

THE NUTS AND BOLTS

TECHHOUNDS TEAM 868

Upcoming Events:

Stop Build Date

February 19th

The team must stop building the robot on this day. The robot will be “bagged and tagged” until the first FRC competition.

Boilermaker Regional

March 14th

The TechHOUNDS first competition, the Boilermaker Regional, will take place at Purdue. Team members, friends, family, and sponsors are all welcome to watch the matches and cheer on the team.



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Goals: A New Objective Every Week

Team sponsor encourages team with new challenges through season

Every week, TechHOUNDS sponsor George Giltner presents a new theme to inspire students to make the most of their roles on the team. The first week's theme was “Get Involved,” and the second week was focused around “Taking Initiative.” The most recent theme is “BE where you are,” a quote from Mr.Giltner's father. These weekly focuses are a new team tradition that Mr.Giltner hopes will help students take advantage of the opportunity to be a TechHOUND.

The new themes are unveiled on the wall of Mr.Giltner's room every Monday along with a motivational speech.

Mr.Giltner got the team excited for “Getting Involved” by telling the story of this year's student team leader, Akash Shankar. When Akash was a rookie member, he had trouble finding his niche. But he soon got involved in the team with organization and clean-up efforts and eventually worked his way

to becoming the Construction Lead and then the Team Leader. On the second week of the season, Mr.Giltner encouraged students, especially rookie members, to take initiative to accept more responsibility in the team. Finally, at the halfway point of the season, Mr.Giltner quoted his father by telling students to “BE where you are,” or, in other words, to pay attention to what is happening and focus on the task at hand.

With these themes, the members are headed toward a team that works with pride, enthusiasm, and diligence.



Mr.Giltner unveils the third week's theme, “BE where you are,” a quote from his father. Each week of the build season this year has a goal or skill the team follows.

Division Updates

We're at the halfway point, and the team has been working hard. They're very motivated and driven to finish the season strong. The robot prototypes are working amazingly and we're confident that we'll be outstanding this season.

- Akash Shankar (Team Leader)

Auxiliary Construction

We finished the entire practice field and built new battery boxes which we'll use during competition to house the batteries for our equipment. We also worked on a new design for the pit, which is where the team prepares the robot during competitions.

Animation

We created a model of each section of the field using the software 3DS Max and then combined them all into one scene by assembling and resizing the elements. Then we put texture on the field and then rendered the final scene.

- Blake Loncharich (Division Lead)

Robot Operations

The prototype shooter is working well. The final drive trains are about finished and we are still trying to perfect our collecting mechanism as well as feeder to the shooter. We hope to be done early so that we have time to practice and test our final design.

- Alyssa Dash (Division Lead)

Programming/ Electrical

The code for the ultrasonic range finder, which will help our robot detect its location on the field, is being developed. We also made significant progress on the code for the camera, which will detect reflective tape on the goals in the competition.

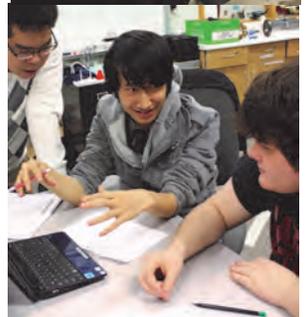
- Evan Chivington (Division Lead)

- Jacob Sweizy/John Du (Division Leads)

Website

Has been exploring the capabilities of CSS Transitions, a graphic programming language for websites, and learning how to integrate them into the website. The website is approaching completion and we're excited for new visitors.

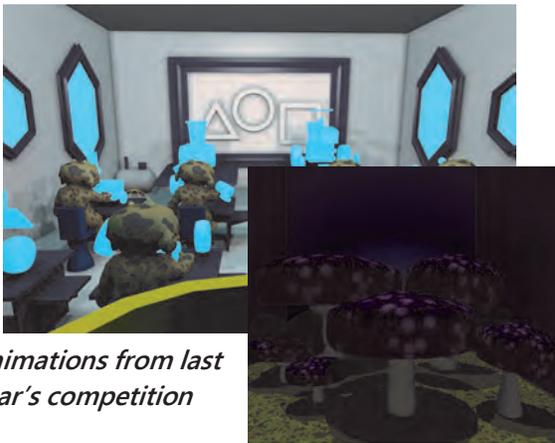
- Nick Saggese (Division Lead)



Animation

Takes a New Route

Most years, the animation division of the TechHOUNDS competes for the FRC Animation Award. This year, however, the animation award has been withdrawn from the FIRST Program leaving the animation division without its usual task. Division Leader Alyssa Dash, however, is spending the season leading the group in completing alternate activities.

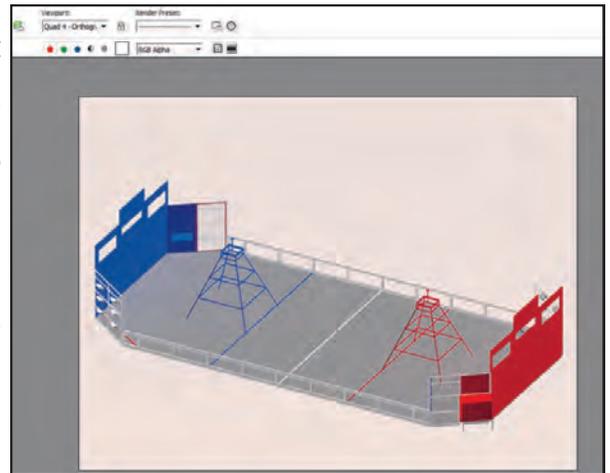


Animations from last year's competition

A New Task: This year, the division will design the entire Ultimate Ascent field on animation software. The completed robot will also be animated and placed on the field. The final product will be a demonstration video of how the robot will function during matches. In addition to this task, the animation division has decided to create a promotional video to advertise the team.

Before: In previous years, FRC would give the animation divisions a prompt to make a 30 second response to. Last year's scenario was about an alien race named the Iikos who wanted to improve the school systems. The TechHOUNDS animation division developed a scenario of an environmentally friendly school system that involved students in developing a greener world. While this year the Iikos will not make a second appearance, the animation division is confident in their new goals.

A draft of this year's field animated by the division



Techhounds.com

The TechHOUNDS have a newly renovated website: www.TechHounds.com.

The site features more pictures, a new layout, links to our sponsors, and an online "sign-in" system. The site also has copies of our newsletters and a schedule of our season. The site will be competing for FRC's annual website award. Be sure to check out the site to see all the new features!

ROOKIE CORNER



Sydney Harris

Grade: Senior
College: Purdue Engineering
Favorite Class: IED
Inspiration: Grandpa

Why did you join TechHOUNDS?

I joined TechHOUNDS because I wanted to take more classes in the IT Department but I didn't have any room in my schedule. This was the perfect way to stay involved with the department, plus building a robot is cool.

What Division are you in and why?

Construction. My original plan was to go around to all the divisions, but the first day I tried Construction and I liked it so much that I stayed.

What is your favorite part about TechHOUNDS?

My favorite part is building and learning to use all the tools like saws and seeing the final product come together.

How will TechHOUNDS impact your colleges/career?

I think TechHOUNDS gives me a more hands-on experience with engineering and building than learning off of a textbook in a class.



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