

Farm Bureau Article: July, 2011
4-H Robotics

Dear Lynn,

My eleven year old daughter is very interested in learning more about Robotics and I'm wondering if 4-H provides opportunities for youth in this area.

Sincerely, Robert Sensor

Dear Robert,

The Santa Cruz County 4-H Program has an active robotics program offering several ways in which your daughter can get involved. This past spring the program sent a team of 4-H members to compete in Project MATE, the Marine Advanced Technology Education Program at Monterey Peninsula College where the team was challenged with building an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle to perform tasks.

The team worked together during a four month period constructing their vehicle with motors, cameras, arms and clamps to complete the challenge. The experience provided a venue for team members to build science abilities around design, communication, experimentation, testing, making hypotheses, and addressing real-world challenges.

Additionally, at the 2011 4-H summer camp, campers will be participating in a new national 4-H robotics program called Junk Drawer Robotics, where youth will explore the design and function of robotic arms, hands and grippers and build a robotic arm that really moves, design and build machines that roll, slide, draw or move underwater and explore robot mobility, and make connections between the mechanical and electronic elements of robots.

In an effort to promote 4-H and get young people involve in the new robotics program, we have full scholarships available for youth to attend camp which will take place July 22-25 at Camp Loma located in the Eureka Canyon. For more information, contact camp director Robin Turnquist at 831-234-6666.