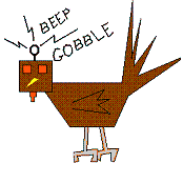
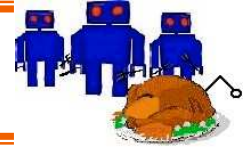


We at Illinois (and Northwest Indiana) FIRST Hope That All Teams, Mentors, Parents, Sponsors, Donors and Friends of FIRST had a Very



# HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



The FIRST season in Illinois (and Northwest Indiana) is off to a exciting, fun-filled start! FTC is in full-swing with the four Qualifying Tournaments having taken place the past two weekends in Highland Park, Chicago, Batavia and Lebanon. Our rookie teams were awesome with several earning awards and advancing to State! Out of the over 70 teams competing from Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri, Indiana, and Illinois, thirty-two FTC teams will be advancing to the Illinois State competition being held on Saturday, December 8 at IIT's Herman Hall. Come join us for a day of camaraderie and great "Ring it Up" competition. Root for your favorite FTC team, and see first-hand which teams will be crowned Illinois FTC State Champions going on to the World Champs Event in April! Special thanks to the event organizers and all of the many volunteers whose hard work and tireless energy resulted in the friendliest, most exciting and best Illinois FIRST (and Northwest Indiana) FTC Qualifying Tournaments ever!

LEGO is gearing up for a very exciting and event-filled competition season! Southern Illinois kicked off the "Senior Solution" qualifying tournaments last Saturday in Lebanon and during the month of December another 21 qualifying tournaments will be taking place throughout the State! Attend an event and check out the positively amazing and innovative solutions FIRST LEGO Leaguers have come up with to improve the quality of life for seniors! Also be sure to mark January 18th and 19th on your calendars and plan to attend the Illinois LEGO State Tournament at Forest View Fieldhouse in Arlington Heights. For more information, visit their website <http://insciteillinois.org/> or their facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/insciteillinois>.

FRCers have been busy with off season events, demonstrations, volunteering for LEGO and FTC tourneys, fundraising, recruiting new team members, etc and of course looking for game hints and brainstorming on what the 2013 game will be! Time is rapidly flying by - only **38 DAYS UNTIL JANUARY 5th KICKOFF** where the 2013 FRC Season will be officially underway! Have you registered for a Kickoff event yet? If not, what are you waiting for? - registration closes Thursday, December 6! Register at: <https://my.usfirst.org/frc/tims/>.

*Hmm...Speaking of game hints...Have you seen the Funky Winkerbean comic strip lately?...Could it be...What do you think?*



On Columbus Day, Icarus 2081 drove up to Allstate Headquarters in Northbrook, Illinois to compete in the first Allstate Innovation Challenge.

Allstate invited FLL, FTC, and FRC teams from across the state to try and create an innovative solution to prevent common accidents.

Our team competed with Wildstang and The Ice Princesses for the top prize. We chose to create a system to prevent house fires by detecting and monitoring potential fire-causing appliances. Allstate also provided a free lunch and workstations to help instruct students in the merits of various insurance company functions.

~ Submitted by Martin Willi, Team Leader  
FIRST FRC Team# 2081 Icarus - Peoria



## INNOVATION CHALLENGE



### Congratulations Teams!

#### 1st Place - \$1,000 Grant

- FRC - # 2081 - Icarus
- FTC - # 5202 - Try to Understand
- FLL - # 6444 - Creators

#### 2nd Place - \$500 Grant

- FRC - # 111 - WildStang
- FTC - # 3785 - Beastie Bots
- FLL - # 14 - Titanium Ducks

#### 3rd Place - \$250 Grant

- FRC - # 2725 - Ice Princesses
- FTC - # 5037 - got robot?
- FLL - # 9885 - The Moovers

On October 8th FTC team 5202 participated in an Innovation Challenge hosted by Allstate in Northbrook, IL. The challenge we were given was to come up with an idea to prevent damage and injury to those insured. Our idea was a retracting roof cover filled with non-Newtonian fluid (ie: cornstarch and water).

Allstate chose three top FTC teams in the state to participate in the competition, and of those 3 teams, we won first place. We won a \$1000 grant for our robotics team (5202) from Allstate, along with a trophy.

