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# Indio team to compete with rovers on the moon

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Harrison Cassar 'codes' for a remote control robot at the Southern California Energy Summit held at the Palm Springs Convention Center on Oct. 4. / Omar Ornelas/ The Desert Sun

Written by **Daniel Simon**  
The Desert Sun

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**PALM SPRINGS** — As the lieutenant governor of California Gavin Newsom spoke to a group of entrepreneurs growing tireless before they broke for lunch at the Southern California Summit Expo of 2012, a group of kids and took the stage to discuss their endeavors; they had shoes the size of Shaq to fill.

The X-Treme Team, based out of Indio, is a group of kids with high ambitions. At the summit hey explained to the crowd that they had partnered up with the tech giant Google to work on a micro version of the Mars rover. As some members of the crowd ran to grab lunch, others were enthused by how excited the group was about their other worldly project.

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The Google Lunar X PRIZE program is funding teams in hopes of promoting creativity, innovation and robotic space exploration. The X-Treme Team is one of 20 teams from around the world who are participating in this competition. Other teams include kids from Chile, Hungary, India, South Africa, Egypt and Malaysia.

The first group of students to place their robot on the Moon's surface, explore at least 500 meters and transmit high definition video back to Earth will win a \$20 million grand prize.

Some of the partners of the X-Treme Team include Lego, Wired, Dexter Industries, Lunabotics Mining and the NASA Lunar Science Institute.

The X-Treme Team is composed of 10 team members ranging from ages 10 to 12. All of the team members couldn't make it so only half attended the summit. Jenna Anderson-Richards, Mikie Bowman, Matthew Chang, Harrison and Parker Cassar were the ones fortunate enough to be able to speak in front of such a prestigious audience and make the trip to Palm Springs for the Energy Summit.

Harrison, the team leader who has been interested in robotics since the third grade, is aiming to be an engineer in either the medical or technical side of the field once he finishes high school. Mikie, the team's lead presenter, thinks placing robots on the moon would be a great opportunity to mine for vital resources. Installing solar panels there would go towards Earth's consumption and to further lunar exploration.

Page 1 2 Next

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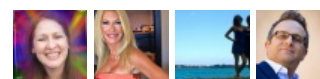
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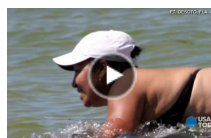
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