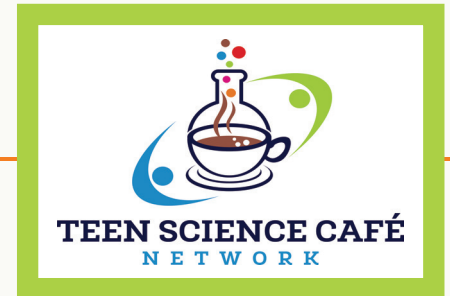




VTeen 4-H Science Pathways Café

Saturday, October 21, 2023, 5 – 7 p.m.

University of Vermont, Davis Center
Mansfield Dining Room, Burlington, VT



AI-Designed Robots

This café will explore the revolution occurring in robotics: teaching an AI to design robots for us. Participants will review some recent work from Professor Bongard's laboratory in which he has taught an AI to design "xenobots": millimeter-sized robots built from frog cells. You will then have an opportunity to teach an AI to design virtual robots through a web interface. Along the way, you will learn a little bit about computer science, AI, robotics and synthetic biology.

About Our Speaker

Josh Bongard is the Veinott Professor of Computer Science at the University of Vermont, where he runs the Morphology, Evolution and Cognition Laboratory. His lab creates AI, robots and computer-designed organisms (so-called "xenobots"). He received a research award from former President Barack Obama at a ceremony at the White House in 2011, appeared in an episode of Morgan Freeman's science program "Through the Wormhole," was named one of *MIT Technology Review's* Top 35 Under 35, and received the Cozzarelli Prize from the National Academy of Sciences. He has appeared on CNN and his work has been covered by *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, and the BBC. He is also the author of the book *How The Body Shapes the Way We Think* and runs the Ludobots online course through reddit.com.

What is a Teen Science Café

The cafés are a free, fun way for teens to explore science, engineering and technology with local scientists, engineers and technology experts. Teens participate in informal discussions and hands-on activities to learn about different topics. And there is always free food! Planned and run by teens for teens.

Register at: <https://go.uvm.edu/oct23-tscafe>

Open to all youth in grades 7–12, FREE pizza and drinks!

For more information or to request language interpretation/translation assistance and/or a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please call or email Lauren Traister at 802-656-7560 or lauren.traister@uvm.edu by Friday, September 29, 2023 so we may assist you.

For more information about UVM Extension 4-H and youth programs, visit
www.uvm.edu/extension/youth

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