Awards Overview

Teams should consider their season a success if they learned something new and had fun in applying their knowledge and skills to the VEX IQ Challenge. Events provide a great opportunity to share and recognize the accomplishments and contributions of the student participants!

Event recognition is provided in the form of awards. Many local and qualifying events offer a standard set of awards that are based on the number of participating teams.


**Standard Awards** - Following is a standard set of awards that will be offered at most events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellence Award</td>
<td>Top All Around Program (Robot Performance and Judged)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teamwork Champion Award (2 teams)</td>
<td>1st Place Teamwork Challenge Alliance (Robot Performance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design Award</td>
<td>Most effective and efficient robot design process (Judged)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programming Skills Champion Award</td>
<td>Top Programming Skills Challenge Team (Robot Performance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robot Skills Champion Award</td>
<td>Top Robot Skills Challenge Team (Robot Performance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEM Research Project Award</td>
<td>Most effective research project presentation (Judged)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This standard set of awards, from the Excellence Award through the STEM Research Project Award, is listed and ranked in order of their qualification for advancement to a championship event. Your REC Foundation Regional Support Manager will determine the number of awards that are allocated for advancement to a championship event. For a listing of the awards offered at your event and their qualifications for advancement to a championship event, check your event listing at [www.robotevents.com](http://www.robotevents.com).

The World Championship and other large events may offer a combination of the following awards, in addition to those listed above:

**Robot Performance Awards** - Based on the team's performance in the Robot Challenge:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teamwork 2nd Place Award (2 teams)</td>
<td>Each Team on the 2nd Place Teamwork Challenge Alliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robot Skills 2nd Place Award</td>
<td>2nd Place Robot Skills Challenge Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programming Skills 2nd Place Award</td>
<td>2nd Place Programming Skills Challenge Team</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Judged Awards** - Based on the deliberative decisions of a dedicated volunteer judging team:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amaze Award</td>
<td>Amazing, well rounded, and top performing robot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build Award</td>
<td>Sturdy, well-crafted robot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create Award</td>
<td>Robot with a creative engineering solution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Award</td>
<td>Demonstrates extraordinary enthusiasm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judges Award</td>
<td>Recognition from judges for special accomplishments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sportsmanship Award</td>
<td>Demonstrates respect and great enthusiasm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Think Award</td>
<td>Robot utilizes effective programming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentor of the Year Award</td>
<td>Recognizes outstanding mentor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher of the Year Award</td>
<td>Recognizes outstanding teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer of the Year Award</td>
<td>Recognizes outstanding program/event volunteer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Online Challenge Awards - Based on the decisions of judges for the online challenges, which are posted on the REC Foundation web site. For details, including the available online challenges, the awards criteria, and the prizes offered, please visit: www.roboticseducation.org/online-challenges.

Team Professionalism and Ethics

The REC Foundation considers positive, respectful, and ethical conduct to be an important and essential component of the VEX IQ Challenge. Judges may consider team conduct when determining award recognition at VEX IQ Challenge events. Judges may consider students, mentors, and adults to be team members.

Excellence Award

The Excellence Award is the highest award presented in the VEX IQ Challenge. The recipient of this award is the team that demonstrates overall excellence in all components of the VEX IQ Challenge. Key criteria:

- Teamwork Challenge Qualification Round ranking
- Robot Skills Challenge ranking
- Programming Skills Challenge ranking
- Design Award ranking
- STEM Research Project Presentation Award ranking
- Other judged award rankings
- High quality VEX robotics program

Some events may offer two Excellence Awards, one for the top overall Elementary School team and one for the top overall Middle School team, if enough teams in each category participate in the event.

Design Award

The Design Award recipient demonstrates the ability to implement the most effective and efficient robot design process. Their Engineering Notebook and discussion with the judges will demonstrate the team’s ability to produce a quality robot with minimal adult assistance. Key criteria:

- Engineering Notebook is a clear, organized, and complete document of the robot design process.
- Team demonstrates effective management of skills, time, and material resources.
- Students understand and explain how they developed an effective game strategy and robot design.
- Students understand and explain how they worked together to design, build, and program their robot.

