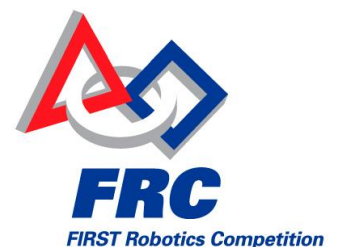




# TEAM HANDBOOK

2020-2021

FRC Team  
2996



**COVID-19 Addition:** This season will be different from any season we have experienced in the past because of the COVID-19 outbreak. The team will be working closely with the D-11 and Coronado Administration to make sure we are following all of the state, county and D-11 safety protocols when it comes to in-person meetings and working together as a D-11 activity. Please understand that currently things are changing and being updated constantly and we will be adjusting to these changes in policies and procedures as they happen. The information in this handbook is how we have done things in the past and how we are hoping to do things when we get to build season in January but everything is subject to change in order to meet the ever changing COVID-19 policies and procedures. Please be patient and flexible with us as we work through this season.

## **Cougars Gone Wired**

Handbook 2020-2021

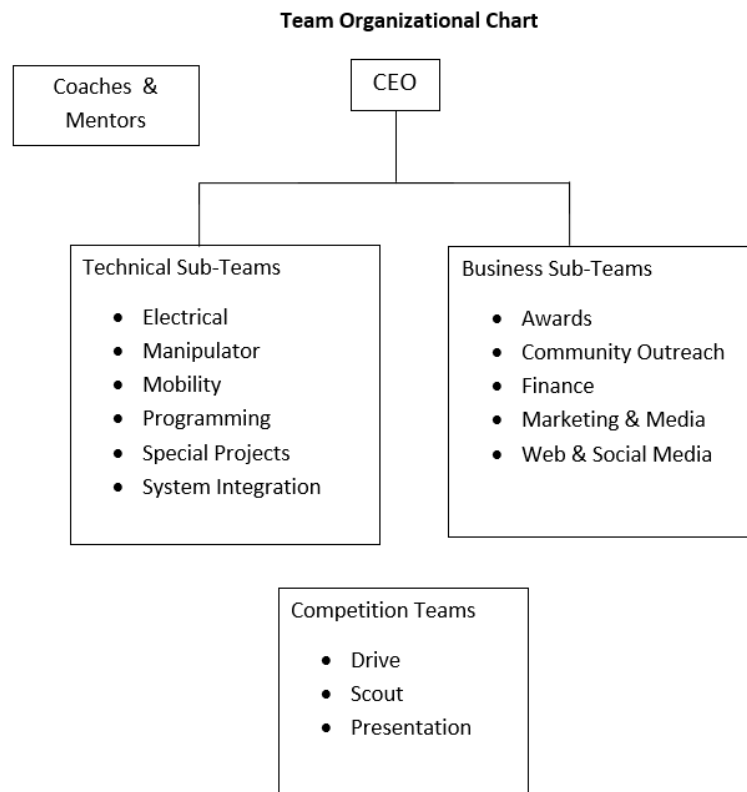
To all those who have decided to participate in the District 11 FIRST Robotics team, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is an international robotics competition with regional events throughout the world. This competition offers a valuable experience for the participants by offering the opportunity to work with technology directly from industry, the opportunity to work as a team within a professional atmosphere where gracious professionalism is emphasized, and the opportunity to interact with students with the same interests and passions as they themselves. FIRST Robotics is truly designed as a varsity sport for science and technology students. In this spirit, there are over \$50-million in scholarships for students participating in FIRST Robotics. For information about FIRST Robotics please visit their website at [www.firstinspires.org](http://www.firstinspires.org) or the Colorado FIRST website at [www.coloradofirst.org](http://www.coloradofirst.org). To see more information about the team please visit the team website at [www.team2996.com](http://www.team2996.com).

**The FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC)** is an event in which students are given the rules of the game and a kit of parts on the first Saturday in January. The team then has to design, build, program and test their robot before their first regional competition. We call this time period between kickoff in January and our first regional event Build Season. Build season is an intense period requiring a large time commitment from both students and mentors. We have found it absolutely necessary to spend the first half of the school year preparing for the build season.

