

How to Attract All Kinds of People to Your Botball Team
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HOW TO ATTRACT ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE TO YOUR BOTBALL TEAM

Goal:

Inspire more middle school and high school girls to join our robotics team. We want to make Botball seem like a fun and educational club that any girl will want to join.

10 Practical Ways to Attract People to Your Team

1. Get students involved in a creative activity about Botball or using the Botball equipment.
2. Talk to the science/math teachers at your school and do a LEGO building activity with their classes. See which students are good at building and invite them to your team practice.
3. Have each team member invite a friend to visit your team.
4. Arrange to do some simple programming using the simulator in KISS-C in your technology class at school. Offer a class for anyone who wants to learn more about programming. You can use your old Botball robots for them to program.
5. Put on a robotics camp after school for incoming 6th graders. Invite them to join your club in the fall.
6. Make a commercial for Botball and show it on the school announcements.
7. Put up posters around school with color pictures and info about robotics.
8. Demonstrate your robots during lunch or before school. Invite students to come to your club meetings to find out more about robotics.
9. Invite students to come to a practice. To encourage them to come by saying you will be providing snacks and drinks. Once they come, they may get interested.
10. Have a robotics booth at special events such as 6th grade orientation, back to school night, open house, sporting events, or fund raisers. Show off your robots and give out flyers about your team.

Why Attract Different Kinds of People to Your Botball Team?

You want to have different kids with different talents on your team because if everybody did the same thing then there would not be anybody that could do the other tasks needed to finish the robot. For example, if the entire team could only build then the robot would not get completed and running because there needs to be kids that can program too. Even though there are two main tasks to make a robot complete, you also need students to be creative and that are fun to be with. Kids that are very artistic are also a nice addition to the team so the robot can be sketched out as ideas are expressed aloud.

Our team has a variety of girls that have different abilities that contribute to the team magnificently. Everyone is creative in building as well as coming up with strategies for the robot to perform. There aren't as many of us that can program, but as long as everybody knows, a little bit of everything then teamwork can be used to get what is needed done. Different people with varying talents will come up with different solutions to the same problem. This gives you an assortment of ideas to choose from, this way you can come up with the best solution and come up with the most useful and productive team/robot.

Our Creative Activity - A Botball Music Video

Our team has tried several of the above methods to attract people to Botball. We regularly put on camps for younger students, talk to other teachers at school to do Botball related activities with their classes, and use different means to advertise our robotics club. Katie is one of our Botball team leaders. She came up with the idea this year for our team. She suggested we use the making of a music video to attract girls to Botball and our team. There are lots of girls out there that would be great at Botball and would love it if they just gave it a chance, but they think that they are not smart enough, that it is only for "nerdy" people, or that it is just for boys. Using a creative activity like making a music video is a good way to attract all kinds of people to your Botball team.

Katie wrote a song about our girls team in Botball. Katie's dad started teaching her how to play the guitar this summer. The first song she learned how to play on the guitar was "You Belong With Me" by Taylor Swift. Katie thought that it would be a good idea to write a parody about Botball that went with this song.

After the song was written, Katie sang the song for the Botball team members. Everybody on the team wrote down all the ideas that we could do to go along with the song. We voted on what ideas we liked the best. We all wanted it to be like a real music video. Once we had the ideas our team decided where and how to film the video. We wrote down the storyboard for the music video.. We asked Mrs. Reynolds if she could help film us while we were performing for the

music video. We used iMovie to edit the video and add the music score. The new iMovie 11 program is great for editing a music video, but there are lots of other editing programs you can use.

“Our CBC”

We titled the song for our music video “Our CBC.” It is a story about our Botball Team, their frustrations working on the programming, and finally the success they achieve.

The song has two verses and a chorus. You can see scenes from verse one of the video in Photos 1-2.

Verse 1:

You’re on the phone with your teacher, you’re upset.
You’re going on because your teacher will not let,
You build your LEGO robots like we do.
We’re in the room. It’s a typical working night,
We’re getting mad because our CBC doesn’t like,
Our program that we put into it the first time.

Next is the chorus, made up of five scenes.
Photos 3-6 are clips from these.

