



## Awards

### Overview

This section details the full list of awards presented in the VEX Robotics Competition. Most local and regional tournaments will offer a small subset of these awards, based on the number of teams at their event. The only competition likely to present each and every one of these awards will be the

VEX Robotics Competition World Championship, as warranted by the hundreds of teams competing. The awards presented at each event are chosen at the discretion of the event planning committee.

The standard set of awards which will be offered at tournaments are the:

- Tournament Champions
- Excellence Award
- Design Award
- Volunteer of the Year
- Robot Skills Champion\*
- Programming Skills Champion\*

*\*If this challenge is not being offered, a Judges' Award may be presented in its place*

In addition to these standard awards, it is expected that many tournaments will offer a combination of the following awards:

- Tournament Finalists
- Amaze Award
- Build Award
- Create Award
- Energy Award
- Innovate Award
- Sportsmanship Award
- Think Award

The remaining awards will likely be offered only at the World Championship. For a full listing of the awards offered at your specific tournament, please visit [www.RobotEvents.com](http://www.RobotEvents.com).

## Award Descriptions

Descriptions for all of the different awards presented at the VEX Robotics Championship are shown below. The first section contains a short characterization of what each award has been created to recognize. The following pages have longer descriptions of each award. It is important to note that not all awards will be offered at all events. Please visit the specific event listing at [www.RobotEvents.com](http://www.RobotEvents.com) to find the awards offered at your event(s).

### Robot Performance Awards

<b>Excellence Award:</b>	Top All Around Team (Robot Performance & Judged)
<b>Tournament Champions:</b>	Each Team on Winning Alliance
<b>Tournament Finalists:</b>	Each Team on Finalist Alliance
<b>Robot Skills Champion:</b>	Top Robot Skills Side Challenge Team
<b>Robot Skills 2<sup>nd</sup> Place:</b>	Runner-Up Robot Skills Side Challenge Team
<b>Programming Skills Champion:</b>	Top Programming Skills Side Challenge Team
<b>Programming Skills 2<sup>nd</sup> Place:</b>	Runner-Up Programming Skills Side Challenge Team

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## Judged Awards



### Team Awards

<b>Amaze Award:</b>	Team with an amazing, well rounded and top performing robot
<b>Build Award:</b>	Team with a well crafted robot
<b>Community Award:</b>	Team with extraordinary community involvement and awareness
<b>Create Award:</b>	Robot with a creative engineering solution
<b>Design Award:</b>	Team with a professional design approach
<b>Educate Award:</b>	Team that integrates robotics into their classroom STEM activity
<b>Energy Award:</b>	Team with extraordinary enthusiasm
<b>Future Award:</b>	FUTURE Foundation Robotics Construction Challenge
<b>Innovate Award:</b>	Team that has the most “Innovative” single design feature on their robot
<b>Inspire Award:</b>	Team that has earned respect from their peers for design
<b>Judges’ Award:</b>	Judges’ recognition
<b>Promote Award:</b>	Team with the best video submission (online design challenge)
<b>Sportsmanship Award:</b>	Sportsmanship
<b>Support Award:</b>	Helping other teams at the event
<b>Teamwork Award:</b>	Group with multiple teams competing and communicating together
<b>Think Award:</b>	Team with an impressive and effective autonomous programming

### Individual Awards

<b>Mentor of the Year Award:</b>	Recognized Volunteer Team Mentor
<b>Partner of the Year Award:</b>	Recognized Event Sponsor/Supporter
<b>Teacher of the Year Award:</b>	Recognized Team Teacher
<b>Volunteer of the Year Award:</b>	Recognized Event Volunteer

# Excellence Award

This is the highest award presented in the VEX Robotics Competition. The recipient of this award is a team that exemplifies overall excellence in building a well-rounded VEX robotics program. This team excels in many areas and is a shining example of dedication, devotion, hard work and teamwork. As a strong contender in numerous award categories, this team deserves to be recognized for building a quality robot and a “team” committed to quality in everything that they do.

