



**Teams, Coaches, Mentors, Parents, Sponsors, Donors & Friends of FIRST**

October is . . . **WELCOME MONTH!**

A Big Hello to our New Rookie Teams, a Big Welcome Back to all our Veteran Teams and a High Five Congratulations to our returning Second Year Teams - You did us proud!

The Illinois FIRST (and Northwest Indiana) 2013 Season is underway - what a GREAT start it is! LEGO is reporting record growth with 360 registered teams and 18 Qualifying Tournaments scheduled this season. FTC is showing 70 teams which is a +32% increase in the number of teams over last year and has added a fourth Qualifier. Sixty FRC teams have registered for the new season so far and more are forming every day. Current FRCers are busy participating in demos, seminars, workshops and various off-season events anxiously awaiting the unveiling of the new season's game challenge. And of course the members of the Midwest Regional Planning Committee are hard at work making plans for this year's event taking place April 4 - 6 at UIC Pavilion.

**GO... GO... LEGO!**

Can FIRST LEGO League teams improve the quality of life for seniors by helping them continue to be independent, engaged, and connected in their communities?

Visit <http://insciteillinois.org/> for all of the latest LEGO news plus more information on the tournaments, or visit their FaceBook Page (<http://www.facebook.com/insciteillinois>).

**High Fives** to the Moovers - winners of the 1st place Teamwork Award and to iLEGO winners of the 2nd place Innovation and Strategy Award at the FLL World Open Invitational in Florida!



**Qualifying Tournaments:**

- Nov. 18 Southern Illinois
- Dec. 1 Illini & Harvard
- Dec. 8 Chicago South (MDMA Chicago) - Peoria (3) - Rockford - Zion & Crystal Lake
- Dec. 15 Batavia (2) - Chicago South (GSFC Country Club Hills) - Decatur - Lake Zurich - Mt. Prospect & Rock Island
- Dec. 16 Palatine Quest

**2013 FLL Illinois State Championship**  
Jan. 18 -19

Forest View Fieldhouse - Arlington Heights



**Phenomenal FTC!**

Nope the game is not about RoboCalls! The object is to hang more plastic rings on the center rack than your opponent and earn those bonus points! This season's game promises to be challenging for teams as well as exciting to watch for spectators and fun for everyone! Do plan on attending a tournament, or better yet, be a VOLUNTEER!



**Qualifying Tournaments:**

- Nov. 10 Highland Park High School, Highland Pk.
- Nov. 10 Whitney Young High School, Chicago
- Nov. 17 Rotolo Middle School, Batavia
- Nov. 17 McKendree University, Lebanon

**Illinois State Championship**  
December 8

Illinois Institute of Technology - Chicago

**Congratulations New FTC Teams!**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| # 5882 - Double Trouble - Palatine     | # 6198 - tba - Barrington                | # 6332 - RoboTitans - Chgo               |
| # 5887 - RoboWarriors - Chgo           | # 6199 - tba - Barrington                | # 6397 - NIU EEP - Naperville            |
| # 5900 - r3inventors - Hazel Crest     | # 6200 - tba - Barrington                | # 6419 - Robots are Mad Swag - Pt Byron  |
| # 5928 - The Third Wheel - Chgo        | # 6201 - tba - Barrington                | # 6429 - Girls Gone Wired - Highland Pk. |
| # 5941 - CyberCatz - Crown Pt., IN     | # 6203 - tba - Barrington                | # 6459 - Cyborg Indians - Chgo           |
| # 5986 - Robotic Crusaders - Ottawa    | # 6206 - Ohms Olympians - Marion         | # 6469 - Chicago Yeomen - Chicago        |
| # 6007 - Octopi - Crystal Lake         | # 6222 - SaintBots - Quincy              | # 6569 - Robotic Rams - Port Byron       |
| # 6086 - Mechanized Warriors - Chgo    | # 6232 - tba - Barrington                | # 6656 - M.E.C.H.E. - Belleville         |
| # 6135 - Southside Divas - Chgo        | # 6287 - Girls Gone Wired - Highland Pk. | # 6658 - JARU - Chgo                     |
| # 6172 - Frontal Robotomy - Bl. Island |  | # 6675 - Chargers - Carthage             |

# Illinois FIRST 2012 FRC Season Salute!

During the 2012 **REBOUND Rumble** competition season - FIRST FRC Teams in Illinois and Northwest Indiana traveled to five different States to compete in eight Regionals.

