

Lego robotics : Year end reflection

Lego robotics has been a unique activity for me. I had never expected to find a service that matched my summer internship so well, and still provided challenges for me to learn and grow.

My primary challenge, now having been long resolved, was managing my time. While this may sound like a challenge for those who are unable to schedule themselves, in my case it was dealing with unexpectedly demanding and difficult subjects, mentally burdensome and taxing components of my IB life. Tuesday's were especially long and arduous for me. I'd have two difficult subjects in the first half of my day, after which I'd then rush to my chair service, barely managing to get a bite of lunch in the midst of my duties, and then it was off to another class again which, while I found fun, has always been a challenging subject for me. Unfortunately the combination of these subjects and my lunchtime service meant I was being constantly mentally challenged throughout the day and wouldn't see my friends at all, either. It resulted in me dreading Lego Robotics at the end of the day, even though I'd been so excited to start it, considering I'd enjoyed my internship so much. I realised I'd have to sacrifice some things so I could show up for my responsibilities and perform them well. My beloved Monday free block, usually spent giggling away with two of my friends, was a valuable piece of "day" to get things done. I didn't give it up entirely, because 'all work and no play would make Aditi a dull girl!' but I learnt how to better section off my time. I would determine some goals I wanted to achieve in that free block, and after they were fulfilled, I would enjoy my time with my friends, and still get to have more free time at home, which I used to sleep earlier, because I knew now that Tuesdays required most of my energy. Im now able to go to Lego Robotics fresh and awake, even though my responsibilities have ever since grown!

I was also challenged with just dealing with children in general. Sounds silly, but being able to lead and help a group of kids young as 4, and remaining balanced in your approach is not an easy task at all. If I was too nice, they'd just cling on to me and beg me to build their project for them. If I was too strict, they would get angry and wouldn't do their work. I had to really try out different strategies, try different ways to group the middle schoolers(which was a separate issue on it's own) and try not get exasperated. I always thought I was a person who was able to have pretty decent speaking and leadership skills-until I met these little children! they operate on a different level.The strategies I used in my other activities didn't work so well here as they did there. Now, I'm able to identify which children I work with the best. While being able to work with just about any child is important, I found out there were certain pairs and children that suited my style better. I was more productive with them and vice versa, and I genuinely loved and enjoyed working with them better than others. I think this was an important step to take because trying to improve your general skills on a macro level is important-but picking and choosing specific areas

that you are better in or more suited to is also just as important to highlight your skills and maintain confidence in your abilities while developing new ones.

While this has definitely been a productive activity for me, I think it's also important to actively contribute in fields in order to really find out what you are suited to. While I remain of the same opinion, my reasons are much more nuanced. At the start, I would have said I didn't like the activity because it didn't live up to its name and that I felt like it was a waste of time and not for me, when the real underlying reasons were that I was exhausted and mentally drained during that particular time of day. After growing and applying myself better, I developed skills and learnt more about myself. I genuinely loved and enjoyed this activity and grew throughout, but I do maintain the opinion that working with young children paired with teaching is not for me. It's not a place where I can show my strengths to the fullest. I think my strengths shine better in places with a different kind of high pressure and competitiveness.