Teams are given points towards the Excellence Award in the following categories:

- Tournament Qualification Round Ranking
- Programming Skills Challenge Ranking
- Robot Skills Challenge Ranking
- Judged performance in all other award categories

Using this wide range of criteria, the Excellence Award will be presented to the team who excels in all areas of VEX Robotics. With many tournaments offering a World Championship qualifying spot to the Excellence Award winner during the Gateway season, we recommend the following rubric be used to calculate the Excellence Award winner at local events:

<u>Team #</u>	<u>QR Ranking 1</u>	<u>PS Ranking 2</u>	<u>RS Ranking 3</u>	<u>Judge Ranking 4</u>	<u>Tie-Breaker 5</u>

- 1 A **QR Ranking** Point is earned for finishing in the top 8 of the qualifying matches (one point available)
- 2 A **PS Ranking** Point is earned for finishing in the top 10 of the Programming Skills contest (one point available)
- 3 A **RS Ranking** Point is earned by finishing in the top 10 of the Robot Skills contest (one point available)
- 4 **Judge Ranking** points are awarded for every judged award for which a team is a finalist (up to 4 points available)  
All **ties** in the Excellence Award calculator will be broken by awarding the higher ranked team in the Gateway competition one additional point

*Please Note: Some events may decide to offer two Excellence Awards, one for the top overall Middle School team and one for the top overall High School team if they feel they have enough teams in each group. Please see the official tournament criteria for more information.*

At the 2012 VEX Robotics Competition World Championship, only teams that have submitted at least 1 online Design Challenge, have won an Excellence Award at a previous event, have signed up for an Excellence Award interview, and have signed up for a Design Award interview (with their engineering notebook) will be considered for the Excellence Award. More details on this process are available in the Gateway Judge’s Handbook.

## Tournament Champions (2 or 3 Teams)

Presented to the winning alliance of the VEX Robotics Competition tournament.

## Programming Skills Champion (1 team)

Presented to the top ranked team in the VEX Robotics Competition Programming Skills Challenge.

## Robot Skills Champion (1 team)

Presented to the top ranked team in the VEX Robotics Competition Robot Skills Challenge.

## Tournament Finalists (2 or 3 Teams)

Presented to the runner-up alliance of the VEX Robotics Competition tournament.

## Programming Skills 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (1 team)

Presented to the second ranked team in the VEX Robotics Competition Programming Skills Challenge. Some events may choose not to award Programming Skills awards, and only large events like the World Championship, will award trophies for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Place team in this challenge.

## Robot Skills 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (1 team)

Presented to the second ranked team in the VEX Robotics Competition Robot Skills Challenge. Some events may choose not to award Robot Skills awards, and only large events like the World Championship, will award trophies for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Place team in this challenge.

### Amaze Award

The Amaze Award is presented to a team that has built a competition robot that clearly demonstrates overall quality. A solid mechanical design along with demonstrated robot programming, robustness, strong performance and consistency are key attributes assessed for this award.

Key Criteria:

- 1) Robot design is consistently high-scoring and competitive
- 2) Robot autonomous mode is consistently successful
- 3) Robot is robustly constructed to fulfill its designed task
- 4) Teamwork and interview quality

### Build Award

The Build Award is given to a team that has built a well crafted and constructed robot that also shows a clear dedication to safety and attention to detail. Judges will be looking for robots that have a professional feel and quality look to them, with clear attention to detail in construction, efficient use of mechanical and electronic components, and reliability on the competition field.

Key Criteria:

- 1) Robot construction is of professional quality; robust, clean and elegant use of build materials
- 2) Robot efficiently uses mechanical and electrical components
- 3) Robot is designed with detailed attention to the hazards and rigors of the competition
- 4) Teamwork and interview quality

### Community Award

The Community Award is presented to a team that should be recognized for making a difference in the community as judged by the local VEX Robotics Organizing Committee. This team demonstrates strong community building skills and has made many contributions to help support students and teams beyond their own school. This award is given to a team that makes a concerted effort to raise support in their community for technology education programs.

### Create Award

The Create Award is earned by a team whose robot design incorporates a creative engineering solution to the design challenges of this year's game. Judges will be looking for teams that are able to demonstrate a highly creative engineering process that incorporates solid mechanical ability, unique design solutions, and innovative approaches to the game play.

Key Criteria:

- 1) Robot is a well-crafted, unique design solution, demonstrating creative thinking
- 2) Team has demonstrated a highly creative engineering design process and methodology
- 3) Team has committed to ambitious and creative approaches to playing the game
- 4) Teamwork and interview quality

### Design Award

The Design Award is presented to a team that demonstrates an organized and professional approach to the design process, project and time management and team organization. Teams registering for this award at World Championship will be assigned a 10 minute time slot during which the team will set up and deliver a presentation to judges. The winning team will be able to describe how they implemented an efficient and productive design process to accomplish the project goals.

## Design Award - Engineering Notebook

One of the main missions of the VEX Robotics Competition is to help students acquire real world life skills that will benefit them in their academic and professional future. The Engineering Notebook is a way for teams to document how the VEX Robotics Competition experience has helped them to better understand the engineering design process while also practicing a variety of critical life skills including project management, time management, brainstorming and teamwork. The Engineering Notebook requirement of the Design Award has no specified format; each notebook should be created through a concerted effort by a team to document their design decisions. Throughout the season, many larger events will send their Design Award winner to World Championship, and as a result, teams should start their notebooks early and update them often.

