
Pre-Kickoff Workshop

FIRST Robotics Competition



Rookie Workshop



Why are *you* here?

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Goals of This Workshop

- Understand the FIRST experience
- Understand what it takes to run a FIRST team
- Smooth the rough edges of starting a FIRST team
- What do the next 4 months look like

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The Meaning of FIRST

- *The Chairman's Award* represents the spirit of FIRST; it honors the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and which embodies the goals and purpose of FIRST.
- FRC is about the partnership among people who are part of the FIRST community and the impact on those who participate.
- The FIRST mission is dedicated to changing the way America's young people regard science and technology and to inspiring an appreciation for the real-life rewards and career opportunities in these fields.

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Who are Dean and Woodie?

- Dean Kamen - inventor and founder of FIRST
 - “where science and technology are celebrated”
- Woodie Flowers - MIT Mech Eng Prof and co-founder of FIRST
 - “you never have enough time”

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Gracious Professionalism

- If one team excels, everyone excels
- Win - win
- Coopetition
- At the competition “compete like crazy”
 - Parts, tools, help desk, knowledge
- Respect

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Team Organization

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The FIRST Team Mentor

- Facilitate
- Promote creative thought
- Mentor, be a listening ear
- Mediate among the group members
- Be aware of your effect on the team
- Organization, meetings, scheduling

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The FIRST Team Members

- Mechanical, electrical, programming, strategy, driving, advertising, promotion, fundraising, documenting, quality control, project management, leadership, awards, finance, safety

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Ed's Top Ten for Running a Team

1. Run It As A Company.
 - Meet your new part-time employer and employees. Treat it as such.
2. Organize Management Teams.
 - Major committees: Steering, Building, Fundraising, Advertising, Promotion, Awards and most importantly a Finance Committee.
3. Develop Fund-raising Strategies.
 - Agree as how fundraising money is to be divided among participants.

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Ed's Top Ten for Running a Team

4. Teach/Allow Students To Manage/Organize Activities.
 - EVERYBODY must contribute.
 - Allow students to have a voice on critical committees/activities. It is "their" team.
5. Develop A Philosophy With A Mission Statement, Goals And Objectives.
 - Makes your "team" professional.

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Ed's Top Ten for Running a Team

6. Take The Policies You've Developed And Build A "Procedural Handbook".
 - Keeps rules, decisions and procedures on paper. Makes them clear and creates fairness among all involved.
7. Develop A Schedule And Try To Stick To It.
 - i.e. End of week one: design complete. Base rolling around the floor.
 - End of week five: robot complete. Testing/debugging.

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Ed's Top Ten for Running a Team

8. Websites - www.chiefdelphi.com & www.firstnemo.org
 - Great information on the whole process.
9. Go To Local Events.
 - You've spent a lot of time, effort and money just to use a robot once?
10. Keep Your Cool. Be Rational. Have Fun!

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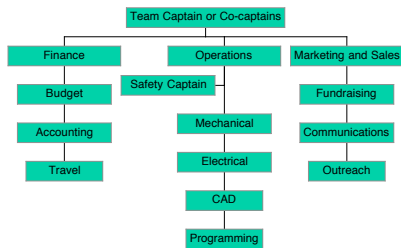
Responsibilities on a Team

Strategy	Fundraising
Awards	Documenting
Mechanical	Quality Control
Electrical	Project Management
Programming	Leadership
Driving	Finance
Advertising	Safety
Promotion	

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Create Team Organization



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Team Budget

- Competition entry fees
- Travel, lodging & food
- Robot supplies/parts/manufacture
- T-shirts/giveaways
- Office supplies

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Team Facilities

- Shop
- Machine shop
- War room
- Sub-team meeting rooms
- Practice area

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The Competition Season

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Kickoff - Saturday, 1/5/08

- Workshops on Saturday, 12/8/07
- Satellite Broadcast from NH
- Great Hall, Coffman Union, U of MN
- Look at critical elements of field
- Pickup Kit of Parts (KOP)
 - Typically 3 bins

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Build Season

- Understand game
- Set strategy and expectations
- Build robot, crate, cart, field elements
- Reset expectations
- 6 weeks - details to follow

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Awards

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Chairman's Award | • Rockwell Automation
Innovation in Control |
| • Chrysler Team Spirit | • Rookie All Star |
| • Delphi "Driving Tomorrow's
Technology | • Rookie Inspiration |
| • GM Industrial Design | • UL Industrial Safety |
| • Highest Rookie Seed | • Website |
| • Imagery | • Woodie Flowers |
| • J & J Gracious Professionalism | • Xerox Creativity |
| • Judges Award | • Kleiner Perkins Caufield &
Byers Entrepreneurship |
| • Motorola Quality | • Winner/Finalist |
| • Autodesk Visualization | |

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Regional Competition

- Timeline
 - Thursday - uncrate, setup pits, practice
 - Friday - preliminary competitions, judging
 - Saturday - add'l prelims & judging, playoffs, awards, pack up
- Alliances and scoring
- Giveaways (typically buttons), teams' awards

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Championship

- Georgia Dome in Atlanta, 4/17-19
- 340 teams, 4 fields
- Dignitaries
- Party in Centennial Olympic Park

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