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Executive Summary

Cougars Gone Wired Mission Statement

FRC Team 2996 strives to give students a platform to engage in STEM by providing students with equal opportunities to participate and engage in our programs, such as our main FRC team or our MAD Summer Camp. By doing this, we can inspire not only our team members but younger students to pursue careers in STEM.

This season, our team members have created the motto: *Build. Break. Innovate.* This motto represents our team's ambitions in prototyping and building, showing that if we see something that can be made better, we make it better.

We also want to show gracious professionalism, not only at our FIRST competitions, but in our school and community as well. We aim to make every student feel welcome and strive to help other teams in our area. This is one of the reasons why we host an annual scrimmage. This gives other teams in our state a chance to practice on a full size field with other teams, giving them a chance to prepare for the upcoming FIRST competitions.

Team Origin

Our team originally formed thirteen years ago when our head coach, Bryce McLean, wanted to provide a competitive outlet to engineering students so that they could showcase their skills outside of school. These skills include students' drive for engineering and their ambition for programming. That year, our team had 34 excited and dedicated members meeting at Coronado High School in Colorado Springs, Colorado; with just these members, our team made it to the International Championships in St. Louis, Missouri. Since then, our group has grown and developed. We have gone to 32 events, eight of those being world championship competitions. What began as a cadre building a single robot for one competition evolved into a team building two robots, going to two regionals, and hosting an annual scrimmage for teams in Colorado every year.

Our skills have also evolved over the years: in our first year, our robot could not do much more than drive; our latest robot, Oscar, was able to climb, drive, intake power cells, and shoot them into a high goal. We build our own chassis and contrive our own strategy for creating robots every year. In addition, we designed an app for our scouting subteam, which allows us to easily process information about other teams at regionals to ensure we work with great alliances and have the best strategies.

The business side of our team is also very strong, which is why our team started to moderate an annual Business Exchange in 2017. This exchange is an hour-long open forum where all FIRST Teams have gotten the opportunity to collaborate and help each other in areas where they may have struggled originally. Some topics discussed included fundraising, outreach, management, sponsorship, team structure, and awards, providing well-rounded business insights for even the weakest business-sided teams.



The Original Cougars Gone Wired - 2009

Relationships

When the fall semester comes around, Team 2996 hosts an annual barbecue at our high school. This is our way of inviting students with a variety of experience levels to learn about our team. This event also greatly strengthens the bonds within our team.



Towards the end of the first semester, the entire team participates in a three day "Mock Game". This simulation of the first week of build season prepares everyone for kick-off. Our mentors release a past game for which we need to decide on a strategy and a thorough robot design. This requires the team to collaborate and learn how to work together during build season.



Mentor Relations

Currently CGW has sixteen mentors, many of whom are engineers, industry professionals, business owners, and educators. Many join our team through connections, and they develop a strong bond with our members. Every year they assist our members by sharing experience. They push us to work hard and think deeply, ensuring we work to the best of our potential.



Sponsor Relations

Sponsorships are acquired through demonstrations and company presentations. We always treat our sponsors equally and with respect, causing them to continuously support our team every year. The team's gratitude is acknowledged through advertisements on team shirts, robots, and our statewide scrimmage. The Pikes Peak Chapter 356 of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) has been a dedicated sponsor for many years. Their first meeting is held at Coronado; we present the improvements we made that year to them. They have taken our students under their wing and helped and encouraged us time and time again.

With some sponsors, like the charity organization B.P.O. Elks Lodge 309, relationships surpass just donations. Along with being generous donors for several years, they allow the team to host a fundraiser dinner at their facility. In return, Team 2996 volunteers help them with grounds maintenance, charity events, and party preparations, creating a sense of community beyond the borders of the team and school.



BPO Elks 309
Colorado Springs, CO



Pikes Peak



LOCKHEED MARTIN



HARDWARE SPECIALTY



Deployment of Resources

Our goal every year is to try to make STEM, FIRST, and Cougars Gone Wired household names. This is accomplished by engaging the community, our team, and potential future team members. This engagement is achieved during off season by traveling to different events around the city of Colorado Springs and surrounding areas. Some of these events include Cool Science at UCCS, Dinosaur Museum in Woodland Park, and different activities in elementary schools working with kids. At these events, the team holds “hands-on” demonstrations with past years’ robots.

CGW ensures all team members get the most of their FIRST experience by having a multiple subteam structure. The team’s large student and mentor base allows for students to participate in various projects throughout the year. During the summer the business subteams are busy planning community events and fundraising, while the technical teams focus on all things robot during build season. During competition, students on the scouting subteam learn from other teams to discover ways to improve and grow the team.

Risk Analysis

Strengths

Student Led: Our team's biggest strength is being student driven. Students run our brainstorming sessions and do the most work on our robots while VPs do most of the leadership. Our mentors are certainly helpful, but they are mostly here for guidance.

Team Bonding: The members of our team have great bonds. Our connections form during pre-season and strengthen as the season goes on, causing us to work together and grow to truly care for one another. We think of each other as family. All of this means that we are willing to go above and beyond for each other.

Team Spirit: Our team has amazing spirit; everyone is happy to be part of the team and they are not ashamed of showing it. Our students arrive at competitions decked out in spiritwear and are often the loudest section in the stands. Plus, we have our own dance that other teams learn so they can perform it with us at competitions.

Weaknesses

Inexperience: We as a team have lost a lot of experience in the past couple of years due to COVID-19. Only our seniors have actual regional experience, and our juniors solely have participated in build season, making it difficult to complete complex tasks, setting us back a small amount.

Participation: Some of our members don't participate as much as others, meaning sometimes, only our seniors and juniors will be working on a project. Part of this is lack of effort but another part is lack of outreach from VPs and experienced members.

Communication: Sometimes our VPs do not communicate their goals clearly to one another, which causes delays on systems and projects that could be crucial to a certain subteam. These issues could cause us to rush through projects toward the end of our season.

Opportunities

Establishing Teaching Methods: Our VPs are all working on creating and mastering teaching methods so they can instruct younger members. This not only solves our inexperience problem, but it also ensures we don't have undertrained VPs in future years.

Reaching Out To All Members: VPs could keep track of all current projects and reach out to students that they see are not doing anything. This way there would be nobody sitting around and doing nothing.

Instating a VP Communication Platform: We can create something our VPs could use to communicate with each other to ensure everyone knows how other subteams are working. This way no poor communication would occur and projects would get done in a timely manner.

Threats

COVID-19: A big risk to our team right now is COVID-19. If anything gets shut down we get set back a great amount.

