



CGW FRC TEAM 2996 NEWSLETTER

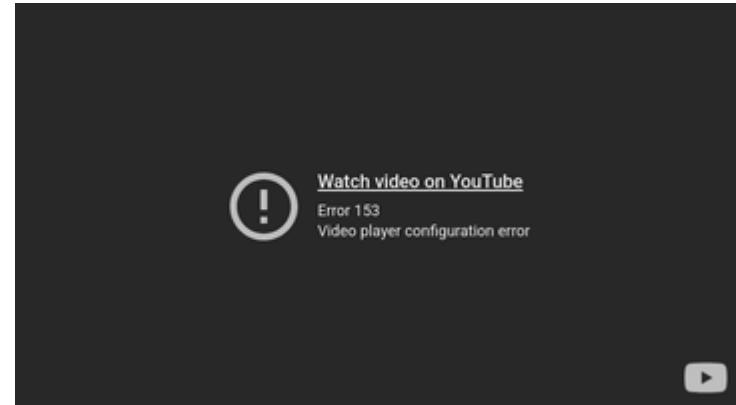
Off To The Races! | January 22, 2026

The 2026 season has officially begun! After a full day of strategic planning during kickoff, we've established clear goals and are already making great strides on the robot. Exciting things are on the horizon as we gear up for an incredible season!

Kickoff

Kickoff is always a chaotic day—everyone trying to understand the ins and outs of the game, learn new rules, and figure out how to balance team meetings with schoolwork. This year's game, REBUILT, challenges teams to re-imagine the past by scoring foam balls, called FUEL, into opponent hubs, navigating field obstacles like Bumps and Trenches, and climbing a multi-level Tower. The game draws inspiration from past competitions, focusing on themes of energy and reconstruction with mechanics reminiscent of older games such as Steamworks.

Our team's kickoff was a full day of pure strategy mode. We spent hours breaking down the game, throwing ideas on the table, debating priorities, and deciding how we want to play this season. It was intense, chaotic, and incredibly fun. By the end of the day, we walked away with a clearer vision, stronger teamwork, and a ton of excitement to start building and testing our ideas for another amazing season.



Correction from Last Month's Post

In last month's newsletter, there was an error regarding a gift received by the team. The issue stated that a mentor, Mr. Ott, donated a box of swerve drive modules. This was incorrect. The donation was made by the team's 501(c)(3) support organization, Friends of FRC2996. While Mr. Ott is a member of this organization, he did not personally buy the modules. We sincerely apologize for this misinformation and would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Friends of FRC2996. We are incredibly grateful for your continued support and never want anyone to the team to feel overlooked.



Business Subteam Activities

Community Relations: Community Relations has begun reaching out to the school and local community to promote the Pikes Peak Regional at Coronado High School. They have also scheduled several demos in the weeks leading up to the event to showcase the offseason bot, Peashooter.

Sponsor Relations: Sponsor Relations finalized official sponsor packages with tiered options and flexibility for non-monetary contributions and ongoing support.

Public Relations: Public Relations has been working actively to post on social media, produce the team's YouTube videos, and begun work on the team shirt design and layout.

NAWIC Meeting

On January 15th, we had the pleasure of hosting the local chapter of NAWIC (National Association of Women in Construction) for their annual meeting. NAWIC has been a steadfast supporter of our team, generously contributing both materials and financial support. After dinner and a brief presentation about our team and this year's design challenge, we gave the members a tour of our work areas, showcasing the impact their support has on our progress.

Build Season Week 1

This year's kickoff and strategy design went exceptionally well, resulting in a clear, consensus-driven goal for our robot. While we aim to design a robot capable of performing the most challenging functions, our team's technical experience and skills give us confidence to push our limits. Our technical team plans to have a functional first iteration of the robot—complete with working intake, storage, and shooting mechanisms—ready to drive on the field by January 24th.

Technical Subteam Activities

Special Projects: The Special Projects team has been working on prototypes for the hub and tower, with the bumps, trenches, and depot already completed.

Electrical: The Electrical team has been focused on getting the first robot (V1) operational, monitoring battery health, and taking inventory of motors.

Software: The Software subteam worked on giving our 2025 KCMT robot, Peashooter, the capability to automatically aim at the hub and score algae. This work is intended to create the skeleton code that will later be applied to the V1 robot to ensure it can score consistently.

Mechanical: The Mechanical team has been working on physically completing the first version of the robot, choosing to construct it mostly from wood to gain a rough understanding of how the robot will interact with game pieces. Additionally, they have started developing the second version (V2) of the robot in CAD (Computer-Aided Design).

Interested in Becoming a Sponsor or Donating?

Help Cougars Gone Wired give students hands-on STEM experience by sponsoring or donating! Every contribution supports robot materials, travel, competitions, and outreach, while giving your organization recognition on banners, team apparel, and at events.



Sponsorship Levels:

- **RED** – up to \$499: Banner & website recognition, end-of-season dinner invite
- **GOLD** – \$500–\$1,499: All RED benefits + team shirt recognition
- **PLATINUM** – \$1,500+: All GOLD benefits + large-format recognition, sticker on robot, and on-air competition shoutouts



Upcoming Events

- Parent Sponsor Dinner - February 25, 2026 (6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)
[Coronado Cafeteria, 1590 W Fillmore St. 80904](#)
- Pikes Peak Regional - March 5 - 8, 2026
- Denver Regional - April 8 - 11, 2026

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

Cougar Bloopers

Chaos—that's what build season looks like for Team 2996. This month's Cougar Bloopers showcases some of our wildest moments so far, all thanks to our amazing PR team. Packed with pure goofball energy, these clips remind us that while we give our all, we never forget to have fun along the way. So sit back, scroll on, and enjoy the chaos!



Poor Vincent



This is Derek...



Callum



software team shenanigans

