



January 2018

Dear Community Partner:

The MAYHEM teams had a great year in 2017! In the fall, our *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> LEGO<sup>®</sup> League (FLL<sup>®</sup>) team, Mindstorms Mayhem, won the Programming Award at the 2017 NH State Championship. Wisdom Hunters, another FLL team mentored by MAYHEM participants, won 2<sup>nd</sup> place Champion's Award! Mechanical Mayhem, our *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC<sup>®</sup>) team, competed well in 2017, earning Finalist and Excellence in Engineering awards at our first district event, Winner and Chairman's Award at our second district event, and Finalist at the New England Championship. The team also ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the Tesla Division at the World Championship, and they were chosen by the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team for the elimination rounds.

On January 6, 2018, the new FRC game, *FIRST* Power Up, was announced, ushering Mechanical Mayhem into a demanding but exciting six-week build season as students diligently design and construct a competitive, 120-pound robot. In addition to technical roles, students write award submissions, give presentations, and edit video. Mechanical Mayhem is registered to participate in two 2018 district tournaments: WPI District in Worcester, MA, on March 1-3, and UNH District in Durham, NH, on March 29-31.

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.

Because *FIRST* emphasizes partnerships with professional engineers and business mentors, the program can be a life-changing, career-molding experience for our students. We are thankful for the support of our sponsors who make these enriching programs available. In 2005, MAYHEM was organized to offer the *FIRST* experience to homeschool students who otherwise would not have the opportunity. Now, entering our 14<sup>th</sup> year, Mechanical Mayhem has grown to include home, charter, 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, Tufts, and Cedarville University.

Taking advantage of the terrific opportunities provided by *FIRST* requires a significant financial commitment. 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 invite you to partner with us in helping to prepare the next generation of outstanding employees and community leaders. All contributions to MAYHEM's 501(c)(3) non-profit organization are tax-deductible. All sponsors' business logos are displayed on our sponsor banner and website. For contributions over \$500, we will display your logo on our robot, and for contributions of \$2,500 or more, we will display your logo on our team shirts as well as our robot.

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

Thank you!

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