Lost Experience: We are losing a lot of experienced members to graduation this year. If our VPs don't train younger members, we could suffer the consequences of inexperience next season.

Over-Ambition: Sometimes we take on projects that we think we can do, while we might not have the technical strengths necessary. This also sets us back.

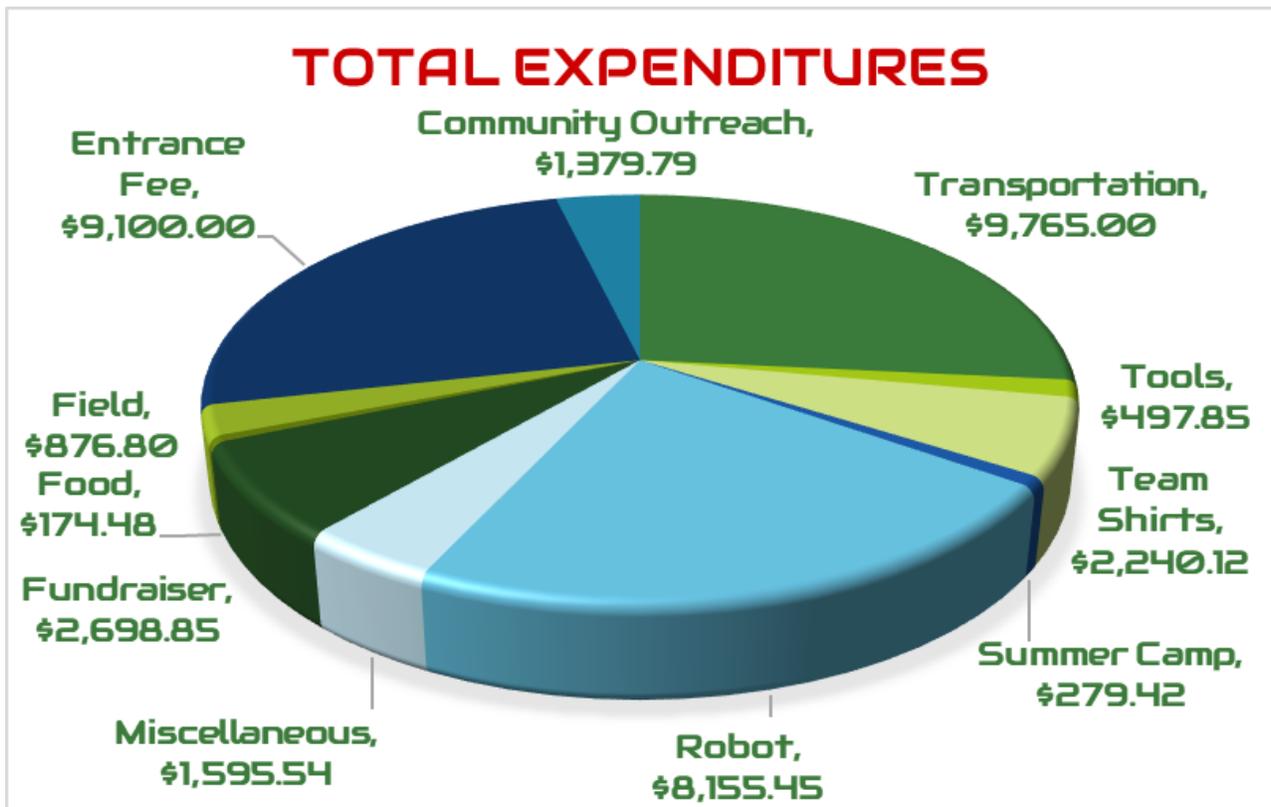
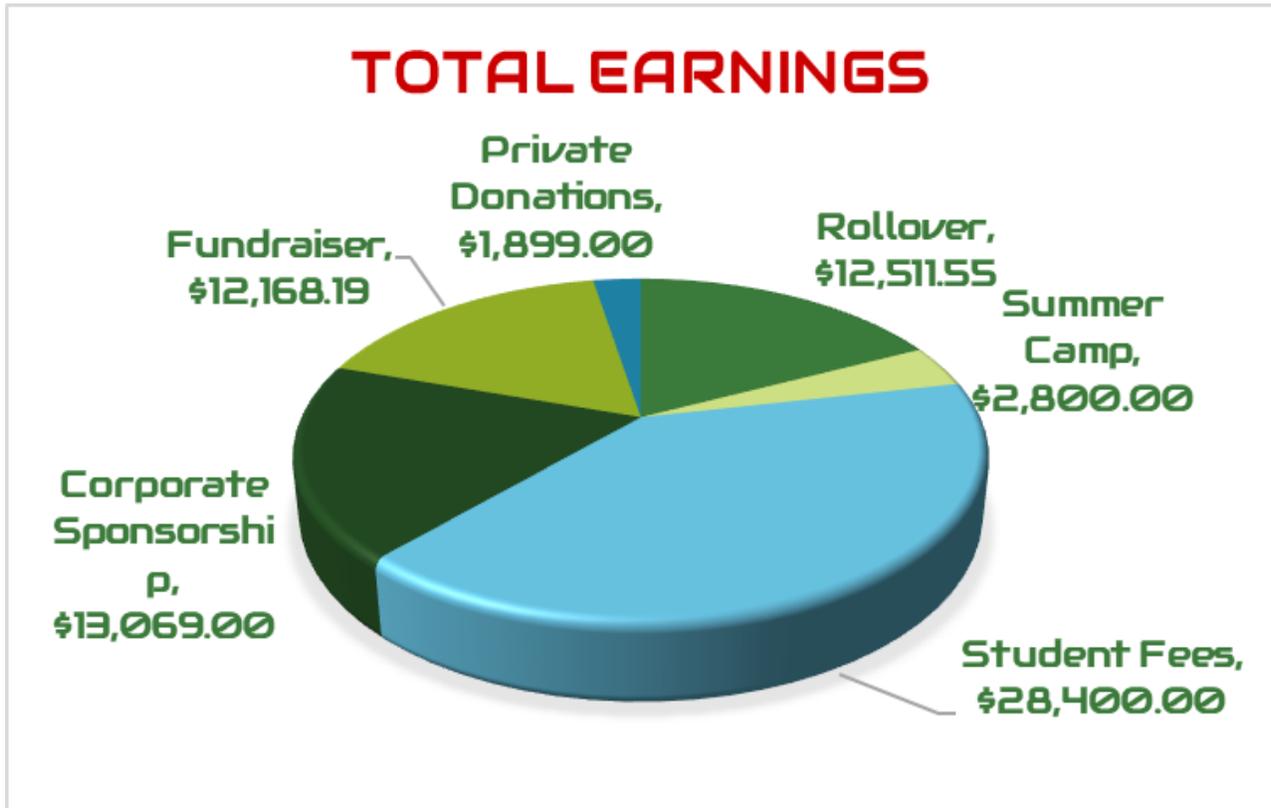
S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Student Led ➤ Team Bonding ➤ Team Spirit ➤ Willingness to go Above and Beyond
W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inexperience ➤ Lack of Participation ➤ Controlling Project Leaders ➤ Communication
O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Establishing Teaching Methods ➤ Reaching Out To All Members ➤ Facilitating Better VP Communication ➤ Competitions
T	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Losing knowledge ➤ Graduating Seniors (7/13 leadership) ➤ COVID-19 ➤ Over-Ambition

