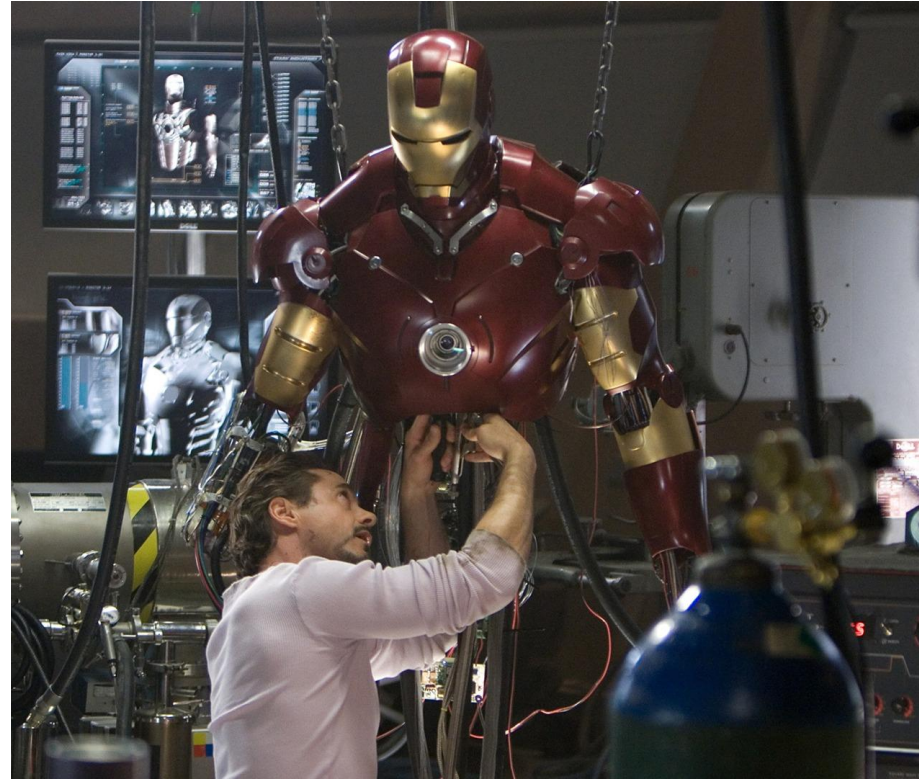


Cooperation is
rewarded.

