



GET TO KNOW RAY

Ray Ames is the founder and has served since 2017 as the Executive Director of Young Thinkers of York, a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing robotics and engineering into the City of York. From the very beginning, Ray set out to become the connector between young people and robotics in the city. Known as the “Robot Guy” to so many students and parents, he has personally provided lessons to over 1200 students.

Over the past 5 years, Ray has diligently worked to create programs and workshops for all ages. Laying down an early foundation is key to making the connection between urban communities and science and technology which is why Ray’s youngest students are 3-years-old. Knowing that kids need exposure, Ray created the STEAM 360 program allowing students to learn about robotics and engineering from preschool through high school. He teaches 3 to 5-year-olds to use simple robots by incorporating kindergarten readiness concepts in his activities. Ray also concentrates on elementary and middle school students by doing in-school workshops using more complex robots with students allowing them to learn to solve problems in the real world. At age 9, students can begin to participate in his competitive robotics teams.

Every year, Ray volunteers over 250 coaching hours to make sure his team members have the tools and resources to be successful. His teams have won 12 awards and even competed in a national competition. Completing the full circle at the high school level, Ray created an in-school robotics program focused on science and math lessons so students see results in real-time by using sophisticated robots. Ray is a graduate of Penn State University with a BS in Business and a minor in Information Sciences & Technology. In his spare time, Ray enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with his family.