Risk Mitigation

Our team struggles with experience; we have only a small percentage of members who have experienced a robotics season before. Because of this, our team needs a better plan for training members, which is why we are having our VPs meet with their subteams so they can instruct everyone on how to complete different projects on the team. This really helps younger members help out more around the group, and it leads to us getting things done even faster than we have in previous years

Financial Statement

We used last year's total team numbers so we could show you a full year of CGW's finances, as our season doesn't stop until the school year ends.



The Team - Team History



2021 - At Home Challenges : Oscar & Meyer

This year was like no other. With COVID-19 continuing to keep events on lockdown, FIRST released the At Home Challenges. These gave our team a choice in what we wanted to participate in. Our team chose to attempt all challenges, splitting our team into new subteams. We were a top 20 finisher in the Game Design challenge with our game Biodome Blitz. We also were successful in our other two challenges.

2020 - Infinite Recharge: Oscar & Meyer

This year FIRST launched Infinite Recharge, a game sponsored by Disney and Star Wars. This build season proved challenging when multiple days without access to our CAD files due to network outages delayed our robot from being assembled on time. When we did get our parts, we were geared and ready to go to the Denver Regional and the Idaho Regional, but unfortunately we were never able to go due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2019 - Destination: Deep Space: Scoop

This year FIRST launched Deep Space for the 50th anniversary of landing on the moon. We competed at the Oklahoma and the Colorado Regionals. Our challenge was that our CAD was turned in late which meant that the robot would've taken longer to fabricate and the team to receive the parts for the robot. At the Oklahoma regional we were ranked number five. Cougars gone wired was picked to be the captain of alliance five. We did an amazing job at the regional and the team made it to the quarterfinals. We won the team spirit award at the Oklahoma Regional.

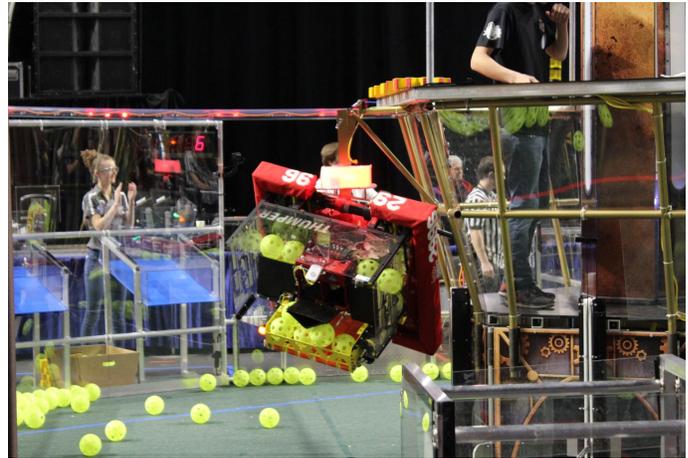


2018 - Power Up: Rocky

This year was extremely successful for the team. Although we didn't make it to world championships, we did great in competition and were competing with world class teams that went on to win globally. Our biggest challenge this year involved batteries. Team 118 was more than willing to help us and we were given the opportunity to continue competing as they let us use their batteries during matches. This was amazing for our team and we were incredibly grateful for their generosity. At the Salt Lake City Regional we were picked for the number two alliance and made it to the Semifinals. In Denver, we were team captains of the number three alliance and fought for the winning title but fell short. We learned a lot from this year. Our robot design was outstanding for the game and we were able to see we have the potential to be a top team.

2017 - Steamworks: Thumper

FIRST launched Steamworks with a new challenge - human players competing on the field. Our team members were excited to see how this game would play out. During build season, things didn't go as planned and the parts from Vertec were delayed. Not having any parts, the team decided to modify the schedule. CGW took two days to rest then extended the weekday schedule by one hour; instead of meeting for three hours every night, they met for four. Once the parts were in and Thumper was assembled, the team competed



at both the Utah and Colorado Regionals. CGW ended the season with the Engineering Inspiration, Safety, and Creativity Awards. Just like the year prior, the Engineering Inspiration gave the team the extra push it needed to get to Champions.



2016 - Stronghold: Underscore

Bryce McLean returned as head coach, starting the season off with a feeling of optimism. However, a week of school cancellations created scheduling challenges. These challenges did not slow the team down and they were able to build a powerful robot. CGW attended a first year regional in Flagstaff, Arizona. This allowed the team to change their routine and connect with new teams. CGW

won the Engineering Inspiration award at their

home regional in Denver, which carried them to Championships in the Carson division.

2015 - Recycle Rush: Gunther

Due to the change in head coach and loss of a long-term mentor, the team faced difficulty entering the 2015 season. The team persevered and ranked 4th at the Utah Regional and won the Engineering Inspiration Award, guaranteeing them a spot in championships. At the Colorado Regional the team ranked 12th and won the Quality Award. At championships, the team was in the Curie division once more and seeded 52nd.



2014 - Aerial Assist: Kirby

The team was incredibly successful as it was named both Regional Chairman's Award winner and Regional Winner at the Utah Regional, even though it was only intended as a practice regional. These achievements lead to a fun and enthusiastic second regional. CGW won the Colorado Regional Spirit Award and was ranked eighth in the Curie division at the Championship competition. We eventually finished the season in 24th place.

2013 - Ultimate Ascent: Sebastian

CGW made it to the Semi-Finals at the Kansas City Regional and received the Imagery Award. At the Colorado Regional, the team won the Regional Chairman's Award, made it to the finals and was chosen as the Colorado Wildcard. At the Championship competition, CGW made it further than any other Colorado team had before: the team made it to the semifinals in the Curie Division. The team was unable to continue competing due to a Jaguar failure mid-match.



