



# THE NUTS AND BOLTS

## TechHOUNDS Newsletter

# FEDEX CHALLENGE

PR has been searching for ways to further recognition of our team through social media, and when researching ways to do that we came across the FedEx challenge. FedEx partnered with FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) to give a team a \$5000 grant for inspiring their community through social media and team spirit. There are only four challenges that have to be completed in order to qualify. The first challenge was to post a picture of your team opening the game part tote. Each year teams pre-order the game pieces so that they can start brainstorming right away. The second challenge was to recreate your team’s logo into a steampunk version to support this year’s theme. The third challenge was to create a video of an FRC alumni and have them talk about how FIRST has impacted their life. The fourth and final challenge was a complex physics problem involving all-electric vehicles to showcase the road to the championships. The contest will be judged based on accuracy, creativity, popularity, and level of team participation. If you would like to help, visit our Twitter, [techhounds868](#), and like the four posts with the hash tag [#FedExcontest](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FEBRUARY 27: STOP BUILD DAY

|                             |          |
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## PHOTOS OF THE WEEK



# Division Differences

After asking many new members what they were still curious about the most common answer was what other divisions were like. The first few weeks into build season the new members are still trying to figure out how the team works together, yet they have only seen the team through their division. This week we decided to spend a day in each division to better explain how each division runs their meeting.

Every meeting we start as a team in Mr. Bonewit's room. To start the meeting, Team lead Kate Hawkins gives the daily announcements and any other information the whole team should know. After the announcements are finished everyone splits up into their divisions where it is up to the division lead to set the agenda.

Some leads decide to run their meeting a little different than the others, some divisions need to give announcements while others can just jump into their work. In divisions with a lot of people it is critical to structure meetings in order to complete all tasks for that day. Construction lead Allison Cunningham starts every meeting getting an update on projects and making sure all members know

their job. "When I come in every day, everyone gets their safety glasses and puts their hair up first thing. Then I write out the jobs and who is assigned to them on the white board. Next I will give announcements, tell them what we are doing that day, and then we break," Cunningham said.

Smaller divisions like IT and PR don't necessarily need to structure their meetings the same way. PR lead Laura Dobie explains how the PR meeting works. "After announcements we go into Mr. Devlin's classroom and everybody logs onto their computer. After that I pull up our Google Keep and make up our daily goals of the day; our schedule is constantly changing so it is hard to set out everyone's jobs per day because most projects don't take the whole day. Then we all start working, constantly getting opinions and help from the other PR members. It's a really open environment," Dobie said. Being on TechHOUNDS can give any student a completely different experience depending on the division they choose to be a part of. In retrospect, Electrical member Grant Barretto describes his experiences. "I think for me, since I'm new to TechHOUNDS, it's been a good way to get integrated with the other divisions. Learning how to do basic wiring has been sort of an intro to what other members do; I am just learning from what I see other people doing." Each division has multiple skills to teach people ranging all the way from learning to use CAD or programming in Java to learning how to communicate ideas. "In TechHOUNDS we learn a wide variety of things throughout our time here. We learn everything from CAD to how to cut a wire," Electrical member Ignacio Salusso said.



Abel Kiser (Robot Ops) and Mr. Waidner

# DIVISION UPDATES



**CONSTRUCTION** “We have fixed the boiler for Programming. We have finished painting the electrical box and we are painting the battery box so we can assemble it. We are still waiting on the secondary tool cart frame to be welded. We are still working on the airship and it is coming along very nicely.”



**ELECTRICAL** “We got the CAD for the entire electrical board done and we’ve been prototyping with pneumatics. We have once again organized the closet, and we are working on figuring out a mount for the flashlight.”



**ROBOT OPS** “We finalized CAD and got water jet pieces cut. We finished the drivetrain, and the robot is close to being assembled.”



**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY** “We fixed the scouting system, and the frontend of the system (where you click buttons) is now complete. Now we have to work on the backend (connecting the data to the scouting system). All the mistakes on the website have been fixed, and everything people wanted is on there.”



**PUBLIC RELATIONS** “This week has been surprisingly very calm and productive despite working on a bunch of different projects. We finished the nametags, we are working on our spirit wear designs, newsletters, weekly videos, taking photos, and other small projects.”



**PROGRAMMING** “We worked more on the HoloLens. Our prototype robot that has both the drivetrain and a gear collector is fully working code wise. We made progress on developing subsystems and some of the basic commands we will use in our robot.”

# GET TO KNOW OUR TEAM

## ROOKIE CORNER



### ANDREW GOSTOMELSKY

#### Why did you join?

I joined because I really like the fact that we get to build a robot, and I was really interested in programming, so I thought this would be a great place to learn and to practice programming.

#### What have you liked about the team so far?

I really like how nice people are and how much everyone connects and they have this really big family aspect in TechHOUNDS.

#### How did you hear about TechHOUNDS?

I knew about it in middle school when this guy I knew was in TechHOUNDS, and he told me all about it and how there is a Programming division and I was really interested in Programming at the time, so I kinda planned for that to happen.

## MENTOR CORNER



### MR. COGHLAN

#### How long have you been a mentor?

Officially, 5 years.

#### Why did you want to become involved with TechHOUNDS?

Probably because I saw it from afar from a while. I saw how much fun the students were having and how much fun the mentors were having, so I just wanted to be a part of it and help make a difference.

#### What do you do for the team?

I help out with the construction division, and I also do a lot of the budgeting for the team, and just the overall details for traveling and inner workings of the team for hotels and transportation.

#### What do you enjoy about TechHOUNDS?

The energy that the students have. If it was just me I would have a hard time, but because the students have so much enthusiasm about it, it makes it a lot more enjoyable and fun to be here.



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