



Summary – CBI-RoboSail Junior Program Course

CBI-RoboSail is a new STEM education program for Boston-Area high school students that combines robotics and sailing into an exciting engineering challenge. Kids turn their sailing skills and knowledge into code for a computer and program a model sailboat to sail a course. The program met weekly for 6 sessions in Fall 2014 and was taught by adult volunteer mentors who are programmers in the Boston area tech industry by profession. No prior coding experience was required for students.

We met our goals for the program with these specific accomplishments:



- 19 students from 13 towns (16 boys, 3 girls) participated with excellent attendance
- 6 CBI members served as mentors, contributing to the development of course materials and teaching students in small groups of 4 or 5
- Students successfully used the electronic sensors and micro-computer to write functional code for the boats for a variety of tasks. All 4 teams were able to sail their boats in autonomous mode.
- A challenging regatta was held on the last class day with all teams competing and scoring points for completing robotic tasks.
- We secured full funding for the program which enabled CBI junior members to participate in the program for a nominal fee
- Student survey results indicated high satisfaction with course format, technical learning and enjoyment, and interest in pursuing technical fields
- Parents were enthusiastic with this opportunity and many came to watch regattas
- The curriculum was at an appropriate level and the electronics and software platform were robust for the high school aged participants

“As a parent of one of the students of the Robosail program, I want to thank Diane, the mentors and everyone associated with this program, for all the hard work to put this program together. I am sure this is a huge amount of effort involved, and programs like this help students excel in the STEM-related studies as well as bring the Boston community together.

On behalf of all the parents, I want to thank you again for this Robosail program.”

Anees B., Westford, MA, Parent of student of 2014 Robosail program



*The course was amazing and very organized. Thanks so much!
K. R. Brookline, MA 2014 participant*

Many thanks to our amazing Mentors for all their contributions: Tristan Doherty, Sean Edwards, Dan Keesing
Cody Lewis, Alan Scott, Mohammad Soltanieh-ha



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