



Our Outreach To Younger Generations:

VEX Robotics are tabletop robots that must be built and designed by students. (on a miniature scale) Team Fusion has implemented a VEX tournament in which 30 teams from 14 different schools participate. Members spend 6-7 weeks prior to the tournament mentoring VEX teams, teaching them the principles of science and engineering through teamwork and dedication. ([VEX link](#))

From August to November, we run the RACE for Success program. This takes place after school at numerous elementary schools, where children are introduced to the importance of technology, and the amount of change they can implement if they set their mind to it. Introducing pneumatics, electronics, mechanics, and problem-solving skills, every Tuesday afternoon during these months we use exciting demonstrations such as pneumatic bottle rockets to get kids pumped about discovering and learning. This after-school program eventually led to the development of our annual VEX tournament.

For the past 9 years, Fusion has designed a weeklong summer camp for elementary and middle school students. It has been held at both the University of Southern Mississippi and even at the Exploreum Science Museum in Mobile, AL. Three to four camps are hosted by the students to introduce basic electronics, reverse engineering, design challenges, and robotics. Once coined "Robot Studio," over 250 students have participated, in which several have become Team Fusion members. The camp was redesigned though, and is now STAR (Summer Technology and Robotics Camp) where activities ranged from construction of VEX robots to pneumatics-powered rockets.

Above are main focal points in which we, as a team, strive to provide the best education, examples, and excitement for our "younger generations." However, these are only microcosms in all that we do throughout the year. Listed below are a few examples from '09-'10.

- Kindergarten classroom visits throughout the year in Gulfport (Such as Bayou View, Anniston, and Three Rivers Elementary Schools)
- St. Martin Middle School visits as a field trip (from Jackson County)
- Bayou Regional: we provide free transportation and food for our VEX students so they can come experience the excitement of FIRST
- FLL and VEX students, such as Gregory Samms, come in and work hands-on with our high school students and engineers during our 6-week build season