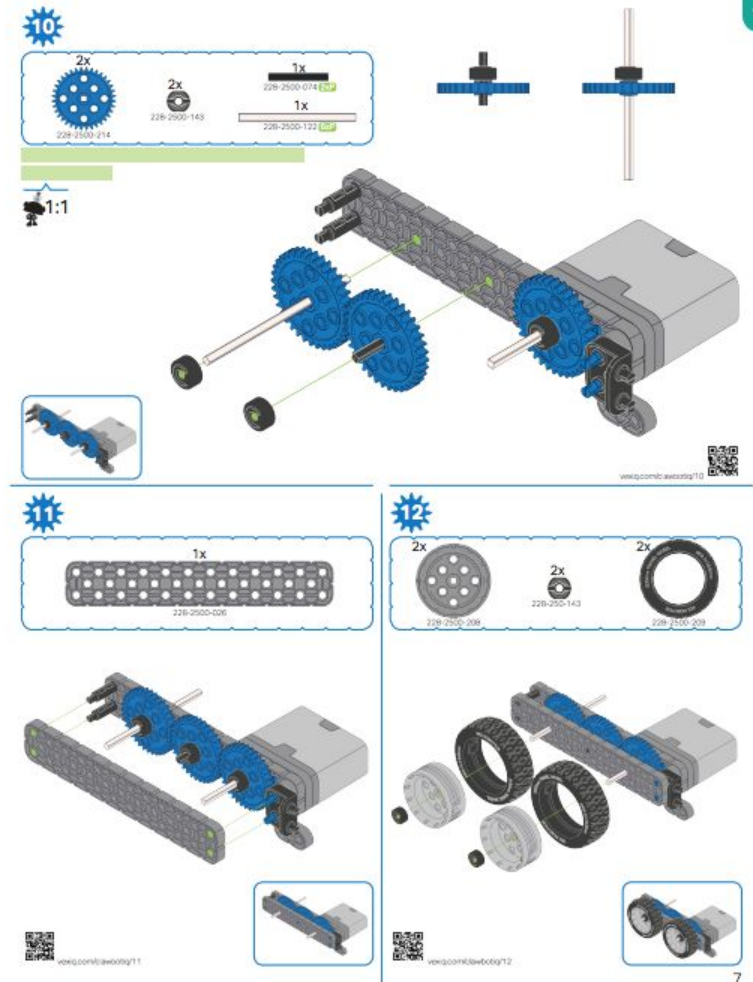


Just so you know:

Building the robot
does NOT require
an engineering
degree.



VEX IQ build instructions come with the kits, and alternative build plans are available online (often with video tutorials).



Just so you know:
Your best bet is to
buy the VEX IQ
Super Kit from the
source. It's \$329.99
vexrobotics.com



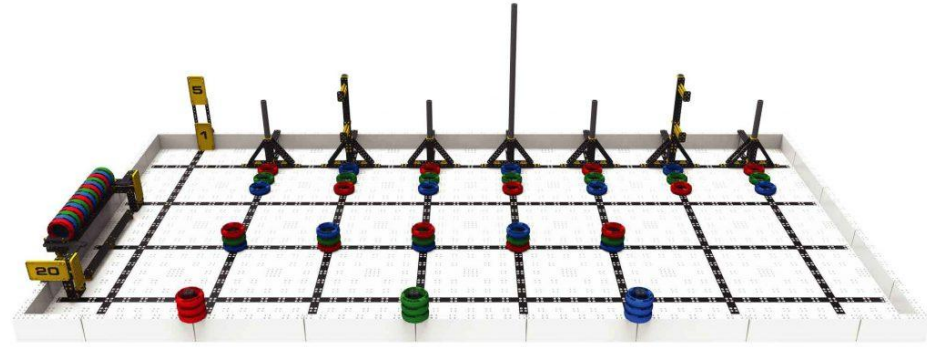
With the “brain”
and controller
directly from VEX
Headquarters in
Texas.



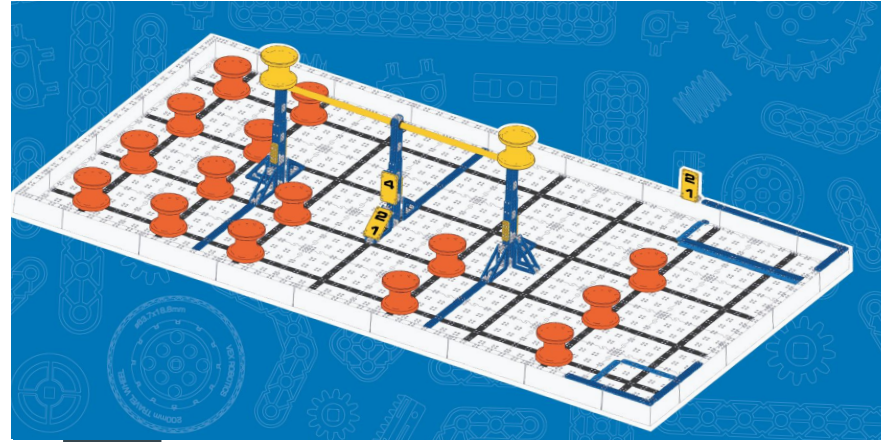
A similar set may be cheaper on amazon.com for \$277.73, BUT It *might* not be competition compliant.



