



CGW FRC TEAM 2996 NEWSLETTER

Kicking Off the 2025-2026 Preseason! | August 28, 2025

Cougars Gone Wired is launching the 2025-2026 preseason with a revamped team structure and an exciting first meeting on August 27. With new leadership, upcoming events like KCMT and the Homecoming Parade, and fresh faces joining the team, we're ready for a strong season ahead!

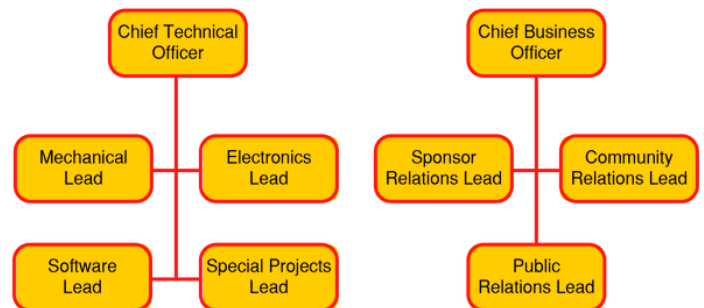
After About A Week Back...

After about a week back on campus (not counting the first "official" week of school), our preseason is officially kicking off with a team meeting to reconnect and welcome new members. Wednesday, August 27, marks our first team gathering of the season, and we're focused on making a strong first impression on potential recruits.

Our leadership and business teams have been working hard to make the team more approachable and exciting for those new to FRC and robotics. With flyers posted around campus highlighting our sub-teams and their roles, we're giving newcomers a clear picture of what Cougars Gone Wired is all about — and we're ready to start the season strong!

Meet Our New Leadership!

This year, we restructured our team into two main branches: technical and business, each with specialized sub-teams. This created nine leadership roles, filled through end-of-season interviews, with new leadership was selected shortly afterward.



Beck Brau and Kelsey Modaff were selected as CEO/CTO and CBO, overseeing the entire team. Business leads include Lark Tipton (Sponsor Relations), Raven Van Hoy (Community Relations), and James Christian (Public Relations). Technical leads are Lyric Enger (Special Projects), Sylis Sharp (Software), Keegan Walker (Mechanical), and Jaxson Tasca (Electrical).



New Heads

The CBO oversees the business sub-teams (Community Relations, Sponsor Relations, and Public Relations), ensuring strategic growth and partnerships. The CTO, who also serves as the CEO, manages the technical teams and provides overall leadership, as well as holding overall responsibility for the team's direction, providing leadership, vision, and coordination between both business and technical teams to drive success and achieve organizational goals. Together, they ensure smooth collaboration and effective management across all areas of the team.



Kelsey Modaff CBO

What's one thing you're most excited about for this season?

I'm excited for the ENTIRE SEASON, but I will say legislative advocacy went really well last year so I'm looking forward to seeing where we can take that. I'm also excited and hopeful to see how our season and process works with the structural changes we recently made. I'm super confident in our process and the new leadership team, so I can't wait to witness an epic robot and epic adventures on the business side too.

What is something you do in your spare time?

Outside of robotics, I love both making my own and enjoying others' art. I'm consistently drawing but recently I've been sewing bags and stuffed animals. I also plan to get more into photography.



Beck Brau CTO and CEO

What's one thing you're most excited about for this season?

I'm extremely excited for the whole process of build season, the 2 month process of brainstorming, prototyping, designing, fabricating and programming our robot. From the excitement of a new game to the obstacles and failures we face along the journey. I always feel more capable and resilient after each build season.

What is something you do in your spare time?

Outside of robotics, I love to rock climb, weightlift, code and hangout with my friends.

Business Leadership

The business sub-teams consist of Community Relations, Sponsor Relations, and Public Relations. Community Relations focuses on building connections within the local community through events and partnerships. Sponsor Relations works to maintain and grow relationships with current sponsors, secure new ones, and pursue grants to fund the team. Public Relations manages the team's image by handling social media, content creation, and advertising to boost visibility and engagement. Together, these teams ensure the team's success through strong community ties, financial support, and effective promotion.



Lark Tipton
Sponsor Relations Lead

What's one thing you're most excited about for this season?

I am really excited to meet new people and go to competitions.

What is something you do in your spare time?

