



CGW FRC TEAM 2996 NEWSLETTER

Happy Holidays from Team 2996! | December 13, 2025

December was a festive month for our team, featuring Secret Santa and a holiday party with treats, gifts, and a creative snow-day workaround. Colorado Springs celebrated too with the Christkindlmarket and Festival of Lights Parade. We're heading into winter break refreshed and ready for the new year. Happy Holidays!

Secret Santa

Secret Santa and our end-of-year holiday party are cherished traditions for our team. During the final two meetings of the year, both held in December, members fill out cards and exchange gifts anonymously. This year, a snow day disrupted our original plans, so we improvised and coordinated the gift exchange through Discord—and it worked out wonderfully.

At our last meeting of the year, team members bring snacks and sweets, and we open our Secret Santa gifts together while enjoying the treats. This year's spread included an assortment of cookies, mini donuts, a pie, and a carrot cake—most of which were quickly devoured by our very hungry members.

Our awesome mentor, Mr. Ott, surprised us with a Christmas gift! At the end of the meeting, just as everyone was collecting their Secret Santa presents, a whole box of Swerve Drives appeared on the table. It wasn't much of a secret, but the entire team is incredibly grateful for his generous gesture.



In the Community

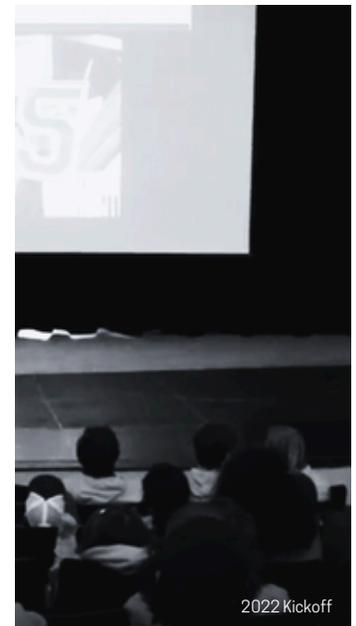
Throughout December, the Colorado Springs community comes alive with an array of winter festivities and cherished holiday traditions. In historic Old Colorado City, the annual Christkindlmarket delights visitors with local artisans, festive food vendors, and an array of handcrafted gifts. At the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, families can enjoy an enchanting nighttime experience as the grounds are illuminated by thousands of shimmering lights and immersive displays. Adding to the seasonal cheer, the beloved Festival of Lights Parade transforms downtown Colorado Springs with elaborately decorated floats, lively musical performances, and spirited community groups. Together, these events invite residents and visitors alike to embrace the magic of the season and create lasting holiday memories.



Kickoff is Coming Up!

The FRC 2025–2026 season kickoff—featuring the reveal of the REBUILT™ game—will take place on Saturday, January 10, 2026, at 12:00 PM ET. Be sure to tune in to the official FIRST Robotics Competition YouTube channel to catch all the action!

The day before kickoff, we'll hold our annual cake party, where the team comes together to bake a cake that we bring along to enjoy during the live stream. It's a small tradition, but a meaningful one—an opportunity to celebrate the start of a new season and build excitement for what lies ahead.



What's Next?

With our final meeting of the year wrapped up, the team is heading into a well-deserved winter break before the excitement of Kickoff! When we return in January, we'll dive straight into analyzing the new game, refining our strategies, and kicking off the build process. Wishing everyone a joyful and relaxing holiday season filled with laughter, good company, and perhaps a little fun competition of your own!

28 DAYS TO KICKOFF

And don't forget—mark your calendars and tune into the Kickoff broadcast on January 10th to catch all the latest updates and excitement as the season officially begins. Happy Holidays and see you in the New Year!



Upcoming Events

- Kickoff Broadcast - January 10, 2026 (12:00 p.m. EST)
- 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

Ever wonder what happens when the cameras stop rolling or when things don't go quite as planned? Cougar Bloopers pulls back the curtain to reveal the lighter, funnier—and sometimes chaotic—side of our team.

In this month's edition, we're sharing a exciting collection of moments from our final meeting of the year, captured by our Public Relations team. These bloopers are a reminder that while we work hard, we're just as good at laughing together. So sit back, scroll through, and enjoy this slightly unfiltered glimpse into Cougar life!