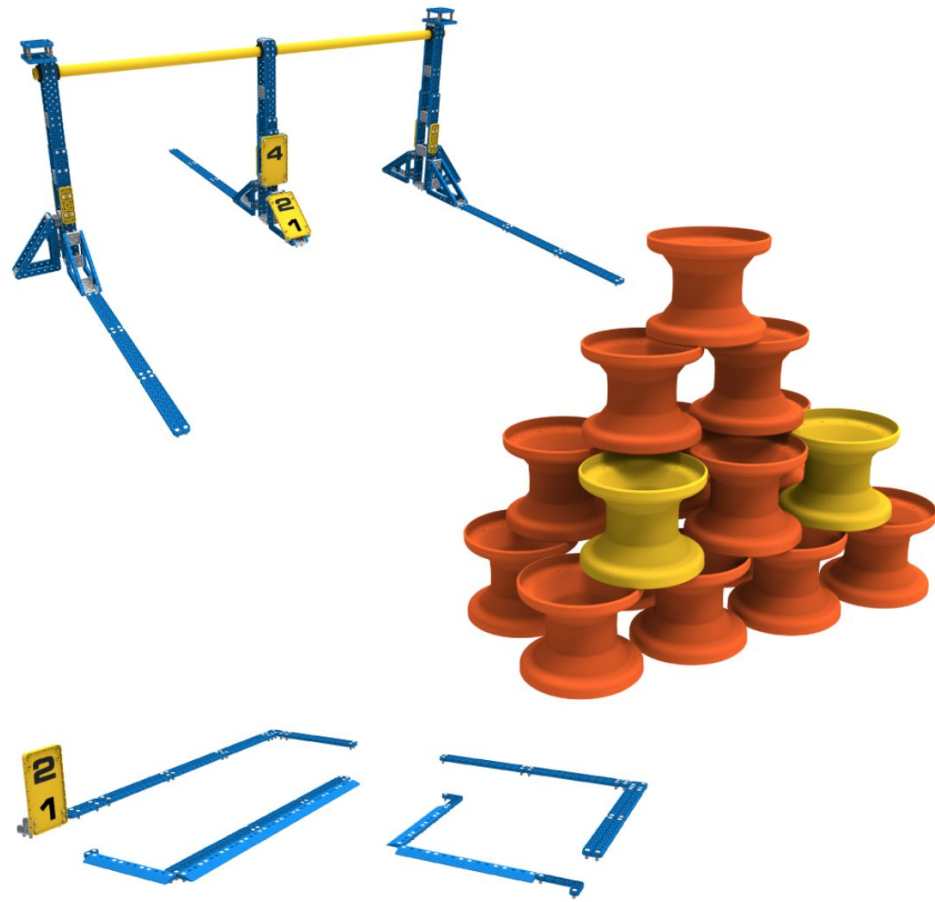
The 2017-18 game
was Ringmaster.



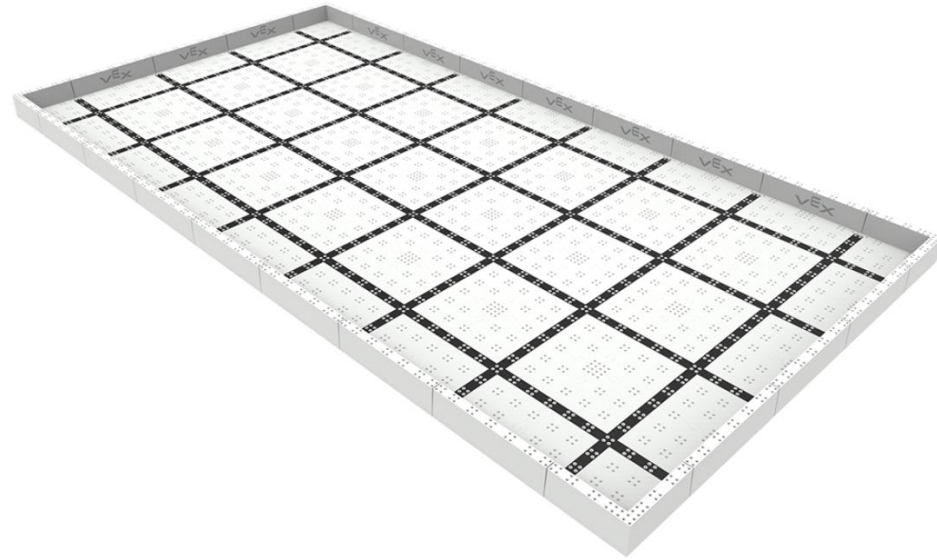
The 2018-19 game
is called Next Level.