Overall it was a great learning and bonding experience for the team, taking home \$1000 made it even better. A quote from a member of our team who is an exchange student: "Fun, exciting, surprising, and learned how to efficiently solve problems."

- Minho Cho (South Korea).

~ Submitted by Kieran O'Brien, FIRST FTC Team # 5202 Try to Understand - Decatur

# Fantastic FTC!

Four Illinois Qualifying Tournaments took place over the past two weekends and what EXCITING and FUN events they were! The competitions were fierce, much fun was had by all, and with close to 30 new teams many, many new friendships were formed. Special thanks goes out to all of the folks at Highland Park High School, Whitney Young in Chicago, Rotolo Middle School in Batavia and McKendree University in Lebanon for all of your hard work, volunteer time and great attitudes that made these events so successful, fun-filled, and special!

Hope to see you all at the Illinois State Championship on Dec. 8 at IIT in Chicago!



**Inspire Award Winner - WY**  
FIRST FTC Team # 5295  
Steel Pythons - Batavia



**Alliance Winner - WY**  
FIRST FTC Team # 4965  
Animatores Romani - Chicago

**Alliance Winner - WY**  
FIRST FTC Team # 5294  
What the heck is Pi? - Batavia



**Finalist Alliance Winner - WY**  
FIRST FTC Team # 5928  
The 3rd Wheel - Chicago

**Finalist Alliance Winner - WY**  
FIRST FTC Team # 6459  
Cyborg Indians - Chicago

## 32 Advancing to State

- 116 Crazy Eights - Chicago
- 329 Chicago Squires - Chicago
- 535 Tobor - Crawfordsville, IN
- 779 Wildcats - Chicago
- 3216 Robophins - Chicago
- 3537 The Mecha-Hampsters - Martinsville, IN
- 3785 Beastie Bots - Highland Park
- 4049 Masai Lions - Chicago
- 4115 Men in Kilts - Milwaukee, WI
- 4507 RoboChargers - Grand Rapids, WI
- 4605 Robohackerz - Beaver Dam, WI
- 4965 Animatores Romani - Chicago
- 4982 Cafe Bot - Webster Groves, MO
- 5037 got robot? - Elgin
- 5085 Newton's Lawyers - O'Fallon
- 5200 That's A Good Question - Barrington
- 5202 Stand / Try2 - Decatur
- 5203 Brains on Bots - Urbana
- 5256 Spare Parts - Grand Rapids, MI
- 5294 What the Heck is Pi? - Batavia
- 5295 Steel Pythons - Batavia
- 5297 NerdBots - Batavia
- 5451 Da Big Meks - Highland Park
- 5452 Warbots - Highland Park
- 5928 The 3rd Wheel - Chicago
- 6007 Octopi - Crystal Lake
- 6199 Return of the Rings - Barrington
- 6206 Ohm's Olympians - Marion
- 6287 Warbots - Highland Park
- 6397 Girls on Wheels - Naperville
- 6429 Girls Gone Wired - Highland Park
- 6459 Cyborg Indians - Chicago

## Highland Park QT

- Inspire Award Winner**  
Team # 4605 Robohackerz - Beaver Dam, WI
- Inspire Award Finalists**  
Team # 5256 Spare Parts - Grand Rapids, MI  
Team # 4507 RoboChargers - Grand Rapids, MI
- Winning Alliance**  
\*Team # 4507 RoboChargers - Grand Rapids, MI  
Team # 5256 Spare Parts - Grand Rapids, MI
- Finalist Alliance**  
\*Team # 4115 Men in Kilts - Milwaukee, WI  
Team # 535 Tobor - Crawfordsville, IN
- Think Award**  
Team # 5256 Spare Parts - Grand Rapids, MI
- Connect Award**  
Team # 4507 RoboChargers - Grand Rapids, MI
- Rockwell Collins Innovate Award**  
Team # 5209 Operation Bison Bot - Wood Dale
- PTC Design Award**  
Team # 535 Tobor - Crawfordsville, IN
- Motivate Award**  
Team # 4115 Men in Kilts - Milwaukee, WI
- Highest Ranked Team Not Advancing**  
Team # 6232 Ctrl Alt Del - Barrington, IL

