National Conference Paper

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Fundraising for Botball

Botball Camps

Botball is very expensive. Kits are approximately $2300, registration is $80 per person, laptop computers range from $1,000 to $2,000, lodging and transportation can be hundreds of dollars and compensation for coaches is often needed. Like all botball teams we have struggled with financing this incredible program.

In the past we have tried a variety of fundraising techniques including: sold water bottles, otter pops, donuts before school, candy bars, car washes, newspaper adds, and restaurant raffles. These were all relatively successful but there were some ethical issues that we struggled with. We feel that selling candy bars, donuts and otter pops is contributing to obesity and unhealthy eating habits for our peers. The car washes were too time consuming and we did not raise enough money to make it worth our while. The restaurant raffles are a good idea and we will continue that next year. We have a GREAT way to solve a BIG problem, Elementary Robotic Camp. In addition to earning much needed money, robotic camp provides numerous benefits for all individuals involved.

Benefits

There are many benefits that the camp provides besides money.

1. Team building skills for both the robotic team and camp members.
2. Gives kids a positive experience with hands on robotic technology which develops patience, communication and problem solving strategies.
3. Provides articulation between elementary, middle and high schools.
4. The robotic team members get experience planning and organizing an event. They recognize and appreciated the time and effort it takes to plan events. It also gives them a chance to teach and inspire younger children.
5. Helps develop friendships with kids that have similar interests.
6. An opportunity for parents to have a supervised fun academic program on the weekend and can be scheduled around holidays to allow them shopping time.

7. Great for kids to be having fun while using their brains!

Procedure

1. Identify elementary schools to be targeted. We chose the three elementary schools that feed into our middle school.
2. Contact the principals at each school site, explain the camp and get permission to pass out flyers to students. Some districts may require the flyer to be district approved.
3. Pick a date for the camp. A good time to do the camp is before the kits are received, as team members are too busy once the kits have arrived. December is a great month to hold a camp because some parents need shopping time away from their kids.
4. Pick location for camp. We held the camp in our middle school library. Be sure to check with the school's facilities coordinator so that proper paperwork can be filed as needed.
5. Create a flyer which includes: target audience (we chose 3rd thru 5th grade), time, date, place, cost, lunch-provided or not, (we included pizza and drinks in the camp), contact person, robotic picture, and an exciting description of the camp. See attached flyer. At the bottom of the flyer there needs to be a space where parents/guardians can fill out the following information: liability release, emergency phone numbers, and medical information.
6. Contact elementary school teachers to schedule a robot demonstration. We sent the following email.

   Hi All of You Good Neighbors,

   We (John Glenn Robotic Team Members) would like to come to your classrooms and show a 2 min. robot demo encouraging students to attend our one day elementary robotic camp this Saturday. We would love to present anytime between 2:00 and 3:00 on Wednesday or Thursday of this week.
   Please let us know if this works for you.

   Thanks again
   Sheri Gundlach and Judy Norman (JGMS Robotic Coaches)

7. Gather Material and Supplies. We found instructions on how to build "Tank Bot", made 12 copies, sorted our legos into different bags and made sure there was enough materials to build 10 Tank Bots. Have at least three big containers of random lego pieces that would be available for kids to add to their Tank Bot. Candy for prizes, plastic cups, tape, rulers, stop watch and 4 flat boards (1 board 3 x 5 feet, 1 board 2 x 3 feet and 2 boards 2 x 5) for games.
8. Plan activities for camp.
   a. Have containers of legos in the middle of tables so kids can be playing with legos until all the kids have arrived for the camp.
   b. Put away and move all legos from the tables once all kids have arrived.
   c. Talk with kids about who has legos at home, who has built a robot before ect.