FRC is much more than just building a robot; there are competitions in many other areas such as business planning, spirit, and work place safety. The highest award any team can receive is the Chairman's Award, which actually has nothing to do with the robot but rather is judged upon how well the team promotes the ideas of Science, Technology,

Engineering, and Math in their communities. Through their dedication and strong team work Team 2996, Cougars Gone Wired, earned the Chairman's Award at the 2011 and 2013 at the Colorado regional and in 2014 at the Utah Regional.

We believe much of our success stems from having a student-led team in which the students design, build, and compete with the robot and the students have final say on most decisions pertaining to the team. The adult coaches and mentors are there as technical experts and professional resources. There is a student CEO that leads the team and runs all meetings. The team is also broken down into both technical and business oriented sub-teams with a student VP leading each one. Students have the opportunity to obtain a leadership experience rarely seen at the high school level. With this opportunity comes a lot of responsibility and any student taking on a leadership role needs to be committed to the time requirements of the team.



The FIRST Robotics Competition is a rather expensive competition for the team to participate in; the cost for the team to register for the first regional event is \$5,000. The additional regional event we compete in has an additional \$4,000 registration fee. On top of that, there is the added expense of parts and materials for the robot that is typically about \$4,000. There are the team shirts, safety equipment, lodging, and transportation to events as well. We are currently working to get corporate sponsorships to cover as many of these expenses as possible.

**Team Participation Fee:** Because we consider FIRST to be a varsity sport, we have asked the students to pay a fee much like all students do to participate in sports in District 11. The fee is \$50 and is less than the school's sports fee. Be aware that any travel expenses that are not covered by corporate sponsorships or by fundraising will need to be covered by the student participants. Here is an estimate of the possible costs to student participants:

Team Fee - \$50

Out of State Regional - \$500

Denver Regional - \$300

Championships in Houston (If we qualify) - \$800

Please start to budget now for the possibility of attending the Championship.

## **Time requirement:**

**Pre-season** - All team members are required to attend the weekly team meetings held remotely through WebEx on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. When you have completed the team application you will receive an email with the WebEx meeting link. During the pre-season (first semester), the team will meet once a week in order to take care of the business operations of the team and to insure we have a strong, cohesive team during the stressful build season. In November, we will run a mock game to simulate the first three days of the build season. The mock game will take place on Tuesday through Thursday and will be 5:00 to 8:00 PM on those three days.

There may be other times the team will need to get together during the school year to complete community outreach and service projects. Students are expected to attend as many community events that they can but there is no minimum or maximum number they must attend to be considered a member of the team. These events are an opportunity for the team to give back to a community that has given so much to us. **This season the number of community outreach events has been drastically reduced because of COVID-19. Honestly there may not be any community outreach event this season we are in a wait and see status right now.**

**Build Season** -The scheduled meeting time during the FRC build season is Monday through Friday from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. and then 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays. This gives students two hours each day after school to take care of homework and other obligations. This build time commitment may need to be increased if deadlines are not being met and there is the risk that the robot and other tasks are not going to be completed by their scheduled due date. We will never meet on Sundays, even though we do not technically fall under the guidelines of the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) we treat this team as a varsity team and CHSAA rules state coaches should not have contact with athletes on Sundays. Please realize participating in the FRC team and another varsity sport at the same time is equivalent to

participating in two varsity sports. Students may find trying to juggle the time commitment required by both to be rather challenging.

A student should actively participate in 80% or more of the build season in order to be eligible to attend the out of state regional event, however the hope is members will strive to participate 100% of the time. Students will fill out a time sheet at the end of each week documenting their work time. Any student caught falsifying their own or others attendance records will be asked to leave the team.

The plan right now is to try to plan for as normal a build season as possible but because of COVID-19 we may have to reduce hours and adjust how we will be able to meet and work during this time period. We will know more as we get closer to the build season.

All District 11 policies for student behavior and conduct apply during the time a student is participating with the team. Anyone having committed a level 3 or higher infraction from the D-11 conduct policy may be suspended from or asked to leave the team permanently. If the coaches and mentors feel a student is being overly disruptive or harmful to the welfare of the team the coach may ask the student to leave the team.

