



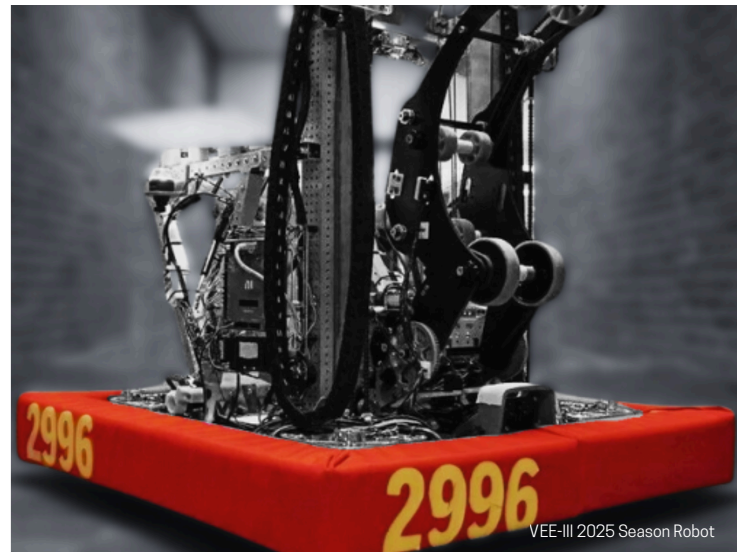
CGW FRC TEAM 2996 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the New Newsletter! | June 16, 2025

Hi! We're Addie Slate, Raven Van Hoy, Ember Tarbox, Lark Tipton, and Kelsey Modaff. Welcome to our team newsletter, a new way for our sponsors and community to stay connected with the team's culture, events, and overall progress. Each issue will feature updates on upcoming and past events, team highlights, and developments with our robot. Keep an eye out for our next issue at the start of preseason, where you'll get to meet our new leadership team!

Meet the Team

Team 2996, Cougars Gone Wired, is based at Coronado High School and has been building a legacy of engineering, community, and learning since our founding in 2009. We are an award winning team, earning two Quality awards in the 2024 season. Each year, FIRST introduces a brand-new game and set of rules, challenging us to innovate from the ground up. Our build season runs from early January to the end of February, giving us seven weeks to build a fully functional robot. We start brainstorming, move into prototyping, and, at the end of build season, bring everything together in a final, fully assembled design.



This year brought a major leadership restructure aimed at improving collaboration and integration across the team. Our sub-teams are now organized into two main categories: technical and business. The technical teams, electrical, mechanical, software, and special projects, focus on building the robot and field components. Meanwhile, our business teams, public outreach, community engagement, and sponsor relations, ensure our presence and partnerships stay strong beyond the robot.



Competitions

After months of work, our team's efforts culminate in the competition season, where we spend three days fighting to make it to the top. Missouri was our warm-up, and we made it nearly to the finals of the competition but lost a crucial match and finished fourth overall. After that, we had about a week and a half to prepare for Colorado.

To improve our performance at Colorado, we sped up much of the software automation used to drive the robot. On the mechanical side, we completely replaced the claw of our robot, modifying it to pick up and score a second game piece type. The work paid off when we made it to competition, where we finished third overall. The 2024/2025 season was our best in years and we're very excited to carry our success forward.



Making A Difference (MAD) Summer Camp

Level One of MAD Camp is designed for campers who are new to robotics or have limited experience. This introductory track focuses on building foundational skills in programming, engineering, and teamwork. During the week, campers work in teams to build and program VEX IQ bots. By the end of the week, campers put their creations to the test in friendly competition. This hands-on, project-based approach keeps the experience fun and engaging while introducing essential STEM concepts such as mechanical design, basic coding, problem solving, and collaboration.

Level Two is made for campers who already have some robotics experience and are ready for a greater challenge. In this track, students work with VEX V5 systems, which offer more advanced hardware and programming capabilities. Campers are tasked with designing and building robots to compete in a custom game that we create specifically for this level. The structure and pace of this track are close to a real competitive robotics build season, helping prepare students for participation in the First Robotics Competition (FRC) should they choose to join in the future. Many of our current robotics members began their journey in this very camp.