



CGW FRC TEAM 2996 NEWSLETTER

We Are Thankful For... | November 13, 2025

We are thankful for our parents, mentors, and sponsors, the incredible people who inspire, guide, and support us every step of the way. Your encouragement, generosity, and belief in us make everything we do possible. We truly wouldn't be here without you. Thank you for being our constant source of strength and motivation.

Mock Game

During mock game, technical teams collaborated to plan strategies for a mock robotics regional, based on the past *Rebound Rumble* game, with each subteam contributing to robot design, functionality, and game preparation to create a unified plan. The electrical team identified key components, developed integration plans, and established a battery management strategy for reliable power, while the mechanical team brainstormed, evaluated, and selected subsystem designs before combining them into one cohesive robot concept. Meanwhile, the software team set development priorities, identified essential sensors and cameras, and outlined detailed coding plans, and the special projects team focused on planning the field setup by selecting materials and creating construction plans for efficiency. Together, these efforts established a strong foundation for the team's robot development and competition readiness.

Mock Game Final Decisions

After several design iterations and discussions, the following design was finalized for the robot build:

1. 8-Wheel, Drop-Center Tank Drive
2. Slap-Down, Bumper-Break Intake
3. Tube Transfer and Storage System
4. Hooded Shooter
5. Robot Attacher / Climbing Mechanism



KCMT Scores and Rankings

Our team recently competed in the Kendrick Castillo Memorial Tournament (KCMT) in Denver—an off-season event where teams replay last season's FIRST Robotics Competition game. Teams from Colorado, Kansas, and Utah participated, and this year, we had the exciting opportunity to enter two robots instead of just one.

We brought our main competition robot, VEE-III, competing under our usual team number 2996. Alongside it, we entered a second robot, Peashooter, under the team number 9991. Peashooter was created as a student-led learning project focused on shooting the large ball into the high goal—a particularly challenging task in this game. While it wasn't designed to be a top competitor, it served as a fantastic hands-on opportunity for students to explore shooting mechanisms in preparation for future seasons.

Despite their different goals, both robots made a strong impact at the event:

- VEE-III was selected for the 3rd-seeded alliance and finished the tournament in 3rd place overall.
- Peashooter, to our surprise, was chosen as the backup robot for the 1st-seeded alliance. When one of their alliance partners broke down, Peashooter stepped in—and helped lead the alliance to victory, winning the entire KCMT event!

Thank You Families of 2996!

Thank you to all the parents and families for your continued support—we couldn't do this without you! From driving students to helping with meals, cheering us on, and everything in between, your involvement is a vital part of our success. We're so grateful for the time, energy, and encouragement you give to help make these experiences possible for our team.



KCMT 2025

Don't Forget Demos!

FIRST Robotics team Cougars Gone Wired brings high-energy robot demos to schools, community events, STEM nights, and more! Our student-led team designs, builds, and programs real competition robots — and we can't wait to share our passion with you.

Each demo features thrilling robot action, hands-on experiences, and fascinating insights into our team and the world of FIRST Robotics (FRC).

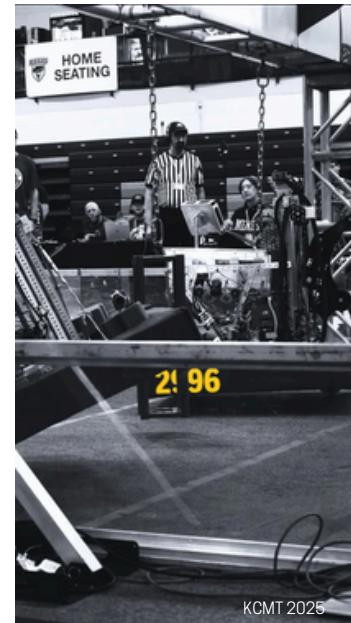
Contact us at cougars.gonewired@gmail.com

What's Next?

With Mock Game complete and kickoff fast approaching, the team is shifting its focus to preparation. We're gathering supplies and organizing the shop to ensure everything is ready for the start of our 2026 competition robot build. Meanwhile, our business subteams are hard at work strengthening community outreach and engagement within our school and local area. Excitement is building as we count down to kickoff—

5 **8** **DAYS TO KICKOFF**

We're off to enjoy some turkey and pumpkin pie, but we'll be back after Thanksgiving break—refreshed, recharged, and ready for more fun! Wishing you an amazing Thanksgiving full of laughter, love, family, friends, and lots of tasty leftovers!



Upcoming Events

- Harvest of Love (Volunteer Opportunity) - November 21, 2025 (3:10 pm - 5:00 pm)

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

Cougar Bloopers

Get ready to laugh! This month's Cougar Bloopers features some of our funniest pre-season moments, thanks to our awesome PR team. From silly team meeting mishaps to pure goofball energy, these moments prove that while we give it our all, we also know how to have a great time. Sit back, scroll on, and enjoy the real, unfiltered Cougar crew!