Going into its fourth season, CGW adopted a new plan from another FRC team: two identical robots, both built within the six week build season. The first robot was “bagged and tagged” and the second stayed behind. This gave the team extra time for driver practice, testing programs, resolving robot issues, and making improvements. This led to CGW victory at the Colorado Regional as head of the top seeded alliance with teams 399 and 3807. The team then proceeded to the Archimedes Division at the World Championships, at which the team's CEO, Jasmine Kemble, was chosen as a Dean's List Winner.

2012 - Rebound Rumble: RDR



2011 - Logo Motion: Grab 'n' Go

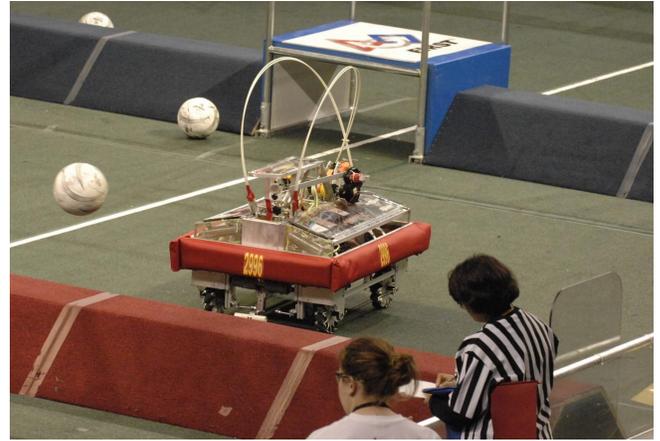
One of the most successful seasons to date was in 2011 with the game Logo Motion. CGW won the Entrepreneurship Award for the second year in a row and made it to the semi-finals in the Kansas City Regional. The Colorado Regional also yielded the Woodie Flowers Regional Award to the team's “Big Kahuna”, Mr. Bryce McLean. A FIRST Dean's List Finalist Award was



presented to Scott Von Thun at this regional. The team continued to the Championship competition with the acquisition of the Colorado Regional Chairman's award. Cougars Gone Wired made it to the seventh seed in the Curie Division at the Championship competition in St. Louis, Missouri.

2010 - Breakaway: Sparky

Inspired by the previous year's success, CGW went into the 2010 Breakaway season aspiring to build a robot capable of competitively playing the game. The team chose to increase their level of competition by participating in multiple regionals. The Kansas City Regional was used to make significant improvements in preparation for the Colorado Regional. In Denver, the team made it to the semi-finals. The team was also awarded the Entrepreneurship, Industrial Safety, and Autodesk Excellence in Design awards.



2009 - Lunacy: Dozer

Given the complexity of building a robot and the team's inexperience, the robot for 2009 Lunacy was built to be what the team jokingly called "Dozer" as it was not able to do much more than push other robots around. Cougars Gone Wired (CGW) experienced little competitive success on the first day of the Colorado Regional but was re-energized after receiving the Website and Animation awards. The team returned with the intent to enjoy the rest of the time at competition as it was clear Dozer would seed high enough to join in the elimination rounds. However, thanks to the kindness of the first seeded teams (FIRST Team 399 and FIRST Team 1332) CGW not only participated in the elimination rounds, but was part of the winning alliance. CGW received the Rookie All-Star Award and



got to compete in the Newton Division of the Championship competition in Atlanta, Georgia.

Awards History



Kendrick Castillo
Invitational Finalist

2021

2020

N/A



Colorado Regional Quality Award
Colorado Regional Safety Award
Oklahoma Regional Team Spirit Award
Kendrick Castillo Invitational Winners

2019

2018

Utah Regional Imagery Award
Colorado Regional Spirit Award

FIRST Dean's List Finalist
Madison Rutherford

Utah Regional Creativity Award

Colorado Regional Safety Award

Colorado Regional Engineering Inspiration Award

2017

2016

FIRST Dean's List Finalist, Ryan Kight

Colorado Regional Engineering Inspiration Award

Utah Regional Engineering Inspiration

Colorado Regional Quality Award

2015

2014

Utah Regional Chairman's Award
Utah Regional Winners
Colorado Regional Spirit Award

Colorado Regional Chairman's Award

Colorado Regional Finalists

Kansas City Regional Imagery Award

2013



2012

FIRST Dean's List Recipient
Jasmine Kemble

Colorado Regional Woodie Flower Mentor Award
Mr. David Murphy

Colorado Regional Winners

Colorado Regional Entrepreneurship Award

Kansas City Regional Spirit Award



Colorado Regional Chairman's Award

Kansas City Regional Website Award

Colorado Regional Woodie Flower Mentor Award, Mr. Bryce McLean

Colorado Regional Dean's List Finalist, Scott Von Thun

2011

2010

Colorado Regional Industrial Safety Award

Colorado Regional Entrepreneurship Award

Colorado Regional Excellence in Design Animation Award

Colorado Regional Website Award

Colorado Regional Highest Rookie Seed

Colorado Regional Rookie All-Star Award

Colorado Regional Winners

Colorado Regional Autodesk Visualization Award

2009

Tracking Growth

Cougars Gone Wired has taken the time throughout the past ten years to celebrate successes, learn from mistakes, and expand our team's awareness throughout the community.

Cougar Gone Wired started eleven years ago and has grown in many ways. Throughout the years we have increased from one robot to building two. We increased our community service hours as well as collaborating with different levels of FIRST.

