

Co-Hosts Judy Lee and Adam Vollmer: Biographies

Directing the action of Design Squad Nation are mechanical engineers Judy Lee and Adam Vollmer.

As a child growing up in Cary, North Carolina, Judy loved taking things apart to see how they work. With the support of her family (her dad is a civil engineer), that love eventually led to a mechanical engineering degree at North Carolina State University. After college, Judy harnessed her engineering skills on a wide range of projects—from designing children’s toys to creating medical devices to providing clean water to slums in Kenya to testing and destroying products to ensure their safety. Prior to her work on *Design Squad Nation*, Judy was profiled on WGBH’s *Engineer Your Life* and will appear in an upcoming segment of *NOVA’s Secret Life of Scientists and Engineers* Web series. Judy now works at her dream job as a product designer at IDEO, an international design and innovation firm in Palo Alto, CA. When she’s not on-air brainstorming and building, Judy can be found in San Francisco remodeling her new home, growing fresh fruits and veggies in her garden, riding a big wheel down the nation’s windiest street, or playing with her pug, Rosie.

Growing up in Portland, Oregon, Adam wanted to be an astronaut, a LEGO engineer (before he knew what an engineer was), or...a dinosaur hunter. Thanks to a BS in mechanical engineering at Stanford and a MS at MIT, Adam has been able to do most of these things and more. “I played with LEGOs all the way up through grad school. I worked with NASA during the filming of *Design Squad Nation*. But I’m still on the lookout for dinosaurs. I hope to find one soon.” Adam is currently a mechanical engineer at the international design and innovation firm IDEO in Palo Alto, CA. In previous jobs, he’s worked in biotech, designed micro electro-mechanical devices, programmed (and driven) semi-trucks, and built parts for the one of the world’s biggest physics experiments at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. Outside of work, you’re likely to find Adam on his own handmade bicycle, climbing up a mountain (or skiing down one), or exploring new corners of the world.



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