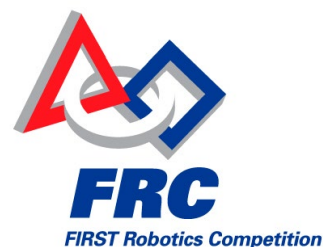




# TEAM HANDBOOK

2025-2026

FRC Team  
2996



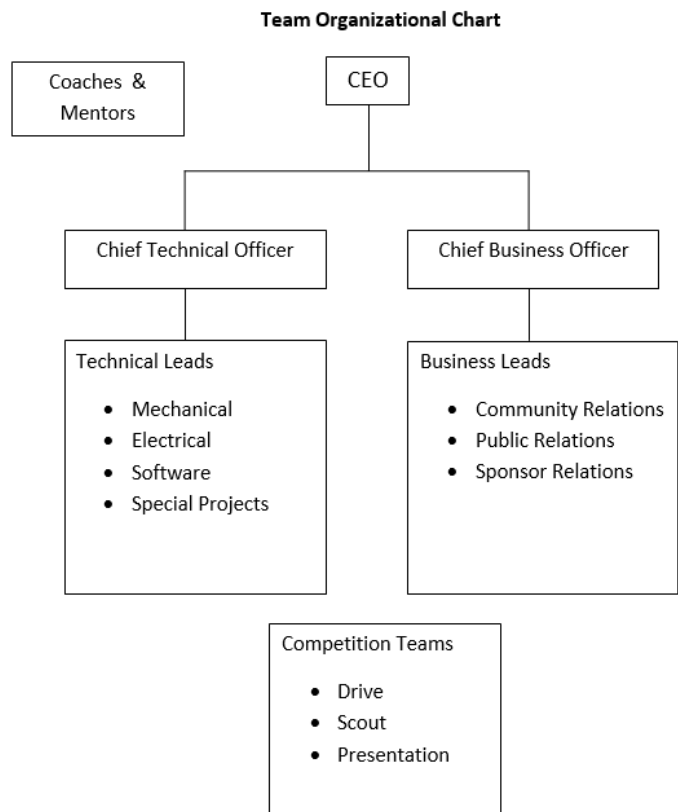
# Cougars Gone Wired

## Handbook 2025-2026

To all those who have decided to participate in the District 11 FIRST Robotics team, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is an international robotics competition with regional events throughout the world. This competition offers a valuable experience for the participants by offering the opportunity to work with technology directly from industry, the opportunity to work as a team within a professional atmosphere where gracious professionalism is emphasized, and the opportunity to interact with students with the same interests and passions as they themselves. FIRST Robotics is truly designed as a varsity sport for science and technology students. In this spirit, there are over \$50-million in scholarships for students participating in FIRST Robotics.

**The FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC)** is an event in which students are given the rules of the game on the first Saturday in January. The team then must design, build, program and test their robot before their first regional competition. With such a short build season, this time is an intense period requiring a considerable time commitment from both students and mentors. We have found it necessary to spend the first half of the school year preparing for the build season.

We believe much of our success stems from having a student-led team in which the students design, build, and compete with the robot. Students have final say on most decisions pertaining to the team. The adult coaches and mentors are there as technical advisors and professional resources. There is a student CEO that leads the team and acts as project manager. The team is also broken down into both technical and business oriented sub-teams with a student leading each one. Students have the opportunity to obtain a leadership experience rarely seen at the high school level. With this opportunity comes a lot of responsibility, and any student taking on a leadership role must be committed to the team's time requirements.



## Financial Responsibilities

The FIRST Robotics Competition is an expensive competition for the team to participate in; the cost for the team to register for the first regional event is \$6,500. The additional regional event we compete in has an additional \$3,000 registration fee. On top of that, there is the added expense of parts and materials for the robot that is typically about \$8,000. There are the team shirts, safety equipment, lodging, and transportation to events as well. We are currently working to get corporate sponsorships to cover as many of these expenses as possible.