Engineering is an iterative process. Iteration requires a student to recognize and define a problem, brainstorm and work through various stages of the design process, test their designs, continue to improve their designs, and continue the process until a solution has been identified. During this process, students will come across obstacles, encounter instances of success and failure, and learn many lessons. It is this process that students should document in their Engineering Notebook.

Additionally, the Engineering Notebook is an opportunity to document everything a team does so that it can serve as a historical guide of lessons learned and best practices. Students may include a plethora of things in their Engineering Notebook including: team meeting notes, design concepts and sketches, pictures, notes from competitions, biographies of team members (students, teachers and mentors), team members' observations and thoughts, team organization practices, and any other documentation that a team finds useful.

## Judging of Engineering Notebooks

Creating and maintaining an Engineering Notebook is in no way “required or mandated” for teams participating in the VEX Robotics Competition. Although the Engineering Notebook is not required, maintaining an Engineering Notebook is highly recommended because the process can have many benefits for the team. For instance, the development of technical writing skills is a valuable tool to acquire. There is only one award given at the VEX World Championship (and some local events) which requires that teams to present their Engineering Notebook to the judges - the Design Award. However, all teams are encouraged to create an Engineering Notebook and bring it to events to show and discuss with Judges. If an event has scheduled judging sessions teams should bring their engineering notebook to the session. Judges are always interested in learning and seeing the various skills students acquire and demonstrate through their participation in the VEX Robotics Competition. Teams are welcome to bring support materials, flyers, team promotional materials and items such as an Engineering Notebook to events to share with judges. It is encouraged that all members of a team contribute to this project throughout the season.

### Key Criteria:

- 1) Engineering Notebook is a clear, complete document of the team's design and build process
- 2) Team is able to explain their design and strategy throughout the season
- 3) Team demonstrates personnel, time and resource management throughout the season
- 4) Teamwork and interview quality

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### Educate Award

The Educate Award is given to a team that has been able to successfully integrate VEX Robotics into their Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) curriculums. The winning team will demonstrate to the judges that VEX Robotics is not just an extracurricular activity, but a valuable tool used in their school to teach across many subjects in the classroom.

### Energy Award

The Energy Award is based on team enthusiasm displayed at the event. The winning team will demonstrate boundless passion and energy throughout the competition – in the pit area, on the field, and in the audience, even when their robot is not playing.

Key Criteria:

- 1) Team maintains a high level of energy throughout the event
- 2) Team demonstrates support for all participants
- 3) Team's positive energy enriches the event experience for others

### FUTURE Award

Please go to <http://forum.roboevents.com/design/> for more information on the FUTURE Foundation Robot Construction Challenge. Be sure to check out all of the other 2012 Design Challenges!

### Innovate Award

The Innovate Award is presented to a team that has demonstrated a strong combination of ingenuity and innovation in designing their VEX robot. This award will typically recognize a specific, unique piece of engineering that exemplifies thinking outside of the box and innovative engineering design. This robot feature should also be a part of the engineering design solution that solves the complex problems presented by the VRC game.

Key Criteria:

- 1) Robot design demonstrates an ingenious and innovative piece of engineering
- 2) Innovative feature is soundly crafted and is an effective solution to a design problem
- 3) Innovative solution is integrated as a part of an overall well crafted robot
- 4) Teamwork and interview quality

### Inspire Award

The Inspire Award is presented to a team that demonstrates outstanding leadership through actions with other teams. This team will be identified by their peers as a leader in innovative and creative design in the robotics community. The recipient team serves as an example to others and embraces the concept of cooperative learning. Cooperative learning will be based on inspiring other teams' designs or openly sharing their design ideas with others. While local/regional events are permitted to give this award, it will be given primarily at the World Championship. Prior to the World Championship, all teams will be asked to respond to an online ballot. Only teams attending the World Championship will be eligible. Teams are encouraged to keep a list of teams that inspired them throughout the season and respond to online voting request starting on March 20, 2012. The judging panel will interview potential recipients (at World Championship), based on the nominations through team balloting, and choose the team that stands out as a worthy recipient.

### Judges' Award

The Judges' Award goes to a team the judges decide is deserving of special recognition. Judges consider a number of possible criteria for this award, such as team displays of special attributes, exemplary effort and perseverance at the event, and team accomplishments or endeavors throughout the season that may not fall under existing awards - but are nonetheless deserving of special recognition.

