



January 2017

Dear Community Partner:

The MAYHEM teams had a great year in 2016! In the fall, our *FIRST*[®] LEGO[®] League (FLL[®]) team, Mindstorms Mayhem, won the Judges Award for Decision Making and 2nd place performance at the 2016 NH State Championship. Wisdom Hunters, another FLL team mentored by MAYHEM participants, won 1st place performance and the 1st place Champion's Award, qualifying them to compete at the FLL World Festival! Mechanical Mayhem, our *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC[®]) team, competed well in 2016! We were champions at both of our district events, and also won the Engineering Inspiration Award and the prestigious Chairman's Award! At the New England Championship, we were thrilled to also win Chairman's Award (one of four such awards granted among the 81 New England teams)! We capped off our year by placing 3rd out of 75 of the world's best teams in the Newton Division at World Championship.

On January 7, 2017, the new FRC game, *FIRST* Steamworks, 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 2017 district tournaments: WPI District in Worcester, MA, on March 8-10, and Pine Tree District in Lewiston, ME, on March 30-April 1.

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 13th year, Mechanical Mayhem has grown to include homeschool and public school students from ten 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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