The game was fast-paced and exciting - the competition was fierce yet friendly - and thanks to the hard work of all of the regional planning committees and volunteer crews - every Regional was fun-filled and memorable for everyone!

Illinois and Northwest Indiana FIRST FRC had a great 2012 season with our teams bringing home 37 Awards!

Our Rookie Teams were incredible! They won 7 of the 37 trophies - 2 Highest Rookie Seed, 2 Rookie All Star, 1 Rookie Inspiration, 1 Judges' and 1 Archimedes Division Finalist at World Championship!

High Fives go out to # 1208 Metool Brigade and # 111 WildStang for each earning 4 awards this season and for both having a Dean's List Finalist too! Kudos to Jessica Endres from team # 111 and Evan Anderson from team # 1208!

A toast to Jackie Moore, mentor of team # 1739 Chicago Knights, for being named this year's Midwest Regional Woodie Flowers Finalist Award recipient.

Congratulations to # 111 WildStang, # 1756 Argos, # 2022 Titan Robotics, # 2949 Pwnage and # 3639 Michigan City Robotics who all qualified for the World Championship Event. Also a HUGE round of applause for Team # 4143 MARS/WARS who not only qualified but went on to become an Archimedes Division Finalist!



**BOILERMAKER REGIONAL CHAMPION!**  
FIRST Team # 1736 Argos - Peoria



**NORTH STAR REGIONAL CHAMPION!**  
FIRST Team # 111 WildStang - Schaumburg

## FRC 2012 TROPHY CASE

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ARCHIMEDES DIVISION FINALIST</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> # 4143 MARS/WARS <i>World Championship</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REGIONAL CHAMPIONS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> # 111 WildStang (North Star)  # 1756 Argos (Boilermaker)  # 2022 Titan Robotics (Midwest)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REGIONAL FINALISTS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> # 71 Team Hammond (Midwest)  # 111 WildStang (Midwest)  # 1208 Metool Brigade (Kansas City)  # 1208 Metool Brigade (St. Louis)  # 2151 Monty Pythons (Midwest)  # 2481 Roboteers (Wisconsin)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ENGINEERING INSPIRATION</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> # 2949 Pwnage <i>(Midwest)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ROOKIE ALL STAR</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> # 3936 WWW Michigan City (Midwest)  # 4143 MARS / WARS (Wisconsin)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ROOKIE INSPIRATION</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> # 4213 MetalCow <i>(Midwest)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HIGHEST ROOKIE SEED</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> # 4143 MARS / WARS (Wisc.)  # 4232 AHS (St. Louis)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GRACIOUS PROFESSIONALISM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> # 3061 Huskies (Midwest)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COOPERTITION</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> # 4096 Ctrl-Z <i>(Midwest)</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>QUALITY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> # 1756 Argos <i>(Boilermaker)</i></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TEAM SPIRIT</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> # 3695 Foximus Prime <i>(Midwest)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CREATIVITY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> # 2358 Bearbotics <i>(Midwest)</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INDUSTRIAL SAFETY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> # 2704 Order2Chaos <i>(Midwest)</i></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ENTREPRENEURSHIP</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> # 2704 Order 2 Chaos <i>(Midwest)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IMAGERY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> # 111 WildStang (Midwest)  # 1736 Robot Casserole (Wisc.)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INDUSTRIAL DESIGN</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> # 71 Team Hammond (Midwest)  # 2709 Iron Wolves (North Star)  # 2949 Pwnage (Kansas City)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JUDGES'</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> # 2022 Titan Robotics <i>(Queen City)</i>  # 2081 Icarus <i>(Boilermaker)</i>  # 2338 Gear it Forward <i>(Midwest)</i>  # 4187 Roborams <i>(St. Louis)</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INNOVATION IN CONTROL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> # 111 WildStang (North Star)  # 1208 Metool Brigade (Kansas City)  # 1208 Metool Brigade (St. Louis)  # 1625 Winnovation (Midwest)</p>	



**MIDWEST REGIONAL CHAMPION!**  
FIRST Team # 2022 Titan Robotics - Aurora



**ARCHIMEDES FINALIST!**  
MARS/WARS - Metamora



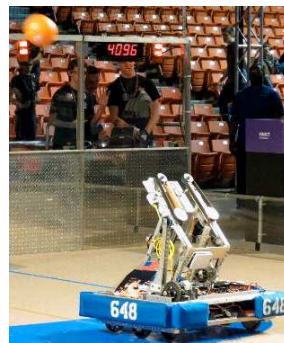
# Marvelous Midwest!