I like to paint and go thrifting. I also like boxing and kickboxing.

If your sub-team had a mascot, what would it be?

I think maybe a squirrel! Squirrels are cute and resourceful so I think it fits with having to be sponsor relations.



Raven Van Hoy
Community Relations Lead

What's one thing you're most excited about for this season?

I'm super excited to try to carry our momentum forward from last year and make this season even better than the last. See you at champs!

What is something you do in your spare time?

I like to make digital art and go to the thrift store with friends.

If your sub-team had a mascot, what would it be?

Definitely Safety Sam, he's a big hit with all the kids at our outreach events!



James Christian
Public Relations Lead

What's one thing you're most excited about for this season?

Getting to be with the team more

What is something you do in your spare time?

Photography (shockin)

If your sub-team had a mascot, what would it be?

it would be a inch long dragon named paprika (already exists)

Technical Leadership

Technical sub-teams focus on different aspects of robot development: Special Projects builds the practice and scrimmage fields, Software programs the robots, Electrical handles wiring, and Mechanical constructs the robot's frame and mechanisms. The team works on three versions of the robot: V1 serves as a practice template, V2 is a more refined bot used for scrimmages and practice, and V3 is the competition-ready robot, built with the most detail and time. Each sub-team contributes to evolving the robot from initial testing to final competition performance.



Lyric Enger
Special Projects Lead

What's one thing you're most excited about for this season?

One thing I'm excited for this season is meeting new members but also I'm excited to see how my last competition will turn out.

What is something you do in your spare time?

I paint on vinyl records and sell them. I also skateboard a bit too.

If your sub-team had a mascot, what would it be?

I think it would be a really buff cougar (I know it's basic) but I think it kinda makes sense.



Syllis Sharp
Software Lead

What's one thing you're most excited about for this season?

I'm most excited for the game reveal.

What is something you do in your spare time?

I just started scale modeling.

If your sub-team had a mascot, what would it be?

This is just off the top of my head. Rubber duck with computer.



Keegan Walker
Mechanical Lead

What's one thing you're most excited about for this season?

Going to competition and seeing all of our work come together.

What is something you do in your spare time?

I play tennis, hang out with friends and play video games.

If your sub-team had a mascot, what would it be?

Something like a wrench or a nut and bolt.



Jaxson Tasca
Electrical Lead

What's one thing you're most excited about for this season?

Meeting new people

What is something you do in your spare time?

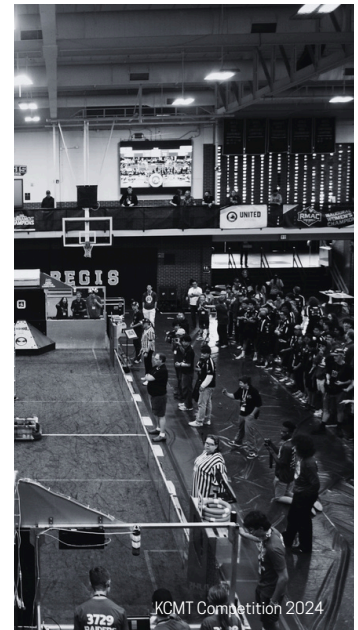
Listen to music

If your sub-team had a mascot, what would it be?

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What's Next?

As the robotics season kicks off in full swing, our team is buzzing with excitement for some of the most anticipated events of preseason — the annual Kendrick Castillo Memorial Tournament (KCMT) and the Homecoming Parade! We're also looking forward to our upcoming Team BBQ, a fun and meaningful team-building event designed to welcome our new members. It's a great opportunity for everyone to bond, learn more about the team, and of course — master the team dance! We're ready to give it our all at KCMT and make this competition season one to remember. Whether you're a returning member or new to the world of FRC, there's something for everyone to get excited about. To learn more about the Kendrick Castillo Memorial Tournament, the Homecoming Parade, and other upcoming events, check out the dates and links below.



Upcoming Events

- Kendrick Castillo Memorial Tournament (KCMT) - October 10 - 12, 2025
<https://coloradofirst.org/frc/kcmt/>
- Team BBQ
- Homecoming Parade - October 11, 2025 (10am - 1pm)

Check out the calendar on our website team2996.com for more upcoming events!