### Mentor of the Year Award

This award is given to a mentor or engineer that has helped their students achieve goals that were seemingly out of reach. This individual is a role model, a leader and an extraordinary mentor who helps show students new ways to expand their knowledge and solve problems in the worlds of STEM. The recipient of this award will be nominated by the students on their team with a written submission detailing how the mentor inspires, motivates and educates students in a positive, enthusiastic and challenging atmosphere.

### Partner of the Year Award

The Partner of the Year Award is presented to an organization that consistently supports students and schools as they pursue excellence in the VEX Robotics Competition. There are many partners and organizations that deserve recognition for their support of the REC Foundation and the VEX Robotics Competition. This partner supports student and school efforts to advance educational opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) subject areas; their generosity creates a positive impact for all those touched by the VEX Robotics Competition. The recipient of this award is recognized as a "champion" that fights for affordability and accessibility for all participants.

### Promote Award

The Promote Award is presented to a VEX Robotics Competition school, club or team that has created and submitted an outstanding VEX Robotics promotional video. This video promotes the team in the community in order to recruit new students, mentors, and support. This video may be about the team, the program, the competition, the design and build process, the robot itself or any theme the team can dream up to help promote its VEX Robotics program to their community!

Videos will be submitted to the "Design Challenge" section at [www.RobotEvents.com](http://www.RobotEvents.com). The Online Design Challenge section will go live with multiple challenges by November 1, 2011 and teams can begin to submit their entries at that time. Check [www.robotevents.com](http://www.robotevents.com) for details on the Promote Award.

Key Criteria:

- 1) Video is exciting, of high production and editorial quality, and expresses a complete vision
- 2) Video is original and innovative in approach, in editing and content
- 3) Video is clear and easy to follow, with a message that is easily understood

### Sportsmanship Award

The Sportsmanship Award is presented to a team that has earned the respect and admiration of the volunteers and other teams at the event. This team is a model for all to follow because team members interact with everyone in a positive, respectful manner in the spirit of friendly competition and cooperation. This award is judged during the event by teams, referees and volunteers.

Key Criteria:

- 1) Team is courteous, helpful and respectful to everyone at the event, on and off the field
- 2) Team treats others on the playing field in the spirit of friendly competition
- 3) Team demonstrates respect and willingness to help to event staff and spectators

## Support Award

The Support Award is given to a team that is always willing and able to help other teams in need of assistance. There are many forms of “support” that can be given at an event: resources, knowledge and encouragement are some of the most important ways teams support each other throughout the competition. This award is judged and voted on by the teams participating at the event.

Key Criteria:

- 1) Team is always willing to help others by sharing resources, knowledge, and encouragement
- 2) Team has helped not only alliance partners, but all teams, by sharing resources
- 3) Team has enriched local VRC events by volunteering personnel and/or resources

## Teacher of the Year Award

The Teacher of the Year Award is presented to a teacher who shows true leadership and dedication to his or her group of students. The winner of this award continually exceeds expectations to ensure a safe, enjoyable and educational experience for all students. The recipient of this award will be nominated by the students on their team with a written submission detailing how the teacher inspires, motivates and educates students in a positive, enthusiastic and challenging atmosphere.

## Teamwork Award

The “Teamwork” award is presented to a group of teams from a single school, or organization, that demonstrates a season-long commitment to cooperation, unity and mutual respect. The Teamwork award is presented to a school, or an organization, that has built a sustainable multi-team robotics program. This award recognizes a school, or a group of teams from a single organization, that demonstrates the ability to field multiple independent robotics teams which also work and collaborate together to enrich the experience of all students involved. At the World Championship, this award will be judged based on a 500-word online submission and subsequent team interviews.

## Think Award

The Think Award is presented to a team that has successfully utilized autonomous programming modes during competition. The winning team will have quality, consistent and successful autonomous programs as part of their strategy and team members will be able to explain their programming process from strategy to syntax. This award may be judged by the referees, programming inspectors and/or members of the judge panel.

Key Criteria:

- 1) Team’s autonomous code is effective to task, cleanly written, well-defined, and elegantly designed
- 2) Team has explained a clear autonomous strategy, that is a part of their overall strategy to win the game
- 3) Team’s autonomous code is consistent and reliable
- 4) Teamwork and interview quality

## Volunteer of the Year Award

VRC events don’t just materialize; it takes the collective effort of many people who are willing to give of their time and efforts for the sake of the participants. At the root of each event, you can usually find an individual spearheading the effort to “make things happen.”

The Volunteer of the Year will be easy to spot because of his/her enthusiasm, dedication and results oriented approach to bringing the experience and opportunities available through VEX Robotics to as many

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students as possible. The recipient of this award demonstrates a commitment and devotion to their community, putting in many hours of hard work with persistence and passion to help make the event happen.