



iRobot's Commitment to the Future of STEM Education

iRobot is committed to building a future for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education in the United States. Their multi-faceted outreach program is a resource for students, parents and educators to share in the excitement for the robotics industry and get an inside look at iRobot.

In addition to classroom visits and other events, iRobot provides mentoring, career introduction and internships, all geared toward connecting students to the opportunities provided by a STEM education and occupation.

With an iRobot benefit of two STEM days per year, employees are encouraged and enabled to volunteer for the STEM program. In 2015 over 50% of iRobot employees participated in the STEM program, sharing their enthusiasm and passion for robotics with students and aspiring engineers. These visits, events and other STEM assets are coordinated by the iRobot STEM team. iRobot is one of the few tech companies with dedicated staff for STEM education. The STEM Program Manager is devoted to cultivating the STEM program and providing resources for the volunteers. Throughout the year, iRobot welcomes over 2,000 visitors to come to its facilities to learn about iRobot's history and STEM efforts. These groups see the various ways iRobot has been evolving over the year, and learn about what it takes to be an engineer with different programs designed for different groups:

- **iRobot's Cool Stuff Room:** Visitors get a tour of the museum which displays some of iRobot's most impressive robots while also highlighting the importance and fun of STEM.
- **Family Innovation Room:** This area allows employees, their families, and students to learn hands on skills like 3D printing, soldering, and programming.
- **Job Shadow Program:** Offered to older students, the iRobot job shadowing program allows students to meet with engineers with a wide variety of disciplines which helps students make informed career decisions as well as showcasing how disciplines work together on team projects.

iRobot volunteers have met over 78,000 students, teachers and parents in classrooms and at events yearly to share excitement for STEM education. Over 300 classrooms and STEM events are attended annually by iRobot employee volunteers. By visiting classes and educational groups from Pre-K through college, iRobot is able to tailor their program to meet the audience, and inspire each age to see just how amazing robotics and STEM can be. iRobot's staff and robots have attended events around the country, both physically and virtually. By using remote presence robots, they are able to connect with classrooms and interact with students without leaving the building.

To fully immerse students in STEM and robotics, iRobot has introduced the iRobot Create[®]2 Programmable Robot. Create 2 is an affordable, ready to go, mobile robot platform for educators, students and developers. Used to grasp the fundamentals of robotics, computer science and engineering, it lets the user program behaviors, sounds and movements as well as build onto the robot itself. With the recent introduction of Scratch + Create 2, the robot now enables students as young as elementary school to send it commands and see the physical object react. Scratch is a visual programming language developed by MIT and used in many schools as the first step in coding and programming.

On a broader scale, iRobot is the founder and lead organizer for National Robotics Week. Established by Congressional resolution in 2009, Robotics Week is held the second week of April each year. Now in its seventh year, National Robotics Week boasts over 250 events occurring across all 50 of the United States.

Since 1990, iRobot has been building and designing some of the world's most important robots. With two decades of leadership in the robot industry, iRobot remains committed to not only building robots that improve the quality of life worldwide, but building a future for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math in the United States.

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