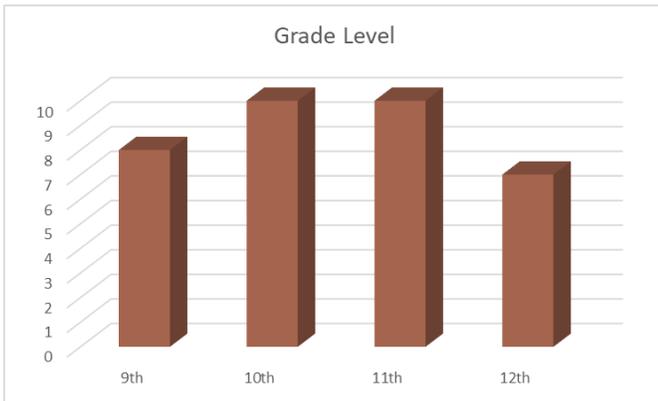
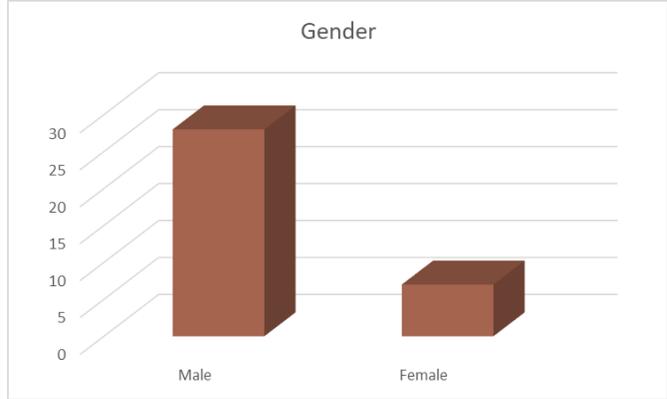
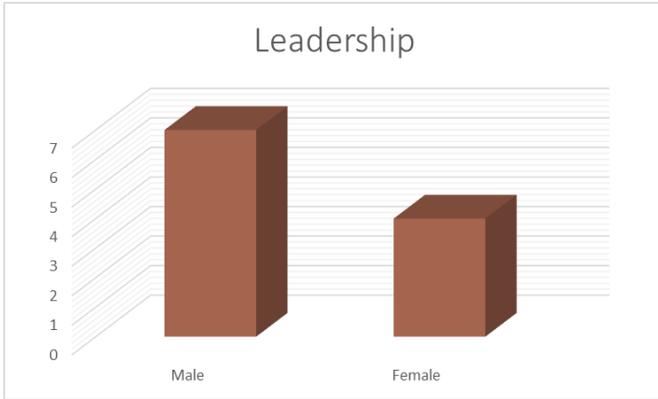
In our fourth year, we started our annual scrimmage. We wanted to give teams the access to a full scale field for testing their robots before bag-&-tag. CGW strives to grow the event by increasing the attendance and improving the overall efficiency and organization. This competition quality field is the only of its kind in Colorado.

In our eighth year, we started the business exchange. We wanted to give all teams a chance to discuss different business strategies. We hold it at both regionals that we attend. It is an open forum that is open to any team that wants to attend. This exchange allows teams to trade ideas, learn from one another, and build off of the innovations of other teams.

Over the past eleven years, Cougars Gone Wired had a large impact on kids getting involved in STEM and the FIRST programs. This is the result of recruitment efforts from our various community events such as Cool Science and the What If? Festival, and outreach demonstrations. The team has also increased FIRST involvement by reaching out to elementary and middle schools starting seven FLL Jr. teams across three schools.

In 2016, our team began holding our MAD (Making A Difference) Summer Camp for incoming seventh to ninth graders. This week-long summer camp allows younger students to learn about the engineering process while building and programming their own VEX robots.

Demographics



Organizational Structure

Cougars Gone Wired is structured like a business. We have a CEO and a CFO, as well as a number of student leaders called VPs. These leaders are tasked with taking on the responsibility of teaching the members in their subteams so they can complete tasks as a whole group. Each student has a job and our coaches and mentors are strictly there to provide guidance and encourage us to think outside of the box, while the student's take charge.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

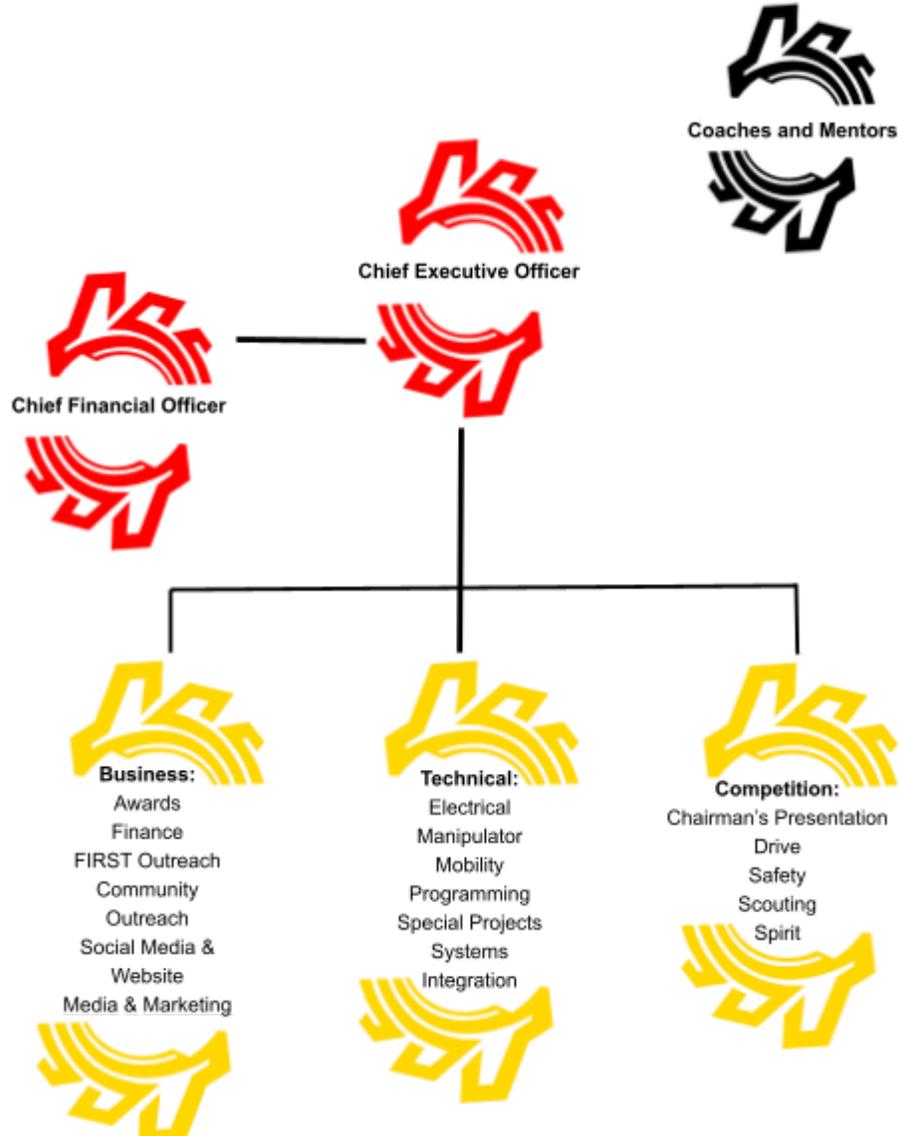
The CEO oversees the overall progress of the team. Much like the VPs, they make sure the team's deadlines are met. They are also the main spokesperson for community events and sponsor presentations.

Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

The CFO is also the Finance VP. Responsibilities include finding potential sponsors, keeping relationships with existing ones, organizing presentations, and fundraising. They are also tasked with completing the business plan every year.

Coaches and Mentors

Coaches and mentors provide guidance and supervision to the team. They consist of engineers, industry professionals, business owners, and teachers. Mentors advise the team through the design, fabrication and construction of the robot. Our mentors assist the students but let us make all of our driving decisions.



Student Leadership

The FIRST experience inspires learning and growth as a team and as a business; encouragement of student enthusiasm for STEM always remains the highest priority. Cougars Gone Wired maintains a strict “student-led and mentor-guided” operation. This policy has paved the way for a meaningful experience for our students and strong relationships between our students and mentors.

Leadership Positions and Requirements

Subteams are led by VPs who are responsible for ensuring that goals are executed well and on time. They are required to exemplify good role-model characteristics, participate in all team activities, attend at least 85% of team events, and be present for weekly VP meetings.

To obtain leadership positions, students must go through an application process similar to that of a job interview. This includes the submission of a high school transcript, resume, and cover letter. That is followed by individual interviews conducted by a panel of the team’s mentors who then decide who is best for each position.

Business leadership is selected in the spring to maintain community and STEM involvement throughout the summer. Technical leadership is selected in the fall to provide VPs with adequate time to train their subteams and prepare for build season.



Business Subteams

Awards

The Awards subteam applies for and submits all the awards for our team, mainly focussing on the Woodie Flowers Award and the Chairman's Award throughout our build season. They create the Chairman's Video along with Media and Marketing, as well as writing all of the essays, ensuring we impress the judges at competition.

Community Outreach

The Community Outreach subteam organizes all of our demonstrations, projects, and presentations within our community. The subteam keeps track of all these events to make sure we document them correctly. They also put together everything we need to bring to these events.

Finance

The Finance subteam is led by the Chief Financial Officer (CFO). They organize fundraisers, maintain sponsor relationships, write the Business Plan and prepare the Entrepreneurship Award. The Finance Subteam organizes the sponsor presentation team and keeps information on current sponsors up-to-date.

Media & Marketing

The Media & Marketing subteam mainly focuses on maintaining our YouTube channel as well as designing and creating all of our promotions and merchandise. During pre season they brainstorm different design ideas for stickers and pins, then during build season they make those designs real. They also post weekly updates of our build season on our channel as well as designing our team shirts every year.

Social Media & Website

The Social Media and Website subteam is in charge of posting and updating the team's social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Snapchat, Instagram) for students, sponsors, parents, other FIRST teams, and the community. They also maintain and improve the team's website, using Adobe Dreamweaver with html code.

Business Subteams

Marketing and Media



Ethan Van Caster

- ✈ Andrew S.
- ✈ Kellen SS.
- ✈ Henry S.
- ✈ Carter H.
- ✈ Christian M.
- ✈ Trevor J.
- ✈ Joseph P.
- ✈ Lilly C.
- ✈ Ethan MG.
- ✈ Caleb M.

Website and Social Media



Vivian Aldinger

- ✈ Josh L.
- ✈ Bryden D.
- ✈ Dawson L.
- ✈ Taisei O.
- ✈ Thomas D.
- ✈ Jeremiah D.
- ✈ Caleb H.

CEO and Awards



Emma Hitt

- ✈ Riley B.
- ✈ Dylan R.
- ✈ Ben S.
- ✈ Judd B.
- ✈ Cooper V.
- ✈ Deric G.
- ✈ William R.
- ✈ Byron S.
- ✈ Jackson K.

CFO



Evan Reeves

- ✈ Aimee W.
- ✈ Jasmine C.
- ✈ Megan M.
- ✈ Julia T.

Community Outreach



Veronica Wilson

- ✈ Asha H.
- ✈ Callum F.
- ✈ Dakota V.
- ✈ Zac T.
- ✈ Kate D.
- ✈ Torin K.
- ✈ Ephraim L.

Technical Subteams

Electronics

The Electronics subteam designs the electronics board, wires the robot, and manages the pneumatics and batteries throughout build season and competition. They assure that all the electronic components are safe and can support the load of the motors, sensors, and actuators.



Manipulator

The Manipulator subteam designs the part of the robot that interacts with the field. They design the mechanism that handles and scores the game piece, ensuring we can always play according to our strategy.

Mobility

The Mobility subteam is in charge of making our robot move. They design and fabricate their own chassis and drive base every year according to the game. They also deal with climbing when necessary.





Programming

The Programming subteam is in charge of making our robot move around. They create all of the code for our intake, outtake, and drive base. They also program the fifteen second autonomous period at the beginning of the game.

Special Projects

The Special Projects subteam works creating a full size field based on the real measurements from FIRST. Our whole team then uses this wooden field to host our annual scrimmage, as well as to provide a practice field to teams at the Denver Regional.



Systems Integration

The Systems Integration subteam ensures that all the separate systems from different technical subteams are incorporated into a single robot by creating a 3D model on Fusion. The design is then sent to our sponsor Vertec, who fabricates the sheet metal needed to build our robot.

Technical Subteams

CEO



Emma Hitt

Manipulator



Dylan Reeck

- Asha H.
- Andrew S.
- Kellen SS.
- Ethan VC.
- Torin K.
- Thomas D.
- Callum F.

Mobility



Trevor Johnson

- Aimee W.
- Henry S.
- Megan M.
- Lilly C.

Systems Integration



William Roeder

- Deric G.
- Jackson K.
- Carter H.
- Judd B.
- Cooper V.

Electronics



Byron Sharman

- Dakota V.
- Christian M.
- Caleb H.

Programming



Josh Langley

- Bryden D.
- Dawson L.
- Ben S.
- Vivian A.
- Jeremiah D.
- Ethan MG.
- Riley B.
- Taisei O.

Special Projects



Kate Davis

- Ephraim L.
- Zac T.
- Caleb M.
- Jasmine C.
- Julia T.
- Evan R.
- Veronica W.
- Joseph P.

Competition Subteams

Chairman's Presentation Team

The Chairman's Team represents our team in a formal presentation as part of the Chairman's Award submission. This subteam consists of six members. Three of them are the main presenters and three of them are back up presenters. Together, they must memorize a set presentation and deliver it coherently while dressed in formal business attire.