For details, refer to the Design Award Rubric on the VEX IQ Event Documents site: www.roboticseducation.org/vex-iq-challenge/viq-event-documents/.
STEM Research Project Award

The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Research Project Award recipient best demonstrates, through their presentation and discussion with judges, their understanding of the entire research process and their ability to develop and share the most effective STEM Research Project. Following are the criteria for the STEM Research Project Award:

- Identifies a topic of interest that relates to the STEM theme for the season
- Completes research using reliable sources
- Demonstrates a well-organized and documented process to study and explain the research findings
- Describes how the research findings were applied to develop the answer or solution
- Shares the answer or solution in an effective and creative presentation
- Demonstrates an understanding of the entire research process


STEM Research Project Award at VEX Worlds

Teams must have won Excellence Award or STEM Research Project Award at an official event this season and must sign up for a STEM Research Project presentation at [http://robotevents.com/vexawards/](http://robotevents.com/vexawards/) between February 1, 2016, and March 20, 2016, to be eligible to present a STEM Research Project to the judges at VEX Worlds.

Other Judged Team Awards

The Amaze Award is presented to a team that has built an amazing, high-scoring robot that clearly demonstrates overall quality. Key criteria:

- Robot design is consistently high scoring
- Robot demonstrates a solid mechanical design and is robustly constructed to fulfill its designed task
- Robot programming is consistently effective and successful
- Students understand and explain how they worked together to develop their robot

The Build Award is presented to a team that has built a well-crafted and constructed robot. Key criteria:

- Robot construction is of high quality; robust, clean, and effective use of materials
- Robot efficiently uses mechanical and electronic components
- Robot is designed with a clear dedication to safety and attention to detail
- Robot demonstrates reliability on the field and holds up under competition conditions
- Students understand and explain how they worked together to develop their robot.

The Create Award is presented to the team whose robot design incorporates a creative engineering solution to the design challenges of the season’s game. Key criteria:

- Robot has a well-crafted, unique design solution, which demonstrates creative thinking
- Team has demonstrated a highly creative design process and methodology
- Team has committed to ambitious and creative approaches to solving the game challenge
- Students understand and explain how they worked together to develop their robot.
The **Energy Award** is presented to a team that displays a high level of enthusiasm and passion at the event. Key criteria:

- Team maintains a high level of excitement and energy throughout the event
- Team’s passion for robotics enriches the event experience for others
- Students understand and explain how they worked together to develop their robot.

The **Judges Award** is presented to a team that the judges determine is deserving of special recognition. Judges consider a number of possible criteria for this award, such as team displays of special attributes, exemplary effort and perseverance at the event, or team accomplishments or endeavors throughout the season that may not fit under existing awards, but are nonetheless deserving of special recognition.

The **Sportsmanship Award** is presented to a team that has earned the respect and admiration of the volunteers and other teams at the event. The VEX Robotics World Championship uses ballots for this award. Key Criteria:

- Team is courteous, helpful, and respectful to everyone at the event, on and off the field
- Team interacts with others on the game field in the spirit of friendly collaboration
- Team demonstrates respect and willingness to help event staff, other teams, and spectators
- Team demonstrates excitement and enthusiasm throughout the event

The **Think Award** is presented to a team that has developed and effectively used quality programs as part of their strategy to solve the game challenge. Key criteria:

- All programming is cleanly written, well documented, and easy to understand
- Team has explained a clear programming strategy to solve the game challenge
- Team demonstrates their programming management process, including version history
- Students understand and explain how they worked together to develop their robot programming.

**Individual Awards**

The **Mentor of the Year** award is given to a mentor or engineer that has helped students achieve goals that were seemingly out of reach. This individual is a role model, a leader and an extraordinary mentor who helps show students new ways to expand their knowledge and solve problems in the worlds of STEM. The recipient of this award will be nominated by the students on their team with a written submission detailing how the mentor inspires, motivates and educates students in a positive, enthusiastic and challenging atmosphere. To be considered for this award at the 2016 VEX Robotics World Championship, teams must pre-submit a 500-word essay through the 2016 World Championship awards page at [http://robotevents.com/vexawards/](http://robotevents.com/vexawards/), which will be available from February 1, 2015, until March 20, 2016.

The **Teacher of the Year Award** is presented to a teacher who shows true leadership and dedication to his or her group of students. The winner of this award continually exceeds expectations to ensure a safe, enjoyable and educational experience for all students. The recipient of this award will be nominated by the students on their team with a written submission detailing how the teacher inspires, motivates and educates students in a positive, enthusiastic and challenging atmosphere. To be considered for this award at the 2016 VEX Robotics World Championship, teams must pre-submit a 500-word essay through the 2016 World Championship awards page at [http://robotevents.com/vexawards/](http://robotevents.com/vexawards/), which will be available from February 1, 2016, until March 20, 2016.

The **Volunteer of the Year Award** is presented to an event volunteer who demonstrates a commitment and devotion to their community, putting in many hours of hard work with persistence and passion to help make events happen.