

Upcoming Competitions

Lakeview District March 2nd -March 4th

Kentwood District Competition: March 31st-April 2nd

Michigan State Championship April 12th-April 15th

FIRST Championship - St Louis at Edward Jones Dome
April 26th-April 29th

Every year we have competitions that we need a lot of support and volunteers in order for the competition to run smoothly. People like judges, inspectors, queuers, and field resets are just a few of the over 150 volunteers to run a successful competition. Please consider volunteering (or encouraging others) by signing up at:

https://my.usfirst.org/FIRSTPortal/Login/VIMS_login.aspx



Red Storm Robotics

c/o East Kentwood High School
6230 Kalamazoo Ave SE
Kentwood MI, 49508



Greetings!

Red Storm Robotics would like to welcome you to our first newsletter. We would like to thank our sponsors for the donations and the support. With your donations we are able to transform ideas into real life products that we can use to compete in challenges for FIRST which means "For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology." The teams of FIRST work together with gracious professionalism to promote STEM in schools and the community.



FTC Season Summary

Our FTC teams had a good season this year. We started it off by hosting a Rookie Workshop to help other teams build the base push-bot chassis, which would enable them to have a fully driveable base to use in the season. We followed it up by hosting a scrimmage at STEMosphere held at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. This helped other local teams by being able to see the competition field and being able to see other teams robots in action.



This past season our three FIRST Tech Challenge Teams did quite well at their two FIRST in Michigan Qualifiers--including several overall team firsts.

At the Big Rapids FTC Qualifier the Red Storm Red - 6482 earned the highest placement in qualification rounds (2nd place). They also had the honor of being the first time as a captain of an alliance. Red Storm Blue - 10031 - was the first time since 2011 that we were on the winning alliance, and qualified them for the Michigan State Competition. The Blue team also earned the PTC Design Award. Not to be left out, Red Storm White - 5292 - won the Controls Award.

At the Kentwood FTC Qualifier the three teams performed quite well. The Red Storm Red - 6482 - team won the Controls Award. Red Storm White - 5292 - was nominated for several awards: Finalist for the Motivate Award, Finalist for the Promote Award and Third place for the Inspire Award. This is the first time that any Red Storm FTC Team or Red Storm FRC Team had placed for the top award (FTC – Inspire, FRC – Chairman’s).



Red Storm Blue - 10031 - went onto the FTC State Competition held at Lakeview High School in Battle Creek, Michigan. While the team performed well, they didn't advance to Super Regionals.

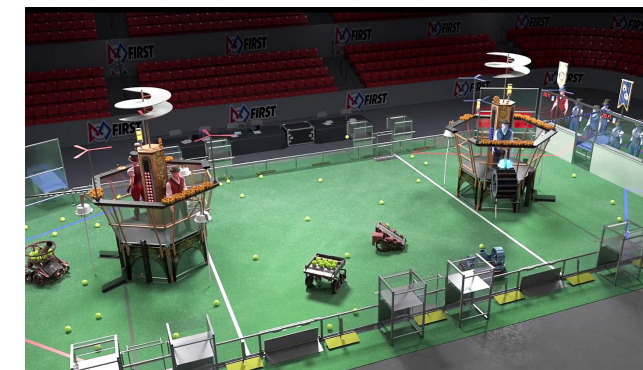
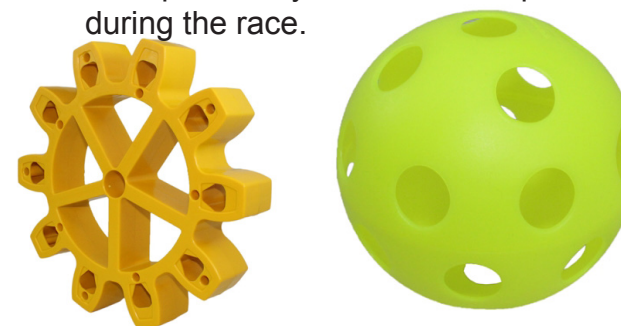
We are very proud of our three FTC teams this year.



2017 FIRST Robotics Competition Challenge

On January 7th, FIRST announced to high school teams all over the country this year's challenge is to take flight with FIRST STEAMWORKS. The challenge invites two adventure clubs from an era in which technology relied on steam power to prepare their airships for the ultimate long distance race. Each three-team adventure club (aka alliance) prepares to take flight in three ways:

1. Build Steam Pressure. Robots collect fuel represented by green balls. They score it in high and low goals in their boiler. As fuel is scored steam pressure in the tank on the alliance's airship builds – the high goal builds pressure faster than the low goal.
2. Start Rotors. Robots retrieve and deliver gears to pilots on their airship who then install them on the appropriate rotor. Once a gear train is complete the rotor can be started.
3. Prepare for Flight. Adventure clubs want their robots to climb aboard their airships so they can assist the pilots during the race.



Team Bonding

Although most of our time is spent on productive work, we make sure to have time for team bonding. The most recent was at our game night. Often we include other teams in our game nights where we all as a team bring in snacks and games. Thanks to our mentors we were allowed to use tvs to play kid friendly video games. We spend time on making new connections with each other as a FIRST community.



Summer Sessions

In the summer we keep up the FIRST spirit by going to local events and demoing our robots. Red Storm Robotics also held lessons to teach new students in order to have an idea of how they can be productive during the season. These lessons go from mechanical to programming to electrical. For safety reasons, everyone is trained and certified for all the machinery during our summer sessions so even our marketing team is capable in assisting directly in the robot's construction. This year we even held our own challenge with building an FTC sized robot to shoot frisbees.