**Student**

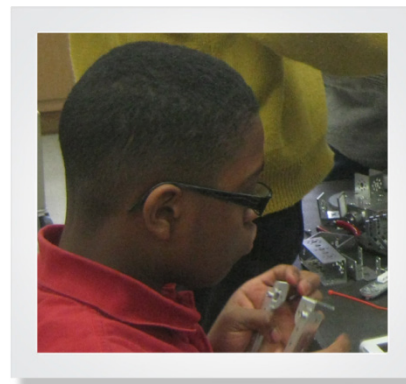
Aaron J. Lewis III  
Clinton, MD

**Summary**

Summer robotics camps and competitions spark a student's interest in engineering.

**Summer Enrichment Offers a High-Tech Bridge to the Future**

At 13 years old, Aaron Lewis is excited about things like nanotechnology and robotics. Perhaps that's unusual for a ninth grade student, but thanks to his participation in robotics summer camps, his "summer breaks" have offered full exposure to cutting-edge science, design, and engineering—and the chance to get hands-on exploring the nuts and bolts of robot design.



Aaron attended his first robotics summer camp in 2008. Having participated in an engineering design competition in the 5th grade, he was excited to sign up for the Summer Engineering Experience for Kids (SEEK), a program sponsored by the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE). Aaron remembers how much fun he had working on his first robotics projects: a "steel can rover" powered by rubber bands, a Styrofoam glider, and a fan-propelled glider.

Fueled by his initial camp experience, Aaron's love of engineering has continued to grow. Today, he is exploring more sophisticated technologies and challenges and has participated in many other robotics programs, both in the summer and during the school year, including the NSBE Middle School Engineering Design Competition, numerous *FIRST* competitions, and the YMCA Thingamajig Invention Convention. From inventing a "Bristle Bug" from recycled materials to spending six weeks designing, building, and programming a 120-lb. robot using LabVIEW software for a 3-day competition, Aaron has discovered that there is always something new and interesting to learn—and always a new engineering challenge to solve.

Innovative science-based summer experiences helped shape Aaron's view of science and engineering—and of his future. Not only is he now passionate about engineering, he's also committed to helping introduce other students to the sciences. This past summer, Aaron dedicated time to mentoring young participants in a robotics camp at a Washington, D.C. middle school. "I want them to have the opportunities that I have had," says Aaron.

"Attending summer camp has definitely influenced the way I think about what I want to study in college. Because of summer camp, I have been exposed to the **reality** of being an engineer, the **challenges** of being an engineer, and the **good things** about being an engineer!"

Students, parents and teachers interested in learning about summer science camp opportunities should visit [Science Buddies' Summer Science Camp Resource](#). This resource was created with a [generous grant from the Motorola Solutions Foundation](#) in 2010.