**FIRST FRC Team # 2358**  
Bearbotics  
Lake Zurich, IL



Special *Thank You's* to the folks at UIC for their wonderful hospitality - the volunteer crew for their hard work and endless smiles - Teams 1625 & 3061 for singing the National Anthem - Dee Weber and Bob Johnson for the awesome photos - Team # 71 Media and Randy & Dee Weber for the incredible video - and especially to all of you for coming and making the 2012 Midwest Regional THE BEST!



**FIRST FRC Team # 1781**  
Electric Eagles  
Chicago, IL



**FIRST FRC Team # 2151**  
Monty Pythons - Forest Park, IL



**FIRST FRC Team # 2803**  
Firebirds  
Chicago, IL



**FIRST FRC Team # 3135**  
Robotic Colonels  
Chicago, IL



**FIRST FRC Team # 3067**  
Robovikes - Geneva, IL



**FIRST FRC Team # 1739**  
Jackie Moore - Chicago Knights

## More on Midwest

Complete 2012 Midwest Regional Awards Listing

<http://www2.usfirst.org/2012comp/Events/IL/awards.html>

"Rumbling Robots . . ." - WTTW TV Feature

<http://chicagotonight.wttw.com/2012/03/27/rumbling-robots>

2012 Midwest Regional Highlights Video

[http://ilfrc.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=30&Itemid=32#2012](http://ilfrc.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=30&Itemid=32#2012)

- REGIONAL CHAMPION**  
# 2022 Titan Robotics - Aurora
- REGIONAL FINALIST**  
# 111 WildStang - Schaumburg
- REGIONAL FINALIST**  
# 71 Team Hammond - Hammond
- REGIONAL FINALIST**  
# 2151 Monty Pythons - Forest Park
- ENGINEERING INSPIRATION AWARD**  
# 2949 Pwnage - Batavia
- GRACIOUS PROFESSIONALISM AWARD**  
# 3061 Huskies - Naperville
- COOPERTITION AWARD**  
# 4096 Ctrl-Z - Champaign-Urbana
- CREATIVITY AWARD**  
# 2358 Bearbotics - Lake Zurich
- ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD**  
# 2704 Order 2 Chaos - Batavia
- IMAGERY AWARD**  
# 111 WildStang - Schaumburg
- INDUSTRIAL DESIGN AWARD**  
# 71 Team Hammond - Hammond
- INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AWARD**  
# 2704 Order 2 Chaos - Batavia
- INNOVATION IN CONTROL AWARD**  
# 1625 Winnovation - Winnebago
- ROOKIE ALL STAR AWARD**  
# 3936 WWW Michigan City Robotics
- ROOKIE INSPIRATION AWARD**  
# 4213 MetalCow - Bloomington/Normal
- TEAM SPIRIT AWARD**  
# 3695 Foximus Prime - Yorkville
- JUDGES' AWARD**  
# 2338 Gear it Forward - Oswego
- FIRST DEAN'S LIST FINALIST AWARD**  
Jessica Endres - # 111
- WOODIE FLOWERS FINALIST**  
Jacquelin Moore - # 1739
- VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**  
Gerry Smith



**FIRST FRC Team # 1850**  
Mechanicats - Chicago, IL



**FIRST FRC Team # 2338**  
Gear It Forward - Oswego, IL

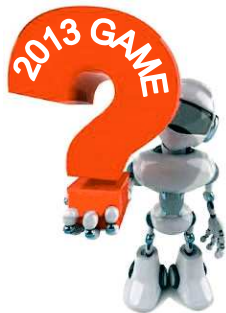


**FIRST FRC Team # 4213**  
MetalCow - Bloomington, IL



**FIRST FRC Team # 3695**  
Foximus Prime - Yorkville, IL





# FRC Countdown to Kickoff!

## 67 DAYS and COUNTING . . .

So what is your team doing this fall besides counting down the days until The Game is revealed on January 5? Recruiting team members? Finding sponsors and donors? Having or holding workshops? Teambuilding exercises or projects? Demonstrations? Community service projects? Fundraising? Hosting or attending an off-season competition? Volunteering at other *FIRST* events? Branding and Marketing your team plus Public Relations? Chairman's...Website...Animation...Safety...? Not sure where to begin or need some fresh ideas? Take a look at some of these great resources:



### **We deal with all the stuff that isn't rocket science!**

NEMO (Non-Engineering Mentor Organization) is a support group and information exchange for those adult non-engineering mentors who help teams as part of the *FIRST* robotics programs.