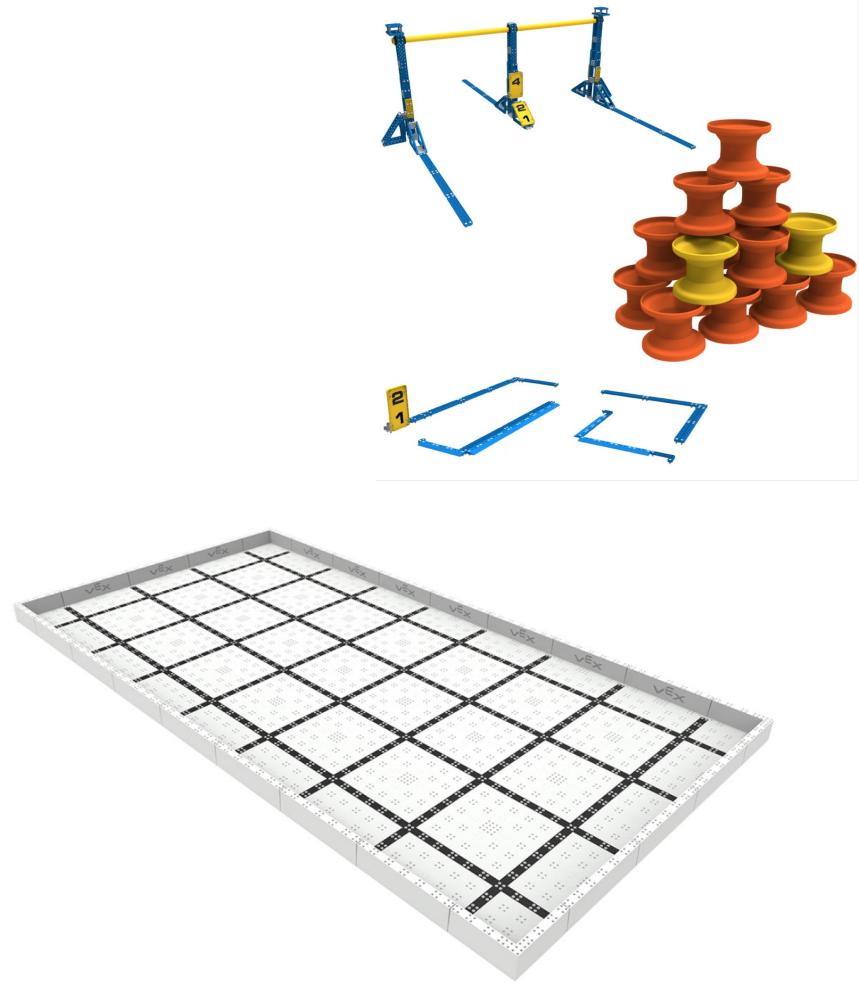
Each year, \$99
must spent on
game pieces