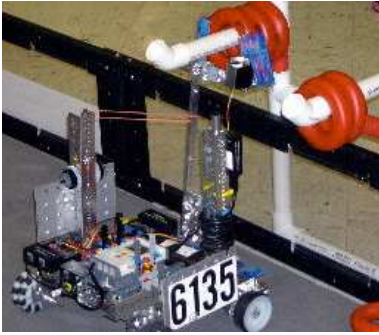
## Whitney Young QT

- Inspire Award Winner**  
Team # 5295 Steel Pythons - Batavia, IL
- Inspire Award Finalists**  
Team # 116 Crazy Eights - Chicago  
Team # 779 Wildcats - Chicago
- Winning Alliance**  
\*Team # 4965 Animatores Romani - Chicago  
Team # 5294 What the heck is Pi? - Batavia, IL
- Finalist Alliance**  
\*Team # 5928 The 3rd Wheel - Chicago  
Team # 6459 Cyborg Indians - Chicago
- Think Award**  
Team # 4049 Masai Lions - Chicago
- Connect Award**  
Team # 116 Crazy Eights - Chicago
- Rockwell Collins Innovate Award**  
Team # 6172 Frontal Robotomy - Blue Island, IL
- PTC Design Award**  
Team # 5359 Solenoids - Chicago
- Motivate Award**  
Team # 5360 Ada Graces - Chicago
- Judge's Software Award**  
Team # 5297 NerdBots - Batavia, IL



**Inspire Award Finalist & Connect Award Winner - WY**  
FIRST FTC Team # 116  
Crazy Eights - Chicago

# MORE FTC!



**Alliance Winner - BAT**  
 FIRST FTC Teams # 6287 Warbots, Highland Park - # 5037 got robot?, Elgin - # 3216 Robophins, Chicago



**Finalist Alliance Winner - BAT**  
 FIRST FTC Teams # 6007 Octopi, Crystal Lake - # 3785 Beastie Bots, Highland Park - # 6397 Girls on Wheels, Naperville

# You GO GIRLS!

WOW! FIVE all-girl teams competed at the Batavia Qualifier! Adding another at the WY Qualifier, brings the total to SIX all-girl teams participated in Illinois FIRST FTC this year - almost 10% of the registered teams! Several won awards and two are going to State!



**High Fives to the Ladies of FTC:**

# 6397 Girls on Wheels (Naperville), # 6429 Girls Gone Wired (Highland Park), # 2813 Teen Girl Squad (Chicago), # 6135 Southside Divas (Chicago), # 6198 EMP (Barrington) and # 5360 Ada Graces (Chicago)! **You Rock!**



# 5360 Ada Graces - Northside Prep



# 6198 EMP



# 6135 Southside Divas



# 2813 Teen Girl Squad



# 6397 Girls on Wheels



# 6429 - Girls Gone Wired

## Batavia QT

- Inspire Award Winner**  
Team # 3785 Beastie Bots - Highland Park, IL
- Inspire Award Finalists**  
Team # 5027 got robot? - Elgin, IL  
Team # 5451 Da Big Merks - Highland Park, IL
- Winning Alliance**  
\*Team # 6287 Warbots - Highland Park, IL  
Team # 5027 got robot? - Elgin, IL  
Team # 3216 Robophins - Chicago
- Finalist Alliance**  
\*Team # 6007 Octopi - Crystal Lake, IL  
Team # 3785 Beastie Bots - Highland Park, IL  
Team # 6397 Girls on Wheels - Naperville, IL
- Think Award**  
Team # 5200 That's a Good Question - Barrington
- Connect Award**  
Team # 6199 Return of the Rings - Barrington, IL
- Rockwell Collins Innovate Award**  
Team # 6429 Girls gone wired - Highland Park, IL
- PTC Design Award**  
Team # 3216 Robophins - Chicago
- Motivate Award**  
Team # 329 Chicago Squires - Chicago
- Judge's Software Award**  
Team # 5058 Brain Trust - Barrington, IL
- Judge's Award**  
Team # 6007 Octopi - Crystal Lake