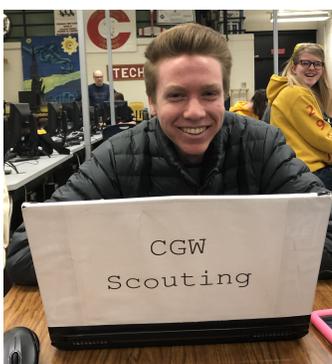


Drive Team

Our Drive Team consists of five students: driver, manipulator, human player, technician, and coach. These members are selected through tryouts that occur during robot testing during our competition season.

Safety Captain

The Safety Captain is responsible for assuring that the whole team demonstrates safe behavior while working in the shop and pit. They manage the safety binder full of information on hazardous materials and administer mandatory safety tests. At competition, the Safety Captain also presents the team safety plan to safety advisors.



Scouting Team

This subteam, led by the Scouting VP, incorporates every member of our team. Their task is to compile match results at competition. This data is later used by Drive Team to determine match strategies as well as alliance partners for finals. Recently, we developed our own app to keep track of match results so we can more easily determine strategies and alliances.

Team Life Cycle



Community Service

From May to December, the main focus of our team is to participate in as many demos and service projects as we can. By doing this, we not only strengthen our bonds with our community, but we strengthen our bonds within our team.

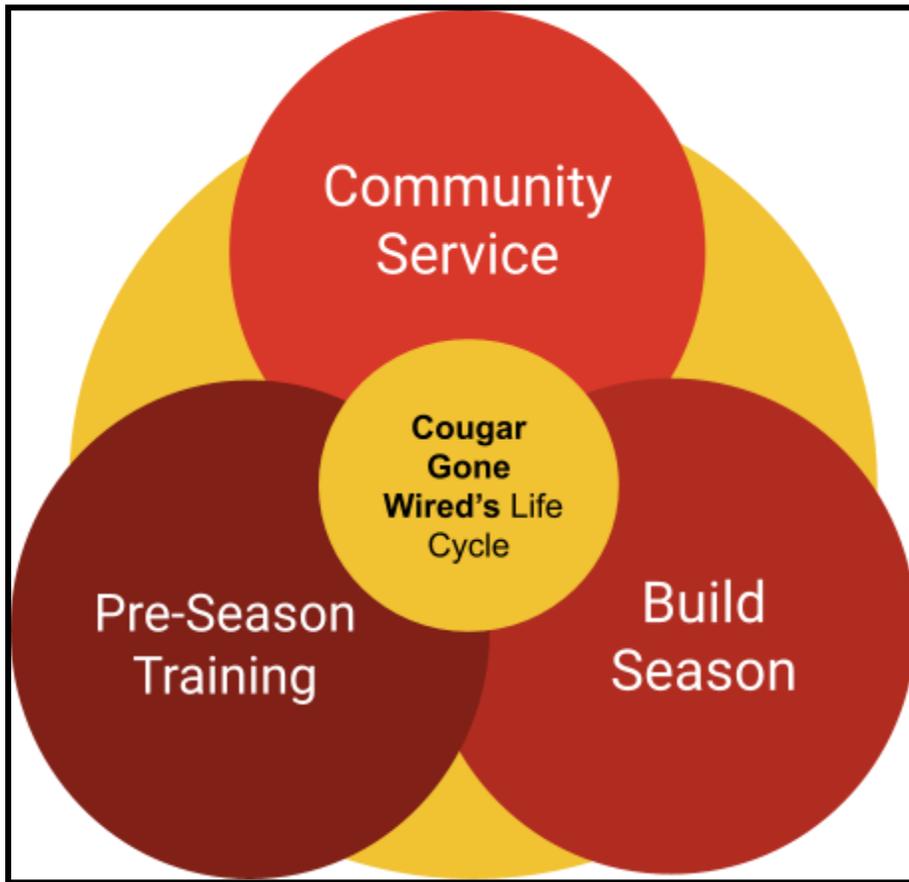
Pre-Season Training

Throughout August to December, the team is focused on growing, teaching, and developing. We use these months to create stronger inter-team relationships through different team building activities. This time period is used to train new members on how the overall team works and what happens in each individual subteam. This is also when we hold our mock game, which provides members with additional training so they can be ready for build season.



Build Season

The first Saturday in January is our official kickoff to build season. This six week period is an intense time where the technical teams take the knowledge gained during Pre-Season and apply it to building a fully functioning robot. In the first few days, the entire team gathers together to strategize, design, and prototype our robot. Our business teams are hard at work during this time as well, writing essays and documents as well as planning events.



Building Bonds

Team Bonds

Cougars Gone Wired is unique when it comes to the bonds between our students, mentors, and alumni. Everyone on our team thinks of each other like family. We all care for each other and are there for each other. This provides an excellent work environment during our build season, as our strong bonds allow us to work greatly with each other.

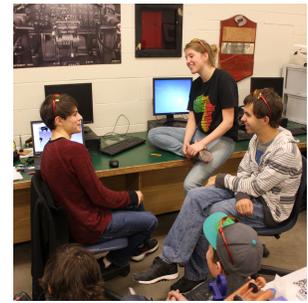


Cougars Gone Wired recruits at Coronado registrations, community events, and an annual informational barbecue. Pre-season meetings focus on team building and technical education. Members socialize outside of meeting hours weekly at Village Inn during our Pie Nights after our Wednesday meetings as well as movie nights or campfires hosted by team members. These events solidify the friendships between members while retaining and attracting new members to the Cougars Gone Wired family.



Alumni Bonds

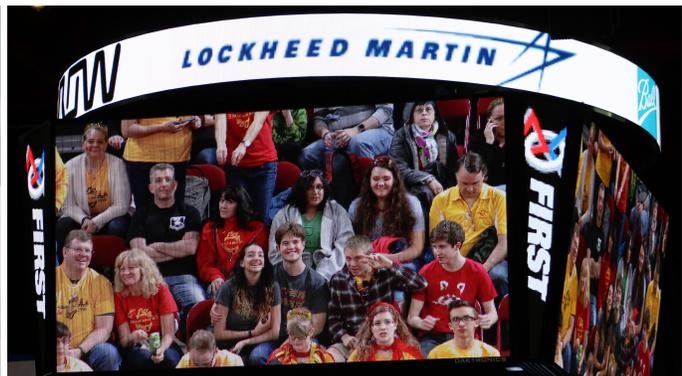
The team's family atmosphere encourages alumni to return and participate in kickoff, community outreach, team meetings, and competitions. Alumni are valuable mentors as they are able to share their own team experiences as well as their life experiences after high school.



