

The Robette Roundup

December 2022



Our mission is to inspire girls of all ages to incorporate STEM into their lives and to revolutionize the perception of women in STEM.

Upcoming Events

Kick-off

Sat. Jan. 7th

**Lake Superior Regional
in Duluth, MN**

Mar. 2nd-4th

**Minnesota 10,000 Lakes
Regional**

presented by Medtronic

Mar. 30th-Apr. 1st

Williams Arena

Come see us compete in
Duluth or Minneapolis!
Live-streaming will be
available via Twitch.tv

50 Years of Children Drawing Scientists

By Youki Terada

From the 1960s to 2016, when asked to illustrate the prompt “scientist” the percent of children drawing female scientists increased from 1% to 28%. In 2016, 58% of girls across all ages draw female scientists. This is a gradient as girls age – 70% of 6-year-olds versus 25% of 16-years-old girls draw female scientists.

The perception of women in STEM can be changed by education: have books that highlight women and girls, promote diversity and inclusivity of women and girls, be mindful of gender bias in language especially when talking with young kids. .

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/50-years-children-drawing-scientists>

This article from Edutopia.org shows how the perception of women in STEM is changing. Increasingly, children see that women belong in STEM careers, which transfers to seeing themselves participating in these fields.

From helping Girl Scouts earn their badges to supporting our middle school robotics team to training other high schoolers at our GRIP event, The Robettes are revolutionizing the perception of women in STEM. Read on to learn more about our outreach efforts this fall!

#SeeHerDrawHerBeHer

A Special Thanks to our Sponsors:



Team Website: www.therobettes.com

Team Email: 2177@therobettes.com

Team Twitter: [@therobettes](https://twitter.com/therobettes)

Visitation STEAM Day

Our team volunteered at Visitation's STEAM Day for girls in early November! We led a programming session in the morning for elementary school students. Coding basics were fun to learn as they programmed robotic mice to find cheese in a maze of walls & arches. In the afternoon, middle schoolers attended an electrical workshop that included soldering.

This event is for younger girls to learn more about the practical side of STEAM. This is just one way we give back to the Visitation community and try to inspire young girls to incorporate STEM into their lives!



Boston Scientific Girl Scout Badge Day

At Boston Scientific's Girl Scout Badge Day, we presented basics about our team, *FIRST*, the 2022 game, and our robot, Lynn, from that year. The scouts were engaged in all aspects of the robot - driving it around the room, feeding the balls into the robot, testing Lynn's shooting capabilities, and even catching the shots from mid-air.

Thanks to BSC for being a generous & consistent sponsor!



Community of Saints STEM Club Visit

The Robettes visited the STEM club at Community of Saints, a local Catholic middle school. We brought the programmable mice to facilitate discussions on teamwork, to learn about pseudocode, and to encourage thinking outside the box. The students were very curious and asked great questions about coding and our team! We look forward to visiting again early in the new year after the build season starts.



"Life is a series of building, testing, changing, and iterating."

--Lauren Mosenthal



GRIP Workshop

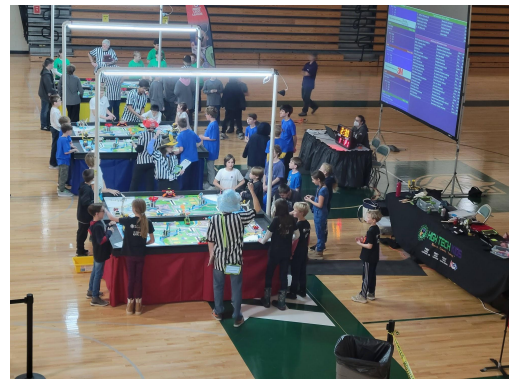
During the Girls in Robotics Improving Performance workshop, we hosted girls from other FRC teams in our build space. The programming subteam taught vision coding while the mechanical subteam made commemorative signs using all the shop tools & techniques. The day ended with a self advocacy presentation that included some invigorating power posing!



Polaris Panel

We had the honor of hosting a panel of women engineers from Polaris! They talked about their college & professional experiences and we learned how engineering is applied in many different fields. They are impressive role models of women in STEM to us. At the end of the night, they toured our shop and we shared our experiences on The Robettes team.





LEGO Blaze's FLL Competition

Visitation's elementary school *FIRST* LEGO League team, LEGO Blaze, was resurrected this fall! They built and programmed a robot to complete a series of tasks. FLL also requires team to research and design a solution related to the year's theme: energy. LEGO Blaze chose to create a structure that harnesses and stores lightning. The team presented their project to a panel of judges in the form of an entertaining news cast. LEGO Blaze also participated in three robot matches, where their pre-programmed matches performed nearly flawlessly. The whole team of 18 students, the largest group at the event by a wide margin, was acknowledged by the announcer for their enthusiastic cheering. Overall, the students had a blast in their rookie robotics seasons!

Micro Bows' FTC Competition

Introducing the Micro Bows!

In their inaugural year as a *FIRST* Tech Challenge team, 9 Visitation middle schoolers built everything from the ground up. Their team name was chosen as a nod to The Robettes and our signature pink bows. With assistance from some Robettes and parent coaches, the Micro Bows developed a distinct brand and a unique robot.

In November, they attended their first qualifying competition and met ~20 other metro teams. While at the tournament, the Micro Bows attached and programmed an arm in their pit and tried their hands at driving. They received a Judges' Award which acknowledges "a team whose unique efforts, performance, or dynamics merit recognition, but does not fit into any of the existing award categories." They have plans for improving their robot & engineering portfolio before the next tournament in January.



A Note about living our Mission in all facets of our team operations:

Suppliers are companies and sources that provide our team with critical components or other items necessary to build our robot. This fall, The Robettes had a discussion concerning our choice of suppliers. Numerous credible accusations against one supplier, IFI, including harassment and exclusion, prompted us to reconsider how we spend our money. The team has previously purchased numerous items from IFI's VEX product line. First, we made sure everyone on the team had a solid understanding of what suppliers are and how they contribute to our team. Then, we discussed how the culture of IFI contradicted our mission and core values. Finally, we evaluated a range of potential responses.

After determining an appropriate response, the team issued the following statement:

In light of recent allegations, we decided that continuing to purchase Vex products was not in line with our mission or core values. While we are not throwing away our existing materials, we discussed as a team the necessity of considering our values when making purchases.