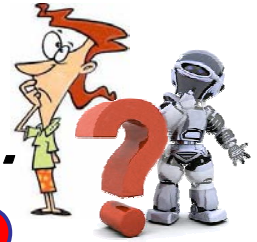
## Lebanon QT

- Inspire Award Winner**  
Team # 3537 Mecha-Hampsters - Martinsville, IN
- Winning Alliance**  
\*Team # 5085 Newton's Lawyer's - O'Fallon, IL  
Team # 3537 Mecha-Hampsters - Martinsville, IN
- Finalist Alliance**  
\*Team # 407 Top Gear - Manchester, MO  
Team # 406 Honey Badgers - Manchester, MO
- Think Award**  
Team # 406 Honey Badgers - Manchester, MO
- Connect Award**  
Team # 4982 - Cafe Bots - Webster Groves, MO
- Rockwell Collins Innovate Award**  
Team # 6206 - Ohm's Olympians - Marion, IL
- PTC Design Award**  
Team # 5202 try to Understand - Decatur
- Motivate Award**  
Team # 5203 - Brains on Bots - Urbana, IL
- Judge's Software Award**  
Team # 5085 Newton's Lawyers - O'Fallon, IL
- Judge's Award**  
Team # 6222 - SaintBots, Quincy, IL

# FRC Countdown to Kickoff!

## 38 DAYS and COUNTING . . .

# Important Dates & Info



• **FIRST Choice Open for Window Shopping!** — In case you missed it, *FIRST* Choice opened for a little pre-holiday window shopping on Monday, November 12. Check it out: <http://www.andymark.com/FIRST-Choice-Public-s/411.htm>. And don't forget to look at the 2013 *FIRST* Choice Ordering Rules: <http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/first-choice-ordering-rules>. Remember one of the changes this year – teams will be able to place orders starting December 10th.

• **12/06** — Registration closes at 11 a.m. (CST) for Regional and Championship Events.

• **12/06** — Registration closes for Kickoff Events.

Kickoffs are **January 5, 2013** - Be Sure to Register at: <https://my.usfirst.org/frc/tims/>

**Chicago Kickoff!** — 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM (CST) at the Illinois Institute of Technology - Hermann Hall, 3241 South Federal St., Chicago. The Illinois Institute of Technology will host a 2013 FRC Kickoff Event in the Hermann Hall Union Building on campus. Refreshments will be available for teams before the NASA broadcast. After the broadcast and a short break for lunch, there will be a few workshops for teams to take part in, including a kitbot quick-build and a LabView workshop. For more information call (312) 204-9011.

**Peoria Kickoff!** — 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (CST) Hosted by the Bradley University College of Engineering and Technology and sponsored by Caterpillar Inc., the kick-off will be held in Bradley's new Renaissance Coliseum at 1600 W. Main Street, Peoria, Illinois. Parking is available in the adjacent deck. Bradley will offer campus tours for any interested individuals either prior to the 9 AM session or following the kick-off. If interested in a tour, please contact the Admissions office at (309) 677-1000. Contact [jreyer@bradley.edu](mailto:jreyer@bradley.edu).

**\*\* NOTE** - As it gets closer to Kickoff, be sure to check and verify that the above information hasn't changed.

• **12/07** — Bag and Tag Exemption Deadline.

• **12/13** — **Safety Animation Award Submission CLOSSES.**

• **12/20** — Team profiles exported from TIMS into competition event program books.

• **01/05** — **KICKOFF!**

• **01/07 - 01/11** — Kit of Parts missing parts replacement in TIMS.

• **02/19** — Stop Build.

• **04/04-04/06** — **Midwest Regional at UIC Pavilion, Chicago**

• **Ask an Expert: Informational Calls for Team, Mentors and Coaches!** Hosted by *FIRST* Senior Mentors, these informational calls are for everyone! - Rookie/Vet Teams, Mentors and Coaches. The calls are invaluable for those who are new to *FIRST* as well as those needing to brush up on their skills.

Upcoming calls: **11/28** - 6 PM CST - FRC Call - Topic: The Jr. Varsity Model for FRC.

**12/05** - 6 PM CST - FRC Call - Topic: Robot Transportation

For the 2012 - 2013 schedule of "Ask an Expert" FRC calls, agendas and recordings, visit

<http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/frc-senior-mentor-teleconference-recordings>.

• **VIMS Registration is Now Open!** — **VOLUNTEER!** Being a Volunteer at a Regional is not only a lot of fun, it's also a great way to meet terrific fellow *FIRST*ers! Sign up today at [https://my.usfirst.org/FIRSTPortal/Login/VIMS\\_Login.aspx](https://my.usfirst.org/FIRSTPortal/Login/VIMS_Login.aspx).