Chorus:

They wear T-shirts, we wear cute skirts,
They’re at the table while we’re with the teachers,
Thinkin’ ‘bout the day when we stand up and find
That the program we need has been here the whole time.
Now can’t you see that we’re the ones that got the job done,



Photo 1: Katie Singing



Photo 2: Frustration from the Group



Photo 3: Boys in their T-Shirts



Photo 4: Girls in Their Cute Skirts



Photo 5: Boys at Botball Table



Photo 6: Girls with the Teachers

Working hard so now that we all can see, our CBC,
our CBC.

After the chorus comes the second verse. We
spilt the verse up into four scenes. All four of the
girls who worked on the video are in Photo 8.
Clips of the rest of the video for the second verse
are in Photos 9-10. The final scene is taken
outside our classroom with everyone in the
alcoves. (See Photo 11)



Photo 7: Girls with the CBCs

Verse 2:

Walking the board is our favorite new create,
I can't believe that it's actually working great,
Laughing on a school desk thinking to myself,
hey isn't this easy?
And we've got a smile that can light up this whole town,
I haven't seen it in a while since it brought us down.

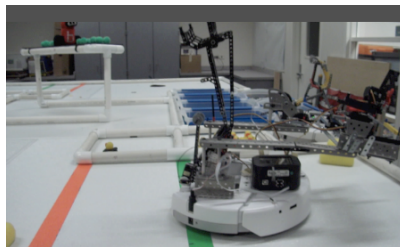


Photo 8: Our Create Robot

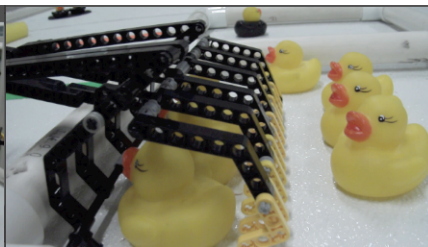


Photo 9: Picking Up the Ducks



Photo 10: Laughing

Hey, whatchya doing with a robot like that?

We didn't plan the last shoot very well. We knew
that the team wanted the scene to be outside in the
alcoves at our school. Everything else had been
shot inside. So a funny thing happened. It turned
out to be just one of those days when everyone is
concentrating on the task, yet ignoring the
circumstances around them. We had a to hurry
before it got too dark, but in our haste to go outside,



Photo 11: In the Alcove

we accidentally locked ourselves out of the
classroom. The last one out of the room was a student who didn't attend our school and wasn't
aware that if you close the door, it locks. So we were outside, all of us. No problem, right? We

all have cell phones and could just call for help. Guess where everybody's cell phone was? Right, in the classroom. And to top it off, we were filming on a Saturday so all staff was off campus.

Mrs. Gundlach fortunately had her car keys so she volunteered to go get a key and she left. We thought we would film while she went to the principal's house, but unfortunately things weren't going our way - the camera battery was inside the classroom in the charger. So we waited outside in the cold until Mrs. Gundlach returned. It was too dark to film by then, so we had to come back on Monday to finish.

We tell this story because it makes a good point about making a video, working on a project, or just working with your Botball team in general. You need to plan enough time for the unexpected to happen - things break, pieces get lost, arguments happen, and you can even lock yourself out of your room. Schedule to finish before you actually have to be done, that way you give your team time to recover from any mishap that might occur.

Summary of Results and Successes

We feel that we were very successful with our video because we already have one new girl join our team. One of the girls that we asked to be in our video had so much fun that she decided to joined our botball team. Her sister is on the team and we tried to get her on the team before, but she always said she wasn't interested in robotics. While we were filming she kept asking questions about the CBC, and the robot, and how everything worked together. She is a very smart girl, and is a cheerleader. She thought that it would not be "cool" to be in robotics, but after the video she wanted to join our team. She said she would work out her schedule so we could all meet together.

Future directions:

We are hoping to create interest in our Botball teams, especially, both of our girls teams. First we are going to show this video to students at La Quinta High School and John Glenn Middle School. In order to spread the word, we are going to go to our local cable channel and see if they can play our video on the local public access channel and our educational channel. These channels are available to all the schools in the three different school districts in our area. We would like to have students from all over the valley come join our team. We already have students from four different schools, but would like to increase the interest in Botball around the valley. We hope to encourage new students to join our team next year by using creative and practical ways to attract them to Botball. Botball is such a wonderful experience we want as many students as possible to be able to participate and benefit from the program.

Bibliography:

Parody of Taylor Swifts “You Belong With Me”

Original photos 1-11: Taken by Team Members, Botball Team 11-0070