



Community and Giving Back

CO-OP LEARNING

Learning from your peers is vital in one's development. With the hands-on learning structure of a STEAM program, often a student becomes more involved with his or her classmates as they are learning. This creates a deeper knowledge base and builds the student's self confidence. Teaching another person is one of the best ways to foster your own skills and can bring up morale for an entire group of students. At the Sleek Academy, we provide our students as much opportunity to learn from their peers as possible. For example, each quarter we institute a new group project where all students work towards a common goal. During our first year, students worked together to start our walipini project and learned the skills to build a picnic table for The Cocoon. Students will always be working with others in school and into the work force. These skills are fundamental and teach students how to become successful communicators and team players.

STEM IN THE PARK

During the event "STEM in the Park" held at Bowling Green State University every fall, our students are involved in learning activities with diverse students from the local area. Each year, we task our students with designing their own group activity to present at the Sleek Academy booth. This year, the students designed and built a course for small robots to navigate and were tasked with instructing others how to program the bots to make it through the course. Students sketched, built, and decorated the course that was used at the event. At the event, students were in charge of teaching booth visitors how to program the robots to make it through the course. In the end, students received great pride and satisfaction from teaching others and showing off their own skills.

THE WALIPINI

What is a walipini? It's an underground greenhouse! One of our first projects the students tackled was to build a walipini. The students learned a great deal during this project. For example, first they had to discuss where on the school grounds the walipini needed to be located. Next, they had to figure out the appropriate dimensions and volume the greenhouse would occupy. Once they had these plans, they had to acquire a permit from the city of Bowling Green, which taught them the process of building large projects in town. What to grow in the walipini was also part of the students' decision-making process. Since giving back to the community is required, the students decided any excess food produced was to be donated to local food pantries. To help our students in providing food for those individuals in our community in need, please consider donating to our [GoFundMe](#).

ROBOTICS COMPETITION

Sleek Academy offers a robotics course called The FIRST Lego League Robotics Program. This program truly embodies the STEAM philosophy. FIRST Lego League Robotics encourages leadership, problem-solving, teamwork, programming and creativity. In this applied problem- and project-based assignment, the students work as a team - designing, building and programming a robot to complete specific tasks. The FIRST Lego League team members fully embrace core values such as gracious professionalism and cooperation while having fun! The FIRST Lego League Robotics Program provides children of all ages the opportunity to compete at State and International levels. To learn more about the First Lego League Robotics Program, please visit their website at: <http://www.firstlegoleague.org/>.

BECOME A ROBOTICS SPONSOR!

The robotics program requires the purchase of robots, various equipment, travel costs and other fees to complete the four components of the program and to compete. YOU could be a sponsor and have your logo/family name on a Sleek Academy Robotic t-shirt. Donations are greatly appreciated. For companies who would like to become a sponsor, we will co-brand our t-shirts with your logo (**free** advertise for your company).