## You're Invited - Winnovation Annual Flapjack Challenge!

Saturday December 8, 2012 - Winnebago High School - 200 E. McNair Road

### BREAKFAST

Pancakes will be served from 8am - 12pm in the high school "cafetorium." Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children. There will also be an awesome Bake Sale and Basket Raffle!

### COMPETITION

Beginning at 10:00am, this event is designed as a friendly "mini" bot (less than 25 pounds) competition AND a great training opportunity to get everyone ready for the *FIRST* Kick-off in January. There is no registration fee! You can download the rules here: <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B9gHdyxuDUNnF5bkNQc3p5Wms/edit?pli=1>. For field drawings, animation, and Q & A's, go to: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/278743718911086/>.

### NEW THIS YEAR!

Will the Moms Rule?...Look out students!...Winnovation's League of Mothers has decided to put a team together and participate in this year's Flapjack Challenge! Any and all adult mentors are welcome to form teams and come join in all the fun! To sign up, email the team at: [team1625@gmail.com](mailto:team1625@gmail.com)



# FRC Demos, Events, & Outreach



Students of the Robotic Competition demonstrate how their robots work.



## Packaging Expo at McCormick Place October 31

The Packaging Expo was a worthwhile experience. Although our team didn't get much of an opportunity to demonstrate or showcase our robot, the few people who did see it were astonished with our FRC 2012 robot.

Our team went on a tour of the Packaging Expo; it was amazing to see real world application of something we do for fun. The machines we saw used a lot of materials and parts we use for robots like: gears, pneumatics, sprocket and chain, and belts. Also at the Expo we met the Festo family and saw many uses of pneumatics. And we saw Denso, the company for window motors. The Packaging Expo was interesting and very fun.

~ Submitted by Muffyye' Baker, student, FRC team # 3595 Massive Attack

Special thanks to FRC teams # 2115 Nightmares (Mundelein), # 2022 Titan Robotics (Aurora), # 3595 Massive Attack (Chicago), and # 2451 Pwnage (St. Charles) for their participation at this great event!

## CAGE Match - October 20 - Indianapolis

Participating FRC teams from Illinois (and Northwest Indiana) FIRST included Teams # 1781 Electric Eagles (Chicago), # 2171 RoboDogs (Crown Point) and # 4081 MetalMasters (East Chicago).



On October 9th FIRST FRC teams # 2081 - Icarus (Peoria) and # 2022 - Titan Robotics gave demos of their robot at the Illinois Association of Rehabilitation

Facilities conference in Bloomington / Normal.



## A VERY SPECIAL VISIT

On October 27th, retired NBA Championship athlete Jim Brewer, born in Maywood Illinois, visited with FIRST robotic teams at the "Level UP" in Ford City Mall, Chicago. Pictured here with team members from FIRST FTC teams # 329 - Chicago Squires, # 2813 Teen Girl Squad, # 6469 Chicago Yeomen and FIRST FRC team 1739 - Chicago Knights, Jim volunteered his time and resources to share his positive message encouraging young people to avoid street gangs and drugs. Jim talked with the twenty-one students and seven mentors for an hour explaining how drugs damage your body and your life. He supplemented his interactive discussions with powerful video testimonials. Afterwards, Jim graciously posed for individual and group photos with all of the students. Thank-you Mr. Brewer for being such a positive role model for our youth in Chicago!

## FIRST FRC teams play some one-on-one at Northern Illinois University StemFest - October 20



## High Fives to Team # 3936 - Michigan City!

Michigan City Robotics Team is one among 15 teams that has been inducted into the Northwest Indiana Society of Innovators for 2012. Inductees are selected after a careful and rigorous review process and they must "demonstrate a new way, a different way, or a better way for Northwest Indiana and must contribute to the economic development and greater good of the region, state, nation or world." **CONGRATULATIONS!**

## REMINDERS

The Holiday Season is coming up soon. Now is the time to start planning a Community Service project!

Don't forget to send us your team's news and photos! Let us know what you've been doing, pass along some good tips, whatever! Send them to [ilfrc4u@gmail.com](mailto:ilfrc4u@gmail.com). Thanks!