



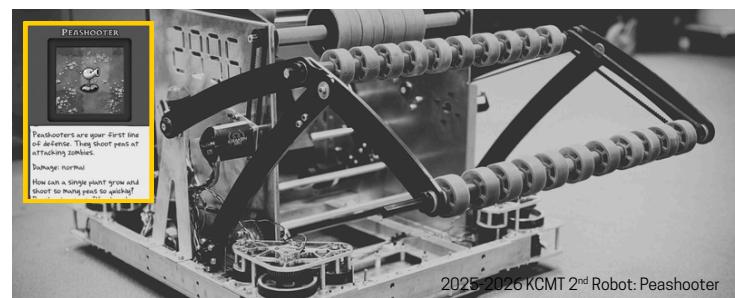
CGW FRC TEAM 2996 NEWSLETTER

Are You Ready? Preparing for KCMT | October 9, 2025

October is here, and we're busy getting ready for our off-season highlight: the Kendrick Castillo Memorial Tournament (KCMT for short). We're also looking forward to the Mock Game in November! Plus, don't forget to check out our brand-new section, Cougar Bloopers, on page 4!

Meet Our Second KCMT Robot: Peashooter!

Over past years, we've built an Off-Season robot to sharpen our design, manufacturing, and programming skills. These robots aren't meant to win regionals, but they're valuable learning tools, especially for new team members. This year's robot, nicknamed Peashooter, shoots 16" balls (called algae) and focuses on two mechanisms: a 4-bar linkage intake for compact storage and extended reach, and a variable-angle shooter for greater shot flexibility. This project also gives our software team experience with new logic and troubleshooting, while our drivers gain valuable practice under competition-like pressure. We use these opportunities to push our team's limits and refine our designs, ensuring we're better prepared for build season.



2025-2026 KCMT 2nd Robot: Peashooter

Driver tryouts and practice

On Saturday, October 4th, the team held a barbecue, driver practice, and tryouts. Having two robots means twice the opportunities for team members to get involved. Each drive team has four key roles: the driver who controls movement, the operator, handling intake/climbing, drive coach who guides the team, and human player who feeds game pieces onto the field. Tryouts provide an excellent chance for team members to showcase their skills and find their place in the competition.

Team Dance

The team dance is a tradition that has been a part of 2996 for years. It's so iconic that, during competitions, other teams often join in and perform it with us. The dance features a repeating pattern and chant, set to the beat of "We Like to Party" by the Vengaboys. We introduce new members to the dance during our team barbecue, making it a fun and memorable part of the welcome experience.

Schedule A Demo Today!

Cougars Gone Wired is now scheduling live robot demonstrations for schools, STEM nights, community events, festivals, and more! Our talented team of students designs, builds, and programs real competition robots — and we're excited to share the world of robotics with you.

Each demo includes:

- Live robot action
- Interactive, hands-on experiences
- STEM inspiration and behind-the-scenes insights into our team and FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC)

Whether you're planning an educational event or just want to wow your audience, Cougars Gone Wired will make it unforgettable.

Contact us at: cougars.gonewired@gmail.com



KCMT Video: by Public Relations

Be sure to keep an eye out for our upcoming KCMT video—we're working hard behind the scenes to bring you something truly special! While the official release date hasn't been announced just yet, trust us, it'll be well worth the wait. Make sure to follow us and stay tuned for updates—you won't want to miss this!



Mock Game

Every year, our team holds a “mock game,” where our head coach, Mr. McLean, presents a past FRC game as if it were a brand-new challenge. With this approach, we aim to approach the challenge with fresh eyes and without preconceived strategies. Once the game is revealed, we launch into a condensed three-day build season, designing an entirely new robot and developing a game strategy. This event is especially valuable for newer members, giving them a chance to experience what an FRC build season is really like without the high pressure of real competition. Although the competition is simulated, the lessons we learn and the collaboration we practice are very real—and they help set the tone for a successful season ahead.

What's Next?

Next month, we're gearing up for our annual mock game! This event is a key part of our preparation process, especially for new members, as it helps them get acclimated to the intensity and structure of build season. It's a fantastic way to dive right into the hands-on experience and start working as a team to face the challenges ahead.

And speaking of preparation... the countdown to kickoff is on! In anticipation of the FRC 2025-2026 season, we have a fun tradition: the day before kickoff, we gather to bake a cake that we'll bring along to share while watching the live stream. It's a small but meaningful way to celebrate the beginning of a new season and build excitement for what's to come.

The FRC 2025-2026 season kickoff, featuring the REBUILT™ game reveal, will take place on Saturday, January 10, 2026, at 12:00 PM ET. Don't forget to tune in to the official broadcast on the FIRST Robotics Competition YouTube Channel to catch the action!

Upcoming Events

- Kendrick Castillo Memorial Tournament (KCMT) - October 10 - 12, 2025
<https://coloradofirst.org/frc/kcmt/>
- Mock Game - November 4 - 6, 2025
- 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!

Welcome to Cougar Bloopers — Our Brand-New Behind-the-Scenes Feature!

Ever wonder what goes on when the cameras aren't rolling, or when things don't quite go as planned? Cougar Bloopers is here to give you a peek behind the curtain, showcasing the lighter, funnier, and sometimes chaotic side of our team.

In this month's edition, we're featuring a hilarious collection of off and pre-season moments captured by our Public Relations team. From unexpected mishaps at MAD Camp, to quirky moments during demos, and the everyday humor found in regular team meetings — nothing is off-limits.

These bloopers remind us that while we work hard, we also know how to laugh hard. So sit back, scroll through, and enjoy the slightly unfiltered side of Cougar life!

