

Design Award:

The Design Award is presented to a team that demonstrates an organized and professional approach to the design process, project and time management and team organization. Teams registering for this award at National Championship will be assigned a 10 minute time slot during which the team will set up and deliver a presentation to judges. The winning team will be able to describe how they implemented an efficient and productive design process to accomplish the project goals.

Engineering Notebooks:

One of the main missions of the VEX Robotics Competition is to help students acquire real world life skills that will benefit them in their academic and professional future. The Engineering Notebook is a way for teams to document how the VEX Robotics Competition experience has helped them to better understand the engineering design process while also practicing a variety of critical life skills including project management, time management, brainstorming and teamwork. The Engineering Notebook requirement of the Design Award has no specified format; each notebook should be created through a concerted effort by a team to document their design decisions. Throughout the season, many larger events will send their Design Award winner to World Championship, and as a result, teams should start their notebooks early and update them often.

Engineering is an iterative process. Iteration requires a student to recognize and define a problem, brainstorm and work through various stages of the design process, test their designs, continue to improve their designs, and continue the process until a solution has been identified. During this process, students will come across obstacles, encounter instances of success and failure, and learn many lessons. It is this process that students should document in their Engineering Notebook.

Additionally, the Engineering Notebook is an opportunity to document everything a team does so that it can serve as a historical guide of lessons learned and best practices. Students may include a plethora of things in their Engineering Notebook including: team meeting notes, design concepts and sketches, pictures, notes from competitions, biographies of team members (students, teachers and mentors), team members' observations and thoughts, team organization practices, and any other documentation that a team finds useful.

Judging of Engineering Notebooks:

Creating and maintaining an Engineering Notebook is in no way "required or mandated" for teams participating in the VEX Robotics Competition. Although the Engineering Notebook is not required, maintaining an Engineering Notebook is highly recommended because the process can have many benefits for the team. For instance, the development of technical writing skills is a valuable tool to acquire. There is only one award given at the VEX World Championship (and some local events) which requires that teams to present their Engineering Notebook to the judges - the Design Award. However, all teams are encouraged to create an Engineering Notebook and bring it to events to show and discuss with Judges. If an event has scheduled judging sessions teams should bring their engineering notebook to the session. Judges are always interested in learning and seeing the various skills students acquire and demonstrate through their participation in the VEX Robotics Competition. Teams are welcome to bring support materials, flyers, team promotional materials and items such as an Engineering Notebook to events to share with judges. It is encouraged that all members of a team contribute to this project throughout the season.

Award	Interview Criteria	Engineering Notebook Criteria
Design Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evidence of a clear design methodology - The team has found an efficient way to organize and manage their team to allow the best utilization of team resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Professionally laid out such that it can be easily understood. - Regularly updated, documenting all team efforts - Information is easily found, making the notebook a useful tool to all team members - Evidence of an iterative design process, highlighting the various phases their robot development

At the 2012 New Zealand National Championship Judges will determine 1 overall Design Award. These Judges will be specially chosen from industry and will be assisted by the Kiwibots' National manager.



Excellence Award at National Championship

This is the highest award presented in the VEX Robotics Competition. The recipient of this award is a team that exemplifies overall excellence in building a well-rounded VEX robotics program. This team excels in many areas and is a shining example of dedication, devotion, hard work and teamwork. As a strong contender in numerous award categories, this team deserves to be recognized for building a quality robot and a “team” committed to quality in everything that they do.

At the 2012 VEX Robotics Competition World Championship, only teams that have submitted at least 1 online Design Challenge, have won an Excellence Award at a previous event, have signed up for an Excellence Award interview, and have signed up for a Design Award interview (with their engineering notebook) will be considered for the Excellence Award.

Criteria to Qualify for World Championship Excellence Award Consideration:

- Must have created a submission for at least 1 online design challenge
- Must have signed up and interviewed for the Design Award with your engineering notebook
- Must have won an Excellence Award during the competition season

Criteria to Qualify for New Zealand National Championship Excellence Award Consideration:

- Must have created a submission for at least 1 online design challenge
- Must have signed up and interviewed for the Design Award with your engineering notebook

Additional Considerations for New Zealand Championship Excellence Award:

- 1 additional point for submitting an online challenge (up to 2 points total)
- 1 point for scheduling and attending a Design Award interview
- 1 point for every Judged Award the team is listed as a top candidate for consideration by the Judges

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