The logo for NEMO is the feather, as taken from the magic feather in Disney's *Dumbo*. In the film, the feather helps Dumbo gain the confidence to take flight, much as a NEM is an integral part of allowing a team to get off the ground. The mentor is the main support, the "wind beneath the wings" for the team.

Check out their web site for resources and many, many great ideas! Better yet – join today! <http://www.firstnemo.org/>.

### **In the spirit of Coopertition™ and Gracious Professionalism™, the goals of A.C.E. are to:**



- Offer resources that empower *FIRST* Robotics teams to create Chairman's, Woodie Flowers and Engineering Inspiration submissions.
- Inspire students to become more aware of their own creative abilities and energy.
- Encourage inclusive networking between *FIRST* Robotics students and mentors.

Visit A.C.E. today for some creative ideas and advice! <http://www.assistingcreativeenergy.com/index.html>



Our friends in Minnesota *FIRST* have put together a wonderful "*FIRST* Robotics Competition Help" resource page containing webcasts of past presentations and covering such topics as scouting and Chairman's - they've even included an Encyclopedia Robotica! <http://www.mngofirst.org/frc-resources.html>

### **FIRST Mentor Resource Library**

An FRC Mentor Resources Library that has been accumulated and categorized through the efforts of many FRC Team Mentors and *FIRST* Senior Mentors. <http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/mentor-resources-library>

And of course be sure to stay up to date on all the latest official FRC information by routinely checking the FRC Blog (<http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/blog>) and Email blasts (<http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/emailblastarchive.aspx>)

***"What is this 'off season' of which you speak?"*** - Alan Anderson, Mentor Team # 45 Technocats

Here are some great suggestions from Illinois *FIRST* Senior Mentor Keith Hall that apply to all teams – first-year rookies through 20-year veterans.



## **Senior Mentor's List of Things to Do in Off-Season**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>#10. Establish a build-season calendar &amp; time-line.</p> <p># 9. Start assigning sub-teams.</p> <p># 8. Inspect, repair, replace, update and clean all tools, computers, banners, etc.</p> <p># 7. Know safety procedures and organize work areas.</p> | <p>#6. Review finances, make a business plan and fundraise.</p> <p>#5. Get to know the four nearest teams - call, email, visit, etc.</p> <p>#4. Team building exercises, mini-robot design/ build activities.</p> <p>#3. Recruit and train new members.</p> <p>#2. Community service projects.</p> |
|--|--|

### **AND THE # 1 THING TO DO IS . . .**

## **Scholarships! Know the Information, Application Process and Deadlines!**

*FIRST* currently has over **142 scholarship providers** that are making available over **760 individual scholarship opportunities** with a total value of nearly **\$16 Million!** Visit: <http://www.usfirst.org/aboutus/scholarships>

# Important Dates & Info

**Now Posted!** — **2013 Safety Animation Contest:** The 2013 Safety Animation Contest Announcement, Manual & Video! Check it out at <http://www3.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/safety-video-and-manual>

• **Kickoff Registration is Open** — Kickoffs are **January 5, 2013** - 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, contact the Admissions office at 309-677-1000. The focus of the Bradley University College of Engineering and Technology is undergraduate engineering education. The engineering college has 800 undergraduate students in a university of 5000 undergraduates in five colleges, which allows us to provide an educational experience that contains many interdisciplinary aspects through collaborations with the other colleges. The campus has an atmosphere of open inquiry and exploration. This enhances the sound technical foundation that our engineering and technology students receive. 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.

- **11/01** — **Unrestricted Regional Event Registration** opens.
- **11/08** — **FIRST Championship waitlist registration** for veteran teams that DID compete at the 2012 **FIRST Championship** opens at noon
- **11/08** — **Award Submission Opens** for **FIRST Dean's List, Chairman's, Woodie Flowers & Entrepreneurship.**
- **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:** **11/07** - 6 PM CST - FRC Call - Topic: Technical Assistance and FRC.

