

# Robotics AND Beyond...

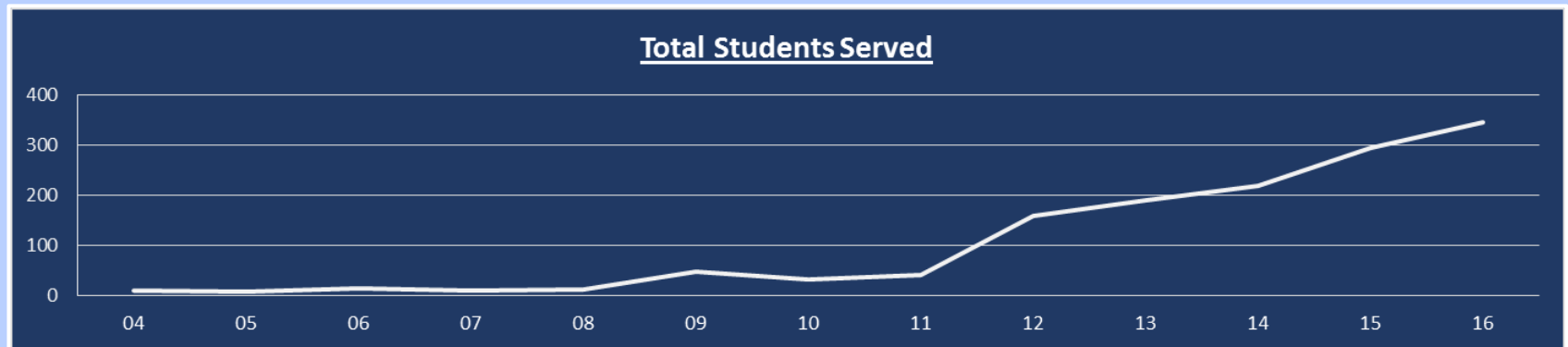
## More information about effort and impact

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# Growth Since 2004

## Chart our growth

- **2004:** one week of camp, **11** students
- **2011:** two weeks of camp, **50** students
- **2012:** began year-round programs
- **2016:** year-round programs, **340+** students



# Geographic Reach

## Where do our students come from?



- **2004:** two towns (New Milford and Sherman)
- **2011:** 20 towns (Bethel, Brewster, Bridgewater, Cheshire, Easton/Westport, Kent/South Kent, Lakeville, Litchfield, Longmeadow (MA), Middlebury, New Fairfield, New Milford, New York City, Pawling, Ridgefield, Sandy Hook, Sherman, Stamford, Stratford, Watertown)
- **2016:** 50+ towns expected

# Peer Mentoring Program

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**Our peer mentoring program is unique.  
We train students to help each other.**

- **Participants are identified by staff or if students ask about the program**
- **Strictly merit-based; not all students interested are chosen**
- **Topic knowledge and personal interest are critical**
- **Open to age 12 and up, depending on skills and abilities**
- **Train as a mentor or instructor's assistant.**
- **Role is paid after 10th grade**
- **Next step: instructor**



# Student Instructor Program

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The next step in the peer mentoring program is to become a student instructor.

- Create a new topic curriculum or add to an existing one
- Review the plan with a topic expert and the director
- Pilot class is held with 5 to 10 students



Students aspire to these roles. They become role models, gaining topic knowledge, confidence, interest in teaching, and supervisory skills, all while they learn about giving back to their community.



# Girls-Only Events

We began girls-only events in 2013 to improve gender balance in our programs.

- Dedicated events bring more first-time students
- High return rate to co-ed programs
- Dynamics are totally unique
- Presenters are women and older girls, who share personal background and path for education and career
- Other women assist and provide more role models



# Early Exposure

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**We have programs specially designed for ages 5-8.**



**We introduce coding using both non-digital and computer-aided methods. We focus on concepts and logical thinking as well as creativity.**

**We believe that early exposure to STEM and design leads to grasp of important concepts, creativity and self confidence, and comfort with “failure.”**

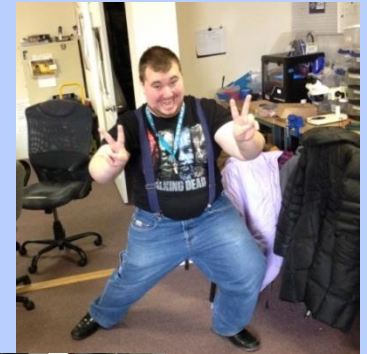


# Special Needs Students

**Our students include youth and adults with special educational needs**

- **Many have strong talent in STEM and design**
- **Most never have any opportunity to explore and discover interest or talent**
- **We make all topics and resources available, see what resonates, and customize our approach as needed**

**The response is extraordinary accomplishment, originality, and often the potential for meaningful work.**





# Former Students Give Back

**Former students and mentors return from college and careers to:**

- **Share college and career experiences and perspective**
- **Teach workshops**
- **Advise on topics, tools, methods, and applications**
- **Donate time AND money because of our impact on their success**

**Students and peer mentors can see their next possible steps and have personal contacts for questions and guidance.**



# Adult Contributors

**Career professionals are excited to share their knowledge and perspective**

- **Provide decades of experience**
- **Serve as instructors on a volunteer or stipend basis**
- **Serve as mentors and guides**



**Students recognize the depth of knowledge and perspective shared.**



# Leveraging Volunteerism

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**We rely on the time and talent of our volunteers**

| 2004 - 2016 Volunteer Hours  | Value*      |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Adults: 6,000+ hours         | > \$162,000 |
| Peer mentors: 11,000+ hours. | > \$297,000 |

\* The value of volunteer time in the Northeast is \$27/hour, per [Independent Sector](#)

**The commitment of our volunteers is a testimony to their belief in our approach and impact. This multiplies the effect of financial support many times over.**