Robotics And Beyond

Since 2004, Inspiring Young Minds in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Design

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EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW NOVEMBER, 2025

OUR VISION AND MISSION

We believe in the natural talents and potential of every human being, and their desire to discover and develop their greatest talents and lead fulfilling and happy lives.

In the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) and design, Robotics And Beyond provides youth and young adults with opportunities to discover talents, develop skills, and envision careers and education paths to their futures. We do this in an environment that embraces setbacks, critical thinking and creativity, and provides outstanding role models, leadership experience, confidence and career opportunities. We provide a space of inclusion, acceptance, safety, success and limitless potential for all demographics, including those with learning, social fluency, language and other social and economic challenges, and personal choices of gender and sexual identity. We strive to help young people to reveal phenomenal talent and energy that has simply lacked the opportunity to emerge, enabling them to pursue fulfilling careers, give back, and become models for future generations. No other models exist with our reach, impact and methods.

STUDENT POPULATION Grades PreK-12, Post-Secondary School (college and career training), Adults

REACH AND IMPACT

Robotics And Beyond draws students from a 60-mile radius, from over 60 towns in western CT, eastern NY and NY City, typically serving 500-600 individuals per year.
From 2004 through 2025, Robotics And Beyond has achieved the following milestones:

2,700+ unique individuals served	29,000+ peer-mentoring experience hours
70% student return rate	30,000+ adult volunteer hours
82,000+ student learning hours	34,000+ student volunteer hours
55 topics taught by 265 peer-instructors	36 internships provided

VISION 2040 CAMPAIGN GOALS AND PROGRESS:

To solidify our operations and sustainability to serve another full generation of young minds.
Increase our impact regionally and define and publicize our model for broad and affordable adoption.

We require funding to ensure a sustainable organization, key operational staffing, key operational staffing roles, future succession of directorship and management, and to prepare our model for adoption by other regions and organizations in the US and abroad. Our Vision 2040 fundraising goal for 2023-2024 was $80k from 200 individual donors, businesses and foundations, and to leverage that funding to obtain another $20k in program grants and from foundations and businesses. We were gifted $82,800 through 198 separate donations, from 164 individuals, and $4,000 from one foundation and $13,500 in program sponsorship funding. The 164 individuals included 22 former students, 39 parents of current students, 37 parents of former students, 5 volunteers, 8 current and former board members, and 49 other Friends of Robotics And Beyond. Our 2025-2026 fundraising goal is $200,000 and an additional $200,000 in 2027-2028.

Robotics And Beyond
INSPIRING MINDS IN STEM AND DESIGN

INSTRUCTOR BASE

90% of our instructors are peers to our student base, attending public and private high schools, homeschool groups, and colleges and universities. This approach has been among the most impactful of all aspects of Robotics And Beyond, providing life-changing experiences in responsibility, empathy, communication skills and leadership. Many of our former instructors have stated that their work as a peer-mentor and instructor was the most valuable pre-college experience of their life and essential to their success in college or career training programs and in their careers. Potential peer instructors are often identified as early as grades 5 or 6 and provided with gradually increasing opportunities to mentor and instruct, ultimately creating their own versions of program and lesson plans, then helping to train a new generation of instructors. Compensation to peer instructors typically reaches $15-20k per year, contributing to often urgent personal and educational needs. Adult instructors include retired professionals (paid and unpaid), volunteer professionals in various careers, and staff of other educational nonprofits.

TECHNICAL TOPIC EXAMPLES

Electronics and electrical engineering; mechanical engineering; machine and product design and control; prototyping; graphic design; graphic art and animation; software engineering; computer server systems; Artificial Intelligence and machine learning; aviation and drones; robotics; web development; computer hardware engineering; mathematics; architectural design; game design.

DELIVERY

In-house classes and programs for students: after-school, weekends, evenings, vacation days, summer camps, single-day workshops, multi-week classes, including programs focused on girls and neurodiverse individuals.
Off-site classes and programs: Lbraries, social service agencies, home school networks, public and private schools, scouting groups; professional development for teachers in public schools.
Public service: Collaborate with other nonprofits, libraries and schools to provide services and joint programs; refugee resettlement programs, create exhibits and lectures and interactive events; provide refurbished computers and computer servicing to families in need; connect students with adult mentors; guide students and parents in career and education paths.
Business community: Provide candidates for internships, apprenticeships and part-time/summer jobs and full-time positions.

FOUNDERS AND HISTORY

Robotics And Beyond was founded in 2004 by Michael Morrissey and Paul Chayka as a way to provide meaningful experiences in science, engineering and technology during summer vacations for students in elementary through high school. From 14 attendees in one week of summer camp, Robotics And Beyond has grown to full-year programs serving 500+ individuals per year from over 60 towns in a 60-mile radius of New Milford, CT.

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