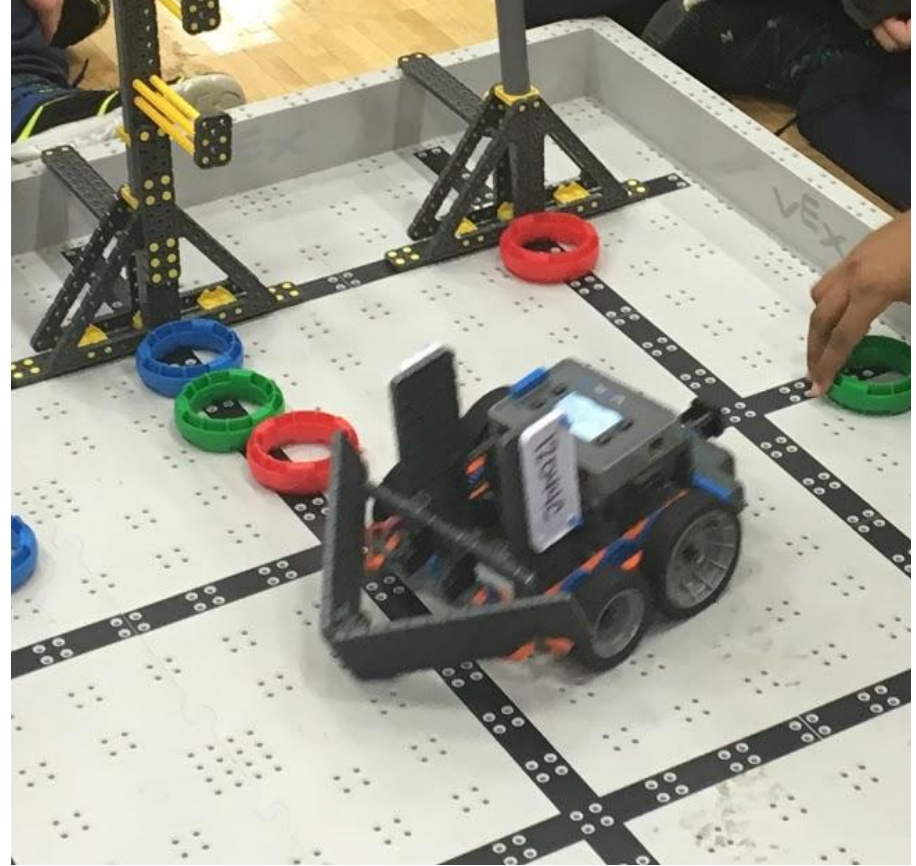
Teams should make
a one-time
purchase of \$99 for
a Field Perimeter
and tiles



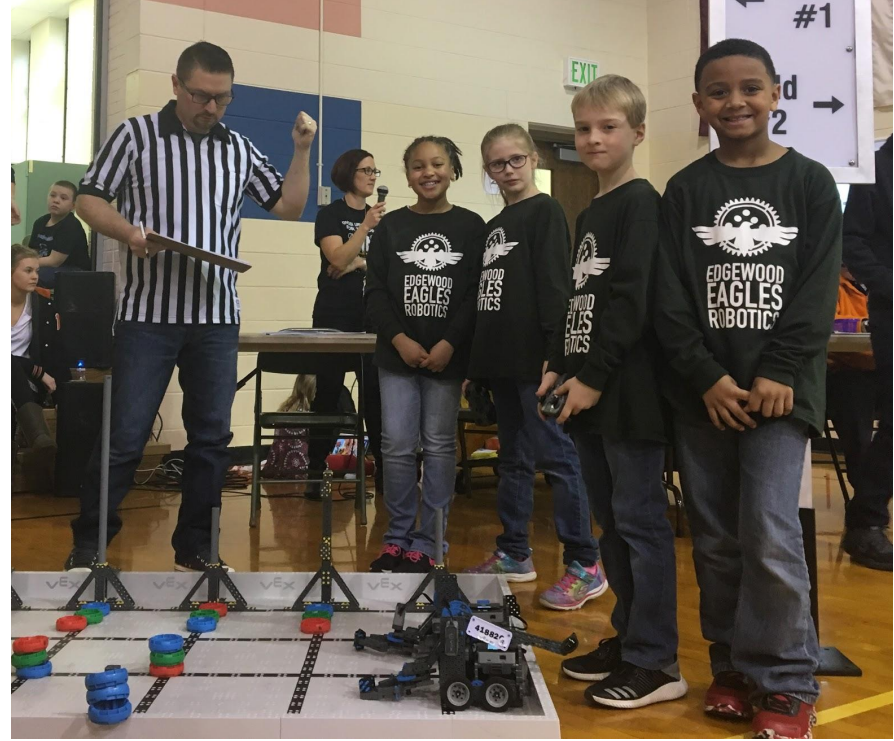
As an incentive to host a Tournament, TPFY offered an additional grant award of a field perimeter and game pieces.



