

Encouraging Kids Through Robotics Mentoring

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# Introduction

- Went back to university in 2011-2015
- Did 3 years of university robotics competition teams
- Started mentoring with kids at the same time

# Learn Science and Math Club

- Homeschoolers don't get very good math/science education
- This group was founded to help alleviate this
- Meets couple times a week in the beginning

# FIRST Robotics

- “For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology”
- Worldwide organization
- Have four main groups of robotics teams
  - FIRST Lego League
  - Jr. FIRST Lego League
  - FIRST Technical Challenge
  - FIRST Robotics Challenge
- Each year is a new competition with new rules, field, and outreach activities

# Learn Science and Math Club (cont.)

- LSCM formed a FIRST Lego League team
- Got so popular it split into two groups
- Even later formed a FIRST Tech Challenge team
- These teams have won numerous awards, including competing in the world competition

# What I've Seen Through Mentoring

- I've mentored these teams for four years
- I've seen 75+ kids go through this program
- The kids WANT to be there
- They learn about social issues
- They learn engineering and development principles
- They learn teamwork
- They learn "gracious professionalism"
- I LOVE watching them learn and grow

# Conclusion

- Mentoring kids is awesome
- Robotics are super awesome
- Mentoring kids in robotics programs is super mega awesome
- YOU should start mentoring
  - Go look for your local group(s) at [usfirst.org](https://usfirst.org)

# Thank you!

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Tweet me your awesome mentoring stories or questions about getting started!