**Grade Eligibility:** The FIRST Robotics Competition is a varsity sport for the mind. Participants in Cougars Gone Wired will be held to grade eligibility requirements the same as those participants in other sports. These requirements represent the minimum grades to maintain eligibility and parents should feel free to hold their own sons/daughters to higher standards. Be assured that the mentors and coaches of the team will support your decisions. Robotics should never be used as an excuse for declining or poor grades. The team needs student members that can efficiently manage both their academic commitments and their commitment to the team.

Since the robotics season is the beginning of second semester I have found student grades are not accurate until at least week 3 of the build season and therefore will not start pulling student grades until that time.

During the build season a student that has a grade lower than a C in any of their classes will be asked to attend a homework /study hall session in room 407 from 3:15 to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday until that student no longer has a grade below a C.

If a student has an F in any class then that student will not be able to participate in any event that requires the team to travel out of state. If a student has an F in any class and the event is in state but requires the student to miss school then the team will not excuse the student from school. It will be the parents' responsibility to excuse the student if they feel the student should attend the event. If the event does not require the student to miss school then participation will be left to the parents' discretion.

**Out of State Regional Eligibility:** In order for a student to be eligible for the out of state regional event they must not be failing any classes and must have met the 80% build time requirement. The out of state regional is to get the team experience for the upcoming Colorado regional and therefore any student attending the out of state regional is expected to also

attend the Colorado regional. I do not know at this point and time if the team will be allowed to travel out of state for competition. Again we will look at this as we get closer to the times of competitions.

### **FRC Varsity Lettering Requirements**

An individual can earn a school letter for participation in the D-11 FRC Team 2996 if the following criteria are met.

- Participation in at least 25 hours of team community outreach events during the pre-build season held during the summer and the first semester of that school year.
- Attend and actively participate in at least 85% of the build season hours. Active participation will be decided by the mentors and coaches at the end of the build season.
- Participate in the Colorado scrimmage.
- Participate in at least one FIRST robotics competition regional event with the team.
- All student fees, pertaining to Robotics, must be paid in full.

An award will not be awarded if the Board of Mentors and Coaches feels the team member has not justifiably earned an award even though the team member has met specific requirements.

I want to be completely up front with everyone it may be impossible to meet the varsity letter requirements this year.

### **Cougars Gone Wired Parent-Mentor-Student Communication Policy**

If a parent or mentor of the team is in email communication with any of the students on the team regarding team business then Mr. McLean must be cc'd (carbon copied) on all emails. Students communicating with anyone, which is to include but not be limited by mentors, parents, sponsors, or community partners, by email about team business must cc Mr. McLean.

If a parent or mentor of the team has a conflict or an issue with a student on the team they should bring the situation to the attention of Mr. McLean. At no time should a parent or mentor confront the student about the issue without having Mr. McLean present. If the teacher feels the situation warrants a conference with the participants involved then the parent of the student will also be invited to participate.

**Travel Expectations:** FRC competitions require the students to travel to different locations and most require overnight stays in which the students will be required to share a hotel room with other students. Students are expected to behave appropriately and listen to the adults chaperoning these trips at all times. Students will be expected to meet their curfew times and to stay in their own rooms after bed check. While at events students will stay with the team in the event arena and ask permission from one of the chaperoning teachers before leaving the event area. When leaving the hotel or arena for any reason student must travel in groups of 3 or larger. Any student

missing bed check, not obeying the chaperones, purposely wondering away from the group, or participating in any illegal activity will be immediately excused from the event and their parents will be responsible for arranging their transportation home immediately.

Parents of course your student's participation is completely at your discretion but if you decide your student will not be participating in one of the events please notify Mr. McLean by email or a phone call so the chaperones know your student will not be participating. With your help we want to eliminate the uncomfortable situation of a student attending an event against their parents' wishes.

Travel arrangements for a team our size require making hotel and transportation reservations weeks in advance. Therefore, it will be necessary for students to commit to attending an event in the same advanced time frame and if the student becomes unable to attend the event there will still be financial obligations the student is responsible to cover.

## **Important Dates**

**With how much things are changing right now I did not want to put any dates here in the handbook because they would probably be invalid when this was being finally read.**

**For the most up-to-date dates and times please see the calendar on the team website [www.team2996.com](http://www.team2996.com)**