**Team Participation Fee:** Because we consider FIRST to be a varsity sport, we used to ask the students to pay a fee much like students did to participate in sports in District 11. Just recently the D-11 school board removed all fees from sports and clubs so we can no longer ask for a team fee. Because of this our fundraising and corporate sponsorships are going to be that much more important to the team. Be aware that any travel expenses that are not covered by corporate sponsorships or by fundraising will need to be covered by the student participants. Here is an estimate of the possible costs to student participants:

Team Fee – No Team Fee

Out of State Regional - \$500

Denver Regional - \$250

Championships in Houston (If we qualify) - \$800

Please start to budget now for the possibility of attending the Championship.

## Time requirement:

**Pre-season** - All team members are expected to attend the weekly team meetings held on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in room 407 of Coronado High School's Building B (Tech Building). During the pre-season (first semester), the team will meet once a week to take care of the team's business operations and ensure we have a strong, cohesive team during the stressful build season. In November, we will run a mock game to simulate the first three days of the build season. The mock game will take place on Tuesday through Thursday and will be 5:00 to 8:00 PM on those three days.

There may be other times the team will need to get together during the school year to complete community outreach and service projects. Students are expected to attend as many community events as possible, but there is no minimum or maximum number, they must attend to be considered a team member. These events are an opportunity for the team to give back to a community that has given so much to us.

**Build Season (January – March)** -The scheduled meeting time during the FRC build season is Tuesday through Friday from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. and then 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays. This gives students two hours each day after school to take care of homework and other obligations. This build time commitment may need to be increased if deadlines are not being met and there is the risk that the robot and other tasks are not going to be completed by their scheduled due date. We will never meet on Sundays, even though we do not technically fall under the guidelines of the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) we treat this team as a varsity team and CHSAA rules state coaches should not have contact with athletes on Sundays. Please realize participating in the FRC team and another varsity sport at the same time is equivalent to participating in two varsity sports. Students may find trying to juggle the time commitment required by both to be challenging.

A student should actively participate in 80% or more of the build season to be eligible to attend the out of state regional event, however the hope is members will strive to participate 100% of the time. Notice the 80% only makes you eligible but does not guarantee you a spot on the trip. Other factors such as importance to the competition aspects of the team, grades, behavior, and grade level may play a factor in earning a spot to travel to the out of state regional event. Students will fill out a time sheet at the end of each week documenting their work time. Any student caught falsifying their own or others attendance records will be asked to leave the team.

All District 11 policies for student behavior and conduct apply while a student is participating with the team. Anyone having committed a level 3 or higher infraction from the D-11 conduct policy may be suspended from or asked to leave the team permanently. If the coaches and mentors feel a student is being overly disruptive or harmful to the welfare of the team the coach may ask the student to leave the team.

## **Grade Eligibility**

The FIRST Robotics Competition is a varsity sport for the mind. Participants in Cougars Gone Wired will be held to grade eligibility requirements the same as those participants in other sports. These requirements represent the minimum grades to maintain eligibility and parents should feel free to hold their own student to higher standards. Be assured that the mentors and coaches of the team will support your decisions. Robotics should never be used as an excuse for declining or poor grades. The team needs student members that can efficiently manage both their academic commitments and their commitment to the team.

Since robotics season is the beginning of second semester, I have found student grades are not accurate until at least week 3 of the build season and therefore will not start pulling student grades until that time. I will pull grades each week and meet with those students that have a D or F in any of their classes.

If a student has an *F* in any class, then the team will recommend that student not be able to participate in any event that requires the student to be excused from school. However, if the student has only one *F* on their grade check, then a parent can give them permission to still attend the event with the team. If a student has two or more *F*'s on their grade check, then they will not be eligible to participate in the event.

**Out of State Regional Eligibility:** For a student to be eligible for the out of state regional event they must not be failing more than one class and must have met the 80% build time requirement. The out of state regional is to get the team experience for the upcoming Colorado regional and therefore any student attending the out of state regional is expected to also attend the Colorado regional.

**Colorado Regional Eligibility:** The hope is every member of the team will attend the Colorado regional event. This is what we have worked so hard for over the build season and the hope is everyone will participate in the event. This is the fun part of being on the robotics team. If the Colorado regional is during spring break, which it often is, then every student is eligible to attend the Colorado regional. If the Colorado regional is not during spring break, then all students with less than 2 *F*'s in any of their classes are eligible to attend.

## **FRC Varsity Lettering Requirements**

An individual can earn a school letter for participation in the D-11 FRC Team 2996 if the following criteria are met.