d. Partner students up and give them an rcx. Show them where the batteries are and have them take the batteries out and put them back in. This way if the batteries run out on them during the day they will be able to change the batteries themselves.
e. Give each student Tank Bot instructions.
f. Students will go get the parts needed and start building. Let the students find their mistakes. When they ask "what's wrong, this isn't working" refer them back to the packet and see if they can find out what they did wrong. Let them figure out their mistakes!
g. When all students have completed their robot it is time for the 1st competition. See whose robot goes the straightest. Have miniature candies as prizes.
h. Create competitions that entail adding lego parts to their robot. Give enough time for students to test before they compete. Here is a list of our competitions.
    1. Use the boards and make a ramp. Have students make a robot that can go up and over the ramp without falling off.
    2. Add a six inch arm. Will it hold if the robot goes down a ramp and crashes into the wall?
    3. Who can build a robot that climbs the ramp the fastest?
    4. Push off – put robots together and see who can push the other one off the board.
    5. Stay in the lines – put two rows of tape that is 2 feet apart. Whose robot can go the farthest without going outside the tape?
    6. Obstacle course. Put cups on the floor, use the hand controllers for the rcx and time each person to see how long it takes them to get through the course.
    7. Knock down- put 25 cups in random places. Using the controllers, who can knock down the most cups in 1 minuet?

9. Lunch break. We provided pizza and water for kids.
10. Clean up all legos before the last competition.
11. Thank everyone for coming and pass out flyers to the next camp. We did two camps in two weeks and offered an advanced section at the second camp.

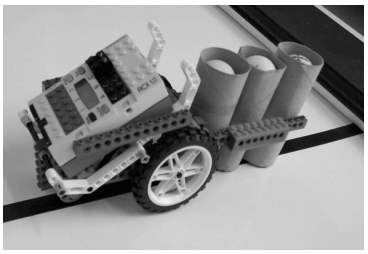
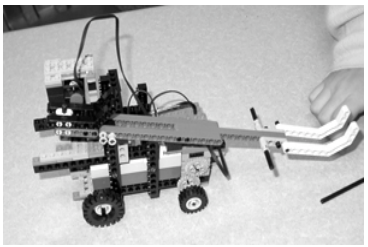
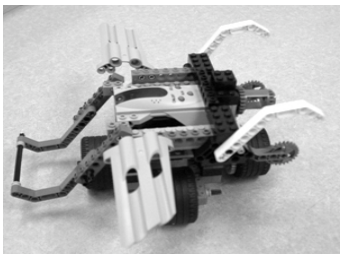
Conclusion

In conclusion, we found that robotic camps have been a great way for our Botball team to raise money. It has helped pay for the kits and travel expenses. We are hoping that some of the camp members will be part of our robotic team in the future. While planning, organizing and running the robotic camps, we have grown as a team and learned to appreciate the time and support our coaches have dedicated to us. We have attached the flyer we used to advertise our camp; we hope it can be useful.

The Great Robot Challenge

Date: June 2nd or June 9th 2007 10:00 – 3:00 (pizza & drinks provided!)

BUILD YOUR OWN ROBOT!

Flex your brain power!

The Great Robot Challenge is a one-day workshop where students learn to build their own remote controlled robots. Your challenge: build a robot and compete in the Great Robot Challenge, a head to head competition racing the robots through an obstacle course to a final sumobot challenge. The robots are constructed out of LEGOs and operated by the LEGO RCX, an onboard computer controller.

The Robot Academy Program gets the wheels turning for hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering, and math. Creative problem solving and team work round out the program. All together, the Robot Academy is a great educational experience to be remembered for years to come!

When: Saturday, June 2nd or June 9th 2007 - 10am to 3pm
Cost $50.00 per person (pizza lunch provided)
Where: John Glenn Middle School Library 79-655 Miles Avenue, Indio

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Space is limited! Sign Up Now!

Choose one day: June 2nd _____ June 9th _____

_____
Student's name and address

_____
Phone number **Email** **Grade Level**

_____
School

_____
Parent / Guardian Name

I hereby waive any claims or causes of action which I am now or hereafter have against Adopt A Class Robotics arising out of my child's participation. And I will indemnify and hold harmless against any and all claims resulting from such participation.

In the event of illness or injury, I do hereby consent to whatever x-ray, examination, anesthetic, medical, surgical or dental diagnosis or treatment and hospital care are considered necessary in the best judgment of the attending physician, surgeon, or dentist and performed by or under the supervision of a member of the medical staff of the hospital or facility furnishing medical or dental services.

_____

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature Home Phone No. Work Phone No.

_____

Medical Insurance Carrier Policy number

_____

My child will be picked up by You must come inside and sign out your child.

For more information call Linda Reynolds 770-234 or Sheri Gundlach 200-3700

Sponsored by Adopt A Class Robotics, a local non-profit educational organization