

For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology

The *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) pairs high-school students with adult mentors (primarily engineers and teachers) to design and build robots that compete against one another in this high energy “varsity Sport for the Mind™”. Each year at the Kickoff in January, a new, challenging game is introduced. These exciting competitions combine the practical application of science and technology with the fun, intense energy and excitement of a championship-sporting event. Teams are encouraged to display Gracious Professionalism™ and to cooperate while competing – known as “Coopertition™”.

In 2012, FRC reached 60,000 high-school students representing approximately 2,400 teams.

Gracious Professionalism™

Dr. Woodie Flowers, *FIRST* National Advisor and Pappalardo Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, coined the term "Gracious Professionalism™." Gracious Professionalism is part of the ethos of *FIRST*. It's a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community.

With Gracious Professionalism, fierce competition and mutual gain are not separate notions. Gracious professionals learn and compete like crazy, but treat one another with respect and kindness in the process. They avoid treating anyone like losers. No chest thumping tough talk, but no sticky-sweet platitudes either. Knowledge, competition, and empathy are comfortably blended.

In the long run, Gracious Professionalism is part of pursuing a meaningful life. One can add to society and enjoy the satisfaction of knowing one has acted with integrity and sensitivity.

Coopertition™

Coopertition™ produces innovation. At *FIRST*, Coopertition is displaying unqualified kindness and respect in the face of fierce competition. Coopertition is founded on the concept and a philosophy that teams can and should help and cooperate with each other even as they compete.

Coopertition involves learning from teammates. It is teaching teammates. It is learning from mentors. And it is managing and being managed. Coopertition means competing always, but assisting and enabling others when you can.

At the Kickoff event, all teams:

- See the 2013 game field for the first time (the field is a closely-held secret)
- Learn about the 2013 game rules and regulations
- Receive the official Kit of Parts (KOP) which includes motors, sensors, chassis hardware transmissions, software packages, control systems and batteries. The intent of the kit is to provide a level starting point for all teams.

The *FIRST* Robotics Competition challenges teams of young people and their mentors to solve a common problem in a six-week timeframe using a standard "kit of parts" and a common set of rules. Teams build robots from the parts and enter them in a competition.

FIRST redefines winning for participating students. Teams are rewarded for excellence in design, demonstrated team spirit, gracious professionalism and maturity, and ability to overcome obstacles. Scoring the most points is a secondary goal. Winning means building partnerships that last.

2013 FRC Calendar

Dec 13	Thurs.	12:00 pm EST		Deadline to submit Safety Animation Award videos to STIMS
Jan 5	Sat.	8:30 – 15:00	NDSU Ballroom	Kickoff event and Kit pick-up
Feb 19	Tues.	Midnight		Stop Build Day
Feb 21	Mon	12:00 pm EST		Woodie Flowers Award submission due
Feb 21	Mon	12:00 pm EST		Chairman’s Award submission due

We are scheduled to compete at the MN 10,000 Lakes regional competition.

Mar 28	Thur	All Day	Williams Arena	Minnesota 10,000 Lakes Regional
Mar 29	Fri	All Day	Williams Arena	Minnesota 10,000 Lakes Regional
Mar 30	Sat	All Day	Williams Arena	Minnesota 10,000 Lakes Regional

- In order to utilize everyone’s time and resources properly we need a commitment from participants and their parents or guardians to participate in this program.
- The primary financial responsibility for participants is the cost required to travel and compete at a regional competition. The team does pursue business sponsorships to help defray costs.
- Practice times: After school – 1 to 3 times a week prior to January and then the build groups will be working really intensely. The exact schedule will be determined once the team roster is set.
- To register visit the FRC site (<http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc>) and from the Registration sidebar go to the STIMS site, create an account and follow the directions to request joining **Team 4360**.
- The coaches have a website (<http://web.mnstate.edu/lindaas/first/>) that has some useful information and links. The team uses a Google Drive to share files and has a team website under development.

Team Questions:

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Competition Questions:

- Please refer to the FIRST Robotics Competition website
<http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc>
- More information about the FIRST Robotics local kick-off events
<http://usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/local-kickoff-information>
- The general site for FIRST robotics is <http://www.usfirst.org/>

FRC STUDENT/PARENT CONTRACT

_____ has been selected as a member of an FRC team. In order to insure that parents and students understand the responsibility and commitment needed by each FRC member, please take the time to read over and sign this contract with your child.

STUDENT CONTRACT

Please check each item you can honestly agree to

_____ I realize that no FRC problem has only one solution, and that a successful team is one that cooperates by considering EVERYONE’S solution and ideas. I will not criticize anyone’s ideas.

_____ I agree that my behavior at meetings and tournaments will be constructive.

_____ I agree that each FRC team meeting is valuable and will attend each meeting as best as I can. If a conflict arises, I will notify my coach/mentor in advance.

_____ I agree to cooperate on whatever solution the team chooses, even if it is not my first choice.

_____ I agree that all solutions, including props, costumes, signs, etc. will be made completely by me or a member of my team.

_____ I understand that the FRC program recognizes all teams that bring a solution to the tournaments are considered ‘winners’. I agree to show other teams the utmost respect and good sportsmanship.

_____ I agree that the goal of my team should be to do our best to solve a challenging problem.

_____ I agree to attend practices to the best of my ability and will contact my coach if I can’t attend.

Signature of team member _____ Date _____

Contact Information: Phone:

Email:

PARENT CONTRACT

_____ I agree, in the proper spirit of FRC, not to interfere with the team’s solutions. All creations, inventions, ideas, must come from the team members.

_____ I agree to make every effort to have my child attend every team meeting. If there is a conflict, either my child or I will notify the coach as soon as possible. I understand that my child has a commitment to his/her team.

_____ I realize that the team coaches/mentors will be contributing a significant amount of time and effort to provide a rewarding experience for the team. I will try to be cooperative and helpful as possible.

_____ I agree to discuss all items listed above with my child.

_____ I agree to transport and provide lodging or give permission to another parent of a child in this league to do so for future competitions (listed on calendar).

Parent Name (print) _____

Signature of parent _____ Date _____