

THE NUTS AND BOLTS

TECHHOUNDS TEAM 868

February 7, 2014

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Upcoming Events:

CrossRoads Regional

March 6th - 8th

The TechHOUNDS are traveling to Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology to take part in the CrossRoads Regional.

Boilermaker Regional

March 20th - 22nd

The TechHOUNDS second competition, the Boilermaker Regional, will take place at Purdue University.

Queen City Regional

March 27th - 29th

The third competition the TechHOUNDS will be attending is the Queen City Regional, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

At all competitions the TechHOUNDS encourage friends, family, and sponsors to watch the matches and cheer on the team.



Mentoring New FRC Teams

TechHOUNDS are helping to mentor rookie team 5010, Tiger Dynasty

This year the TechHOUNDS have decided to give back to the community by helping mentor a new FIRST Robotics team, FRC team 5010, TigerDynasty. This new team is from neighboring Fishers High School. Over the summer we hosted Robot Boot Camp where we were able to help TigerDynasty and rookie TechHOUNDS members learned the basics of electrical, programming, and mechanical engineering. They then learned how it all can be

applied to build a robot. We assisted them in the pre-season by supplying materials to build a robot and successfully compete in two pre-season competitions. The TechHOUNDS hosted TigerDynasty at Carmel High School for this seasons kickoff, where we could help each other understand the rules of the game, figure out different strategies for scoring, and collaborate to think of new and innovative ideas for the new scouting system.



TigerDynasty Mentor, Rufus Cochran, helps the Website and Programming divisions brainstorm the new scouting system.



TigerDynasty, FRC team 5010, and TechHOUNDS, FRC team 868, pre-season robots shooting during the 2014 Brownsburg Precision Robotics Competition.

Division Updates

After the first four weeks, the team is still going strong. We have been working on our Chairman's award, which is one of the most prestigious FIRST awards a team can earn, day in and day out. The team is continuing to try to keep ahead in building the robot. It's amazing that even after losing six days due to snow, we are still ahead of last year.

- Blake Loncharich/ Molly Wardlow (Team Leads)

Auxiliary Construction

We have finished building the tower of terror and are currently in the process of painting it. We have also come close to finishing the new pit design that has a more efficient setup time and are working on preparing it for being used at the competition.

- Eric Lentz (Division Lead)



We have completed the entire framework for the code and are ready to test on the prototype robot. Many of our rookie members have been working on new code that can be used to locate the ball and for many other purposes.

Programming

- David Murzyn (Division Lead)

Robot Operations

We are almost ready to test our practice robot while other groups have begun to prototype other types of shooters. These shooters may be used on the final robot if we come across any unforeseen problems with our current prototype.

- Evan Chivington (Division Lead)



Robot Ops has given us the final electrical board and have begun laying out all of the components that are going on the robot. In addition we have begun, and finished wiring everything to the electrical board making sure everything is neat and easy to access.

Electrical

- Jacob Swiezy (Division Lead)

Website

We have nearly completed the design for the website as a whole. We have also been working on the pre-scouting form and the front-end local storage to be used before competitions. We hope to share our software with other team so they can also benefit from it.

- Vincent Mai (Division Lead)



Chairman's Award

During the past few months the TechHOUNDS have been working on a new project, the Chairman's Award. The Chairman's Award is the most prestigious award given to FIRST teams at FIRST Robotics Competitions. This award is given to teams that demonstrate the core purpose and goals of FIRST: building and sustaining a team, helping others, spreading the message of FIRST, mentoring, 'gracious professionalism', and 'coopertition'. Teams validate that they demonstrate the core purpose and these goals of FIRST by completing the following requirements: a questionnaire, an essay, a video, and a brief interview.

The Questionnaire

The questionnaire contains fourteen required questions and gives teams an option of attaching four pictures that represent their individual team. The questions vary from how your team gives back to the community, to how your team defines FIRST. Currently the TechHOUNDS have completed all fourteen questions and we are currently in the process of looking for four pictures that perfectly represent the team.



The Essay

The essay is one of the most time consuming parts of the award. It is to be no more than ten thousand characters, and has to talk about everything our team has done that reflects FIRST's core values. The theme of our essay is family. We have spent over a month editing our essay attempting to write the most effective and informative essay we can.

The Video

The third component of the Chairman's Award is the video. The purpose of the video is to show judges and other FIRST teams what our team has done to earn this prestigious award. Although a one to three minute video may sound easy, there are many requirements and restraints. Luckily the TechHOUNDS are being mentored by a local video production company, kcsproductions LLC. They are supplying cameras, lighting, backdrops, and wonderful advice, allowing us to create a professional looking video. So far we have filmed three days and we are currently working on editing the different video clips.



The Interview

The fourth and final component of the award is the live interview. During the interview, four judges will question three members of our team. The total interview time is ten minutes. We are allotted five minutes of the interview to set up and present our video. The last five minutes is spent answering questions asked by the judges. The questions will be similar to the questionnaire, but will be more in depth.

Rookie Corner

Why did you join the TechHOUNDS?

"I've always enjoyed engineering and I thought it would be a great way to get more experience."

What division are you in and why?

"I'm in Robot Operations because I wanted to learn the process of actually constructing a robot."

What are you most looking forward to this season?

"Definitely the competitions. From what I have heard, everyone seems to love everything about them."



Vikas Maturi

Grade: 10

Dream College: Stanford

Favorite Class:

Principles of Engineering

Inspiration: Uncle



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