**11/14** - 6 PM CST - FRC Call - Topic: Control System / Driver's Station & Beta Test Observations

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 **FIRSTers!** Sign up today at [https://my.usfirst.org/FIRSTPortal/Login/VIMS\\_Login.aspx](https://my.usfirst.org/FIRSTPortal/Login/VIMS_Login.aspx).

## In the Spotlight...

### Chris Noble

Mentor of Team # 3176 Purple Precision, Brownsburg, IN  
 (and home grown Team # 71 boy!)  
 has been named as this year's recipient of the

### **AndyMark Award of Awesomeness!**

*Yeah Chris! We are all so proud of and happy for you!*

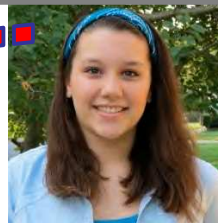
### Dan Green

Our very own Illinois Regional Director "DG" was recently named the new

### **Executive Director of the State of Illinois!**

Awesome! Expect great things to be happening in Illinois **FIRST!**

*Hmmm. .... Time for a new shirt? LOL*



### Katie Goodrich - Team #71

Katie Goodrich was once again selected by *The Times* newspaper's to be a member of their Young Voices Panel, submitting columns that offer fresh perspectives on current events and issues.

This is Katie's senior year at Hammond Gavit and her fourth year on Team # 71 where she primarily works on the Chairman's Award submission and presentation to the judges. Katie is also an integral part of the Team # 71 Media Team photographing the Midwest Regional. She is described by a team mentor as being a "really great, fun loving, full of HIGH energy girl. She will do anything that is asked, no complaints, no rolling of the eyes. She also takes new students on the team and makes sure that they fit in somewhere."

A High Five to you Katie and a hearty Congratulations!

*Read Katie's latest article:*

**"Entering the perfect college has become quite the task"**  
 (Copy & Paste link)

[http://www.nwitimes.com/news/opinion/columnists/guest-commentary/young-voices-entering-perfect-college-has-become-quite-the-task/article\\_77037a61-4df6-50c4-bfc0-ff8350432ca3.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/news/opinion/columnists/guest-commentary/young-voices-entering-perfect-college-has-become-quite-the-task/article_77037a61-4df6-50c4-bfc0-ff8350432ca3.html)

# CONGRATULATIONS!



# FRC Workshops, Demos, Events, & Outreach

WOW! Workshops, Seminars, Clinics, Camps, Demonstrations, Festivals, Fairs, Fundraisers and Competitions are just some of the activities that keep our Illinois (and Northwest Indiana) FIRST FRC teams busy with during the off-season.



**Team # 2709 - Iron Wolves**  
Robot Block Party  
Mus. of Science & Industry  
4/14/12



**Winnovation Clinic - 6/12/12**



On June 6, Team # 1625 Winnovation hosted a Clinic for teams featuring sessions in such areas as LabView and Animation, discussions on topics like fundraising, team branding and Chairman's, team building activities and a mentor's roundtable. 16 teams from 4 states totaling over 120 students, coaches and mentors participated! Old friends were reunited, new friends were made. Great fun happened, great learning took place and most of all everyone came away with a great sense of the Family of Illinois (and Northwest Indiana) FIRST!

**THANK YOU TEAM # 1625 - YOU ROCK!**



Pwnage, Roboteers, Team Hammond, and WildStang were invited to compete in the 2012 IRI.



**Team # 3585 - Massive Attack**  
Makers' Faire - 4/21/12



**Montgomery Fest - 8/11/2012**



**Scenes from Taste of Chicago - 7/12 -13**  
Yum...Yum...Yum...!



Imagine going to a family picnic where there is catching up to do with family members you haven't seen in a while and also meeting the new additions. There is plenty of food and lots of laughs, but instead of playing volleyball or softball, you engage in a friendly competition of robots playing basketball!

**Thank you Team # 2338 - Gear it Forward for hosting such a wonderful event!**

## REMINDERS

The Holiday Season is coming up soon. Now is the time to start planning a Community Service project! Food Drive? Coat, socks, mitten Drive? Robot Hospital visits?

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!