Team Registration:
Each robot must be
issued a team
number - \$100 fee
- through REC
Foundation.



SRI Grant covers
the cost of the
first team's
registration.



Registration for
Tournament play
costs \$20-\$30
per competition
per team.



Tournaments are
NOT calm and quiet.



There's cheering,
clapping, and signs.



In order to be eligible for State, a robot must compete in at least 2 official VEX IQ tournaments.



Registration for
VEX IQ State
Qualification
\$250 per team
Indianapolis, IN



Registration for
VEX IQ World
Championship
\$975 per team
Louisville, KY



Assemble the Team

Find a good mix of students serve many team roles:

Research
Building
Promotion
Driving



It takes years to
build a great team -
really competitive
teams have been at
it for years.



Who wants to be on
the Robotics Team?



Everyone.
But not everyone
is a good fit.



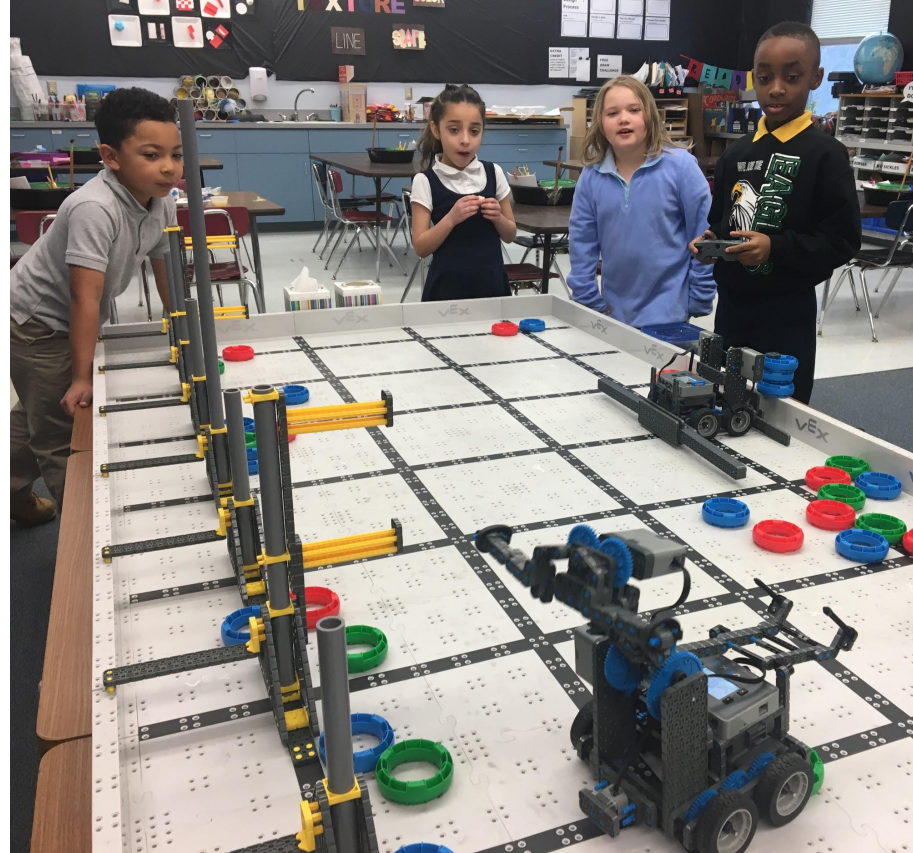
Who do YOU want
to be on the
Robotics Team?



