

[SWENext Clubs Corner – Clubs Featured in the SWENext K-8 Newsletter](#)

Boynton Middle School

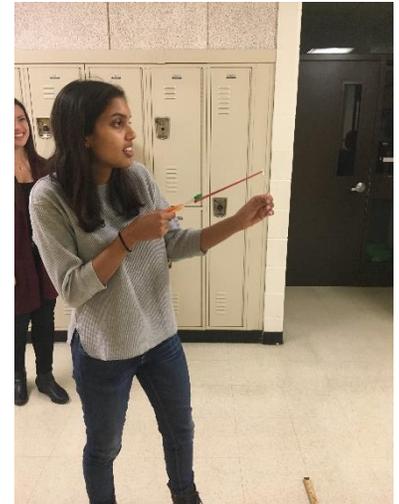
(January 2019)

Boy-oh-Boynton! The SWENext Club at Boynton Middle School was just recently founded in August of 2018 by members of the [Cornell University SWE Section](#) in Ithaca, New York. The 6th-8th girls and boys of the club got their first taste of STEM through a guided [Computer Science Unplugged](#) activity and through coding with [Scratch](#)!

Students also do hands-on activities like building [slingshot rockets](#)! These SWENexters have also heard from guest speakers from Cornell like professors, undergraduate students, and graduate students from the College of Engineering.

Boynton is excited to host members of the [Code Red Robotics](#) FIRST Robotics Competition Team 639 at Ithaca High School (IHS) in March to teach them about FIRST Robotics. Additionally, they will team up with newly established SWENext Club at IHS (also founded by the Cornell SWE Section) to form a mentorship program between the middle schoolers and the high schoolers.

Looks like great things are happening at this new SWENext Club and we can't wait to see what is to come!



FrostE SWENext Club

(February 2019)

“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I -- I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.” – Robert Frost

The FrostE SWENext Club from Robert Frost Middle School in Rockville, Maryland are making all the difference by exposing 6th to 8th graders to the engineering mindset. It was founded and is supported by the University of Maryland, Baltimore County SWE Section.

Starting in July 2018, students began solving real-world problems by participating in hands-on activities like the Tallest Tower. During this activity, SWENexters built the tallest tower they could using uncooked spaghetti and limited resources to support a marshmallow. Obstacle challenges were introduced to simulate budget cuts, communication barriers, and more! The students learned how to navigate and work with their teammates to complete the challenge.



Students have also been exposed to different types of engineering, problem solving, conducting experiments, and applying classroom knowledge. During their activity, Erupting Year, SWENexters hypothesized different types of candy to predict which would result in the greatest reaction in a 2-liter bottle of soda. They looked at Mentos, Mentos minis, and Frost mints. In addition, students were introduced to the importance of scaling up for manufacturing sites.

We can't wait to see where the road leads this SWENext Club!

Hoover Middle School SWENext Club. (March 2019)

Over the past 6 years, the SWENext Club at Hoover Middle School in Waterloo, Iowa has evolved from a “Women in STEM” club for just a few elementary school students to partnering with the Waterloo School District to draw lots of 6th and 7th graders into the community that it is today!

The club meets frequently to do hands-on activities and take field trips to local STEM companies to learn about different career opportunities. At the end of the school year they put on a STEM Fair to show off everything that the students have done to parents. They also discuss famous female scientists that discovered new elements on the [periodic table](#) or who worked for [NASA](#). They also have a mentorship program formed between the students and local professionals!

This year, the club is focusing on highlighting “normal women” – those that students come across every day but may not know that they are hardworking STEM professionals and even mothers. The club advisors found that this was really beneficial to the students to have tangible role models to look up to and are able to find inspiration to make and achieve goals in STEM. Most importantly, the students know that they can one day be like that, too!



Lil' SWEesters SWENext Club.

(April 2019)

The Lil' SWEesters SWENext Club was started by the [University of Rhode Island \(URI\) Collegiate Section](#) to bring STEM outreach efforts to middle school girls in their area. URI SWEesters first began by teaching their Lil' SWEesters about different types of engineering by telling them about their majors and answering any additional questions.

They've also done some awesome hands-on activities like [building a bridge](#) on a "limited-budget" that had to withstand a shaker table. The Lil' SWEesters also have gotten the chance to check out different resources at URI! They attended the Graduate School of Oceanography Open House and learned about future opportunities in the oceanography field.

SWENexters have also gotten to learn how to use important laboratory research tools such as [micropipettes](#), [electroporation](#), and [insect dissecting microscopes](#). They even got to explore the SynDavers lab which holds synthetic cadavers used in anatomy labs! Welcome to the SWE family, Lil' SWEesters!

