



February 2016

Dear Community Partner:

The MAYHEM teams had a great year in 2015! In the fall, our *FIRST*® LEGO® League (FLL®) team, Mindstorms Mayhem, won the Programming Award at the 2015 NH State Championship. Mechanical Mayhem, our *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC®) team, had an astoundingly successful 2015 season! We were champions at all three district events as well as the New England Championship! In addition to these first-place finishes, we won the following awards at our district tournaments: Innovation in Controls, Entrepreneurship Award, and the prestigious Chairman's Award! At the New England Championship in Worcester, our 1st seeded alliance not only claimed victory but achieved the second highest score in the country at 256 points, and our team earned the Excellence in Engineering Award. We capped off our year by placing 6th out of 75 of the world's best teams in the Carson Division at World Championship.

On January 9, 2016, the new FRC game, *FIRST* Stronghold, was announced, ushering Mechanical Mayhem into a six-week build season as students diligently design and build a competitive, 120-pound robot. Moreover, students with varying interests will maintain the team website and write award submissions, press releases, articles, and newsletters. Mechanical Mayhem is registered to participate in two 2016 district tournaments: UNH District Event in Durham, NH, on March 24-26, and Pine Tree District Event in Lewiston, ME, on April 7-9.

International *FIRST* programs such as FLL and FRC give students the opportunity to experience STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) through exhilarating competition. Students develop teamwork and problem solving skills as they build and operate robots to meet engineering challenges. FLL teams with students aged 9-14 are presented with the challenge of developing an autonomous LEGO robot, researching a real world issue, and presenting their research in an innovative way. The FRC program is designed for high school students and incorporates professional engineering tools such as software programming and CAD. MAYHEM offers the *FIRST* experience to students who otherwise do not have the opportunity.

FIRST emphasizes partnerships with professional engineers and business mentors, and consequently, the program can be a life-changing, career-molding experience. We are thankful for the support of our sponsors who make these enriching programs available. Now entering our 12th year, Mechanical Mayhem has grown to include homeschool, private and public school students from eight southern NH communities. The MAYHEM robotics programs have graduated a number of seniors who have gone on to study engineering at respected universities like the Air Force Academy, Stanford, Purdue, Carnegie Mellon University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Harding University, Northeastern, and Cedarville University.

These programs present terrific opportunities, but also significant challenges. A minimal FRC team budget is about \$15,000: \$9,000 in registration fees for New England tournaments, and \$6,000 for robot parts, transportation, and all other costs. Competing at the World Championship Event, if we qualify, would cost another \$15,000: \$5,000 for registration, and approximately \$10,000 for transportation and lodging for the team.

We need your help! Because *FIRST* Robotics invests in the future, we hope you will partner with us to help prepare the next generation of outstanding employees and community leaders. We recognize all sponsors by displaying your business logo on our sponsor banner and website. All contributions to MAYHEM's 501(c)(3) non-profit organization are tax deductible. For contributions over \$500, we will proudly display your logo on our robot, and for donations of \$2,500 or more, your logo will also appear on the back of our team shirts!

For more information, please see these websites: <http://www.mayheminc.org/> and <http://www.firstinspires.org/>

Thank you!

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