Students whose families are supportive and will provide transportation to tournaments.



Students who can
cooperate and
follow directions.



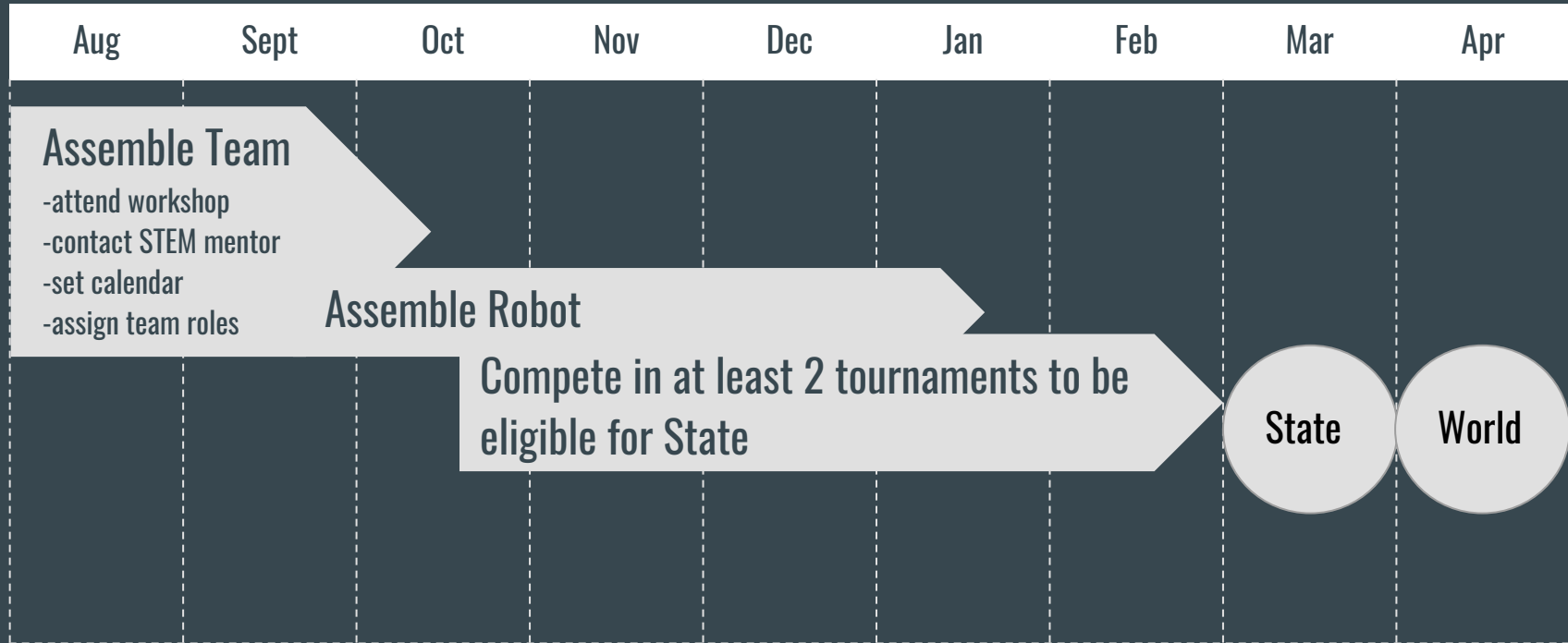
Students who talk
about building Lego
sets.



Students who aren't
scared to tinker.



Team and Competition Schedule



You'll have to
advocate for your
team to get funding,
recognition, a
following,



The learning curve
is steep. It's a new
world.



Coaches, mentors,
and advisors are
incredibly nice and
willing to help.



Should you do it?

Yes.

