

# Getting Involved to Inspire: My Journey with the Tech for Kids Robotics Team



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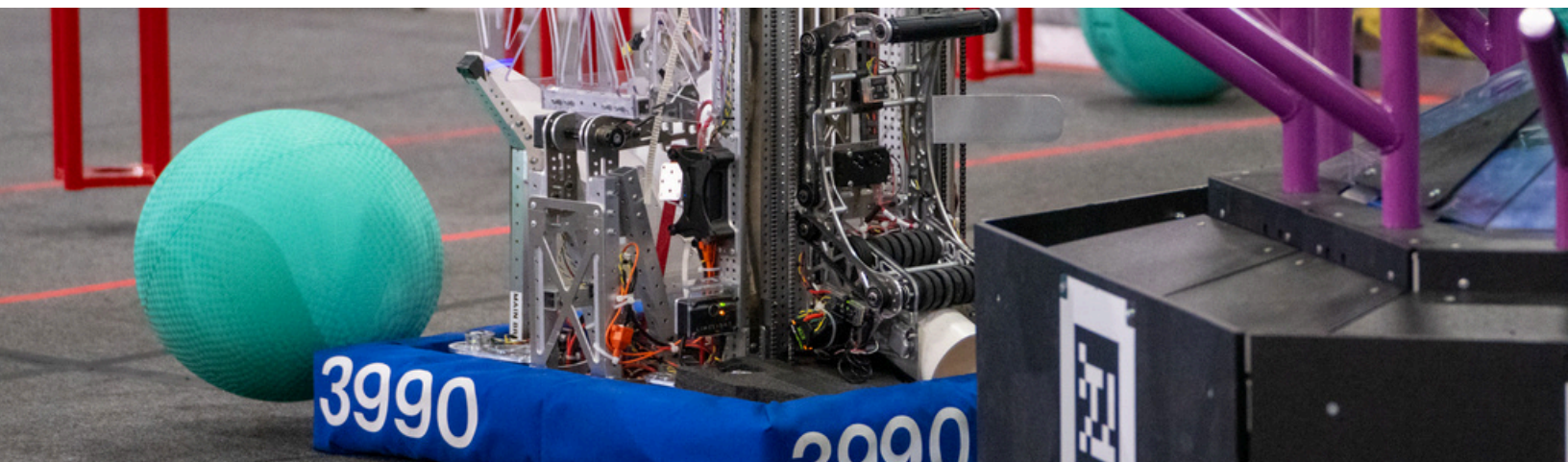


From a young age, I was drawn to the world of technology. Early on, I knew I wanted to grow in an environment where innovation and problem-solving would play a central role. This path truly began to take shape at the start of high school, when I had the opportunity to get involved with **Tech for Kids**, the student robotics team at Collège Regina Assumpta. It was a pivotal experience that deeply influenced both my academic and professional journey.

## A passion born in high school

I joined the team for my first season in **high school**. At the time, I had only a vague idea of what it meant to build a competitive robot. I was quickly captivated by the energy, rigor, and creativity that this type of project required.

Throughout high school, Tech for Kids became much more than an extracurricular activity; it was a true school of life. Each season brought its share of challenges: evenings spent refining mechanical systems, coding errors that needed urgent correction, strategies that needed reinventing, and difficult dilemmas that needed resolving. But it was also a close-knit community, driven by a shared passion and a common goal. This experience not only fueled my interest in robotics and programming, it also laid the foundation for my professional development.



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## From participant to mentor: giving back

When I started college, I was fortunate enough to continue this journey. I carried on my involvement, this time as a **mentor** for the new generation of students. For me, it was a natural way to **give back** what I had received, by supporting those who were now going through the same experiences I had lived a few years earlier.

My role as a mentor goes beyond sharing technical knowledge. It also involves **guiding, encouraging, and helping students** structure their work so they can find their own solutions. Specifically, I supervise the **robot's programming team**. I ensure that the robot's software components work together seamlessly, that deadlines are met, and most importantly, that the robot is ready for competitions. I collaborate with students and fellow mentors to maintain smooth coordination and continuous progress throughout the project.

## A school of real skills

Over the seasons, I also accompanied the team on the field, during **official competitions** in Quebec and internationally. These events are true tests of resilience. Unexpected issues are common: faulty sensors, last-minute code adjustments, sudden changes in strategy... You have to react quickly, work as a team, and stay calm under pressure.

This experience turned out to be a **tremendous stepping stone into the job market**. Long before my first internship, I had already learned how to:

- Design and test practical technical solutions,
- Work under pressure and tight deadlines,
- Collaborate with people from diverse areas of expertise,
- And above all, **communicate effectively** - whether to explain a solution or to motivate the team.

At the same time, my role as a mentor allowed me to develop **teaching skills** while working with students. All of these abilities continue to serve me well in my professional collaborations today.





## Support that makes all the difference

I am extremely grateful to **PCI**, where I am currently completing my internship, for the support they have given me in continuing my involvement. The company allowed me to take a few weeks off to accompany the Tech for Kids team to competitions, while still honoring my professional responsibilities.

This gesture reflects a company culture that understands the value of personal commitment and recognizes the formative impact such experiences have on the professional development of young talent. Working in an environment where **community engagement and a passion for technology are encouraged** is not only motivating, it also aligns deeply with my values.

## An ongoing involvement

Even today, I continue my role as a mentor with the same energy I had at the beginning. Every season, I'm impressed by the students' ingenuity and determination. Their eagerness to learn and push their limits reminds me why I chose this path.

I also recognize how fortunate I've been to grow in such a stimulating environment and to still be part of it. **Tech for Kids** is more than just a school project: it's a catalyst for passion, a school of leadership, and for me, a constant source of inspiration.

I want to sincerely thank the entire Tech for Kids team for everything this journey has allowed me to experience and learn. And a heartfelt thank you to PCI for giving me the freedom to continue this involvement, which means so much to me.