Parent Bonds

For the first few years of Cougars Gone Wired's existence, the students relied on local restaurants and grocery stores for sustenance during the busy hours of build season. For the 2012 build season, the parents banded together and organized a family-supplied and served meal program: Cougar Kibble.

Cougar Kibble has successfully fed our team of over 70 members and mentors every day of build season, including Saturdays. This program benefits the welfare of students, increases the productivity of work hours, and enhances the team's family atmosphere.



Mentor Bonds

Over the years, Cougars Gone Wired has been graced with dedicated and supportive mentors. The “hands off” mentor build policy has created an atmosphere in which mentors can guide and share their knowledge, while still allowing students to utilize their creativity and learn different skills in a hands-on way. Mentors endure the long hours alongside the team, solidifying the Cougars Gone Wired family atmosphere.



School District Bonds

Cougars Gone Wired’s relationship with District administration has been utilized to spread FIRST and STEM within the community. D11 board members donate out of pocket to Cougar Kibble so meals can be provided daily for the students during build season. Cougars



Gone Wired sets up displays at district events, such as the District 11 Career Fair for 8th Graders and various registrations at multiple high schools. D11 also supports us by providing us plenty of space to work in. They have donated a storage container to store our field elements, and they allow us to use the auto and wood shop at Coronado High School. Plus, the



school allows us to use the auxiliary gym on Saturdays to put up our field, as well as the main gym to hold our annual scrimmage in. Then, a relationship with Student Council allows for advertising and mutual fundraiser support, while a connection with the catering class has provided meals for the team’s parent/sponsor appreciation night.

Colorado Scrimmage 2020 held at Coronado High School



Coronado Auto and Wood Shop



FIRST Bonds

Cougars Gone Wired stresses all values of FIRST especially Gracious Professionalism and Coopertition. All regional FRC teams are invited to the Colorado Pre-Ship Scrimmage, which is held the Saturday before Bag & Tag. This is a valuable opportunity to test robots and practice working in alliances. The 2018 Scrimmage was extremely successful, with 20 visiting teams in attendance from all over Colorado. After Bag & Tag, the field is then assembled on the Saturdays leading up to competition, and an invitation is extended to all teams to practice on it.

In the past two years, Cougars Gone Wired started 3 new FLL Jr. teams at both elementary schools and a local Boys & Girls Club. We mentored a total of 5 teams. At the end of the program, we hosted our seventh annual FLL Jr. Showcase at Coronado, where the kids show off their hard work and parents can learn more about FIRST programs.

Along with all of this, Cougars Gone Wired hosted for the first time the Southern Colorado FLL Qualifier. 48 FLL teams attended. More than half of the volunteers were members of 2996, along with 25% from other groups associated with FIRST, including Team 662, Team 4068, FLL alumni, and other positions in FRC.

Started in 2017, the team decided to create the Business Exchange, a forum where teams can swap ideas and ask for advice from other teams. The Business Exchange was modeled after the Chairman's Exchange with the idea of having an open discussion about teams' strengths and weaknesses in their business structure.



Local Community Bonds

We have attended many events in our community. While COVID-19 has made it difficult to go to as many demos as we used to do, we still were enabled to participate in our large demos. We were able to participate in the Cool Science Festival and the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs, as well as the Jackson Elementary School Trunk or Treat. Then there was our fundraiser dinner, where we get to show off our robots as well.





Future Plans

Executive Leadership

- Expand on a time management system and have VP improve skills for their own management system to keep members on track throughout the year.
- Have VPs communicate with each other.
- Have technical teams communicate with each other.
- Be nicer and more inclusive towards younger members.

Business

Awards

- To start everything earlier, so have a first draft of the chairman's essay done before build season begins.
- Start the Woody Flowers entry by week two.

- Communicate with the media subteam to begin the chairman's video.
- Utilizing the entire subteam.

Community Outreach

- Continue to build relationships at demos, and make STEM activities a priority
- Teach members how to run a demo if a VP isn't there and develop their leadership skills
- Improve attendance for each demo and have more members help out.
- Be able to operate without outside help.
- Incorporate all members of the subteam so the VP does not run everything.

Finance

- Further relationships/build stronger ones with sponsors so we have a steady income year to year
- Have larger fundraisers that bring in more money for the team
- Expand subteam and have tasks to give out to members
- Start the business plan earlier in the year

Marketing & Media

- Become more widespread within the community so more people know about who we are and what we do
- Teach photoshop to interested new and returning members so they can have a larger part in this subteam

Social Media & Website

- Continuously improve and update the team website to make it as functional, simple, and aesthetically pleasing as possible, while still representing Team 2996 as best as possible
- to properly develop the mobile version of the website so it is as accessible and functional as possible for all devices and people
- to upload often enough to keep anyone and everyone updated on our team year round
- keep up our relationship with other teams by interacting with them over social media

Technical

Electronics

- Stay organized.
- Design a plan to be prepared for any issues that may arise during competition.
- Improve preseason training and tasks.

Manipulator

- Utilize the preseason to teach students how to correctly use the tools.
- Stay organized during the preseason.
- Retain technical knowledge.
- Create plans for building prototypes before building them.

Mobility

- Create a more concrete plan of base building

- Teach proper tools during build season
- Continue teaching about our mills.

Programming

- Create a more refined and tuned way to educate members.
- Have better tuned management.
- Have returning members work on preseason projects.
- Lay groundwork for easy programming methods.
- Document everything in a better way.

Special Projects

- Maintain steady attendance among subteam members
- Maintain organization.

Systems Integration

- Try to get more members to join the subteam.
- Increase communication between the different subteams to ensure that we are correctly designing their parts.
- Teach CAD to more members.



Contact Information

Website

- team2996.com

Team Email

- cougars.gonewired@gmail.com

Social Media

- facebook.com/cougarsgonewired
- twitter.com/frc2996
- instagram.com/cougarsgonewired
- youtube.com/frc2996
- firstinspires.org/
- <https://www.thebluealliance.com/team/2996>

Main Contacts

- Bryce McLean
Title: Head Coach
Email: Bryce.mclean@d11.org
Phone: (719) 328-3759

Team Meeting Information

- Coronado High School
Off Season – Wednesdays from 6pm to 8pm
Build Season – Monday through Friday from 5pm to 8pm, Saturdays from 9am to 4pm

Sponsorship Information

- Checks should be made payable to “Coronado High School”
- Mailing Address:
Coronado High School
1590 W. Fillmore St.
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80904
- Federal ID Number: 84-600-1179
- 501(c)(3) available

