



Electronics Course in Guatemala

The Integral Network for Youth Development (RIDES) is a Guatemala based youth-led organization that is harnessing youth leadership to positively impact communities in the Western Highlands, one of the regions with the highest poverty indicators in the country. RIDES' flagship education program labeled *Aprendamos Juntos* focuses on vocational training opportunities and the development of academic resources that support teens and adolescents both in Guatemala and abroad. Under *Aprendamos Juntos*, RIDES joined Youth Technology Corp's Global Alliance, an international network of scholars and organizations that introduce STEM subjects through peer-learning and other modalities.

In November 2024, RIDES launched the first course of a STEM training series called "from electronics to robotics." Partnering with the municipal government of Quetzaltenango and its Municipal Education Office, the course features 2-hour, in-person sessions where participants learn both theoretical concepts and practical applications of electronics.

The course enlisted 25 participants ages 10 to 17 hailing from the municipality of Quetzaltenango and neighboring communities. The course also integrates a 5-minute English capsule where participants learn electronics-related vocabulary in English. The Municipal Education Office will organize a winter graduation ceremony for all 25 participants where the Mayor of Quetzaltenango along with other municipal authorities and RIDES representatives will present certificates to course participants.

Over the duration of the course participants have learned about electricity principles, the different types of circuits, insulators and conductors, resistors while partaking in hands-on exercises utilizing their electronics starter kits provided by Youth Technology Corps.

As part of the peer-to-peer mentoring, students from the engineering faculty from *Universidad Mesoamericana* and USAC served as volunteers in the course, offering personalized coaching for course participants. Finally, RIDES is aware of the gender gap in technology access in Guatemala, as such the organization made an effort to incorporate female participants and mentors.