- Participation in at least 25 hours of team community outreach events during the pre-build season held during the summer and the first semester of that school year.
- Attend and actively participate in at least 85% of the build season hours. Active participation will be decided by the mentors and coaches at the end of the build season.
- Participate in the Colorado scrimmage hosted by the team on Saturday February 24, 2024.
- Participate in at least one FIRST robotics competition regional event with the team.
- All student fees, pertaining to Robotics, must be paid in full.

An award will not be awarded if the Board of Mentors and Coaches feels the team member has not justifiably earned an award even though the team member has met specific requirements.

## **Cougars Gone Wired Parent-Mentor-Student Communication Policy**

If a parent or mentor of the team is in email communication with any of the students on the team regarding team business, then Mr. McLean must be cc'd (carbon copied) on all emails. Students

communicating with anyone, which is to include but not be limited by mentors, parents, sponsors, or community partners, by email about team business must cc Mr. McLean.

If a parent or mentor of the team has a conflict or an issue with a student on the team, they should bring the situation to the attention of Mr. McLean. At no time should a parent or mentor confront the student about the issue without having Mr. McLean present. If the teacher feels the situation warrants a conference with the participants involved, the student's parent will also be invited to participate.

## Travel Expectations

FRC competitions require students to travel to various locations, many of which involve overnight stays. Students will be assigned to share hotel rooms with teammates, typically up to four students per room, in accordance with school board policy, which places students in rooms based on birth gender.

During all team trips, students are expected to:

- Behave respectfully and follow directions from adult chaperones.
- Observe curfew and remain in their assigned hotel rooms after bed check.
- Stay with the team while at the competition venue unless given permission by a chaperoning teacher to leave.
- Travel in groups of **three or more** when leaving the hotel or competition area for any reason.

Violations of these expectations—including missing bed check, disregarding chaperone instructions, intentionally leaving the group, or engaging in illegal activity—will result in the student being excused from the event immediately. Parents/guardians will be responsible for arranging prompt transportation home.

Parents: your child's participation in events is always at your discretion. If you decide your student will not be attending a competition, please notify Mr. McLean by phone or email in advance so chaperones are aware. This helps us avoid the uncomfortable situation of a student attending an event against their parent's wishes.

Because hotel and transportation reservations must be made several weeks in advance, students are required to commit to events within that same timeframe. If a student later becomes unable to attend, they will still be responsible for any financial obligations already incurred on their behalf.

### D11 NON\_DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:

School District 11 is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in relation to disability, need for special education services (whether actual or perceived), race, creed, color, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, transgender status, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, religion, ancestry, age, genetic information, or protected activity. Any harassment/discrimination of students and/or staff, based on the protected areas, will not be tolerated and must be brought to the immediate attention of the D11 nondiscrimination compliance/grievance coordinator.

NONDISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR Katherine Ritchie Rapp, Equal Opportunity Programs and Ombudservices 711 East San Rafael Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-2599

E-MAIL: RAPPKR@D11.ORG Phone: 520-2271, FAX: 520-2442

The team uses Remind101, an educational text blast, to get information out to its members. Parents and students please join by texting **@cgw2996** to number **81010**.



## Sign up for important updates from Coach McLean.

Get information for Coronado High School right on your phone—not on handouts.

Pick a way to receive messages for 2996 CGW 2025-26:

**A** If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

[rmd.at/cgw2996](https://rmd.at/cgw2996)



Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.

**B** If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message **@cgw2996** to the number **81010**.

If you're having trouble with **81010**, try texting **@cgw2996** to **(415) 749-9891**.

\* Standard text message rates apply.

A smartphone mockup showing the Remind app sign-up screen. The screen displays the URL "rmd.at/cgw2996", the text "Join 2996 CGW 2025-26", and two input fields: "Full Name" with a placeholder "First and Last Name", and "Phone Number or Email Address" with a placeholder "(555) 555-5555".A smartphone mockup showing a text message interface. The "To" field contains the number "81010". The "Message" field contains the text "@cgw2996".

Don't have a mobile phone? Go to [rmd.at/cgw2996](https://rmd.at/cgw2996) on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

### Schoology

You can access all of the team documents and forms through the team's Schoology course. Log into your D-11 Schoology account and then click join course.

The access code is **MCMJ-PC2B-D7J8K**