

got robot? FTC 5037

2014-15 Engineering Notebook



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Students: Chris, Marcos, K McK, Matt, Aidan, Bo, PJ

Mentors: Coach McKellar, Mr. Patrick, Mr. Solomon, Mr. Times, Mrs. Laker, Mrs. McKellar

Student Bios



Chris

C.A.D Engineer/Lead Gunner/Social Media

Hello my name is Chris and I am 16. This is my 5th year of FIRST robotics, and 3rd of FTC. I am a sound technician at my church. I have been Homeschooled my entire life, and my favorite subjects are science, math and of course Robotics. I have been to Brazil on a trip with my church. Some things I like to do in my spare time are play video games, hang out with friends and spend time on the internet. -Chris



Marcos

Lead Strategist/Drive Coach

My name is Marcos and I am 18 years old. I am the head strategist and drive team captain. This is my third year in FIRST and FTC. I got involved with FIRST through 4-H and was asked to join the team. It has been a wonderful experience being on this team and learning with my friends. I can say that I have gone through FIRST learning more then I have ever learned before about the different fields of science. -MMMs



Kristen

Lead Programmer

I am lead programmer; this is my fourth year in FTC. I was previously in FLL for three years. I like to consider myself a nerd--meaning I love code, computers, and gaming. My plan for the future is a career doing what I enjoy most: coding, mentoring robotics teams, and economics.

I mentor Jr FLL, FLL, other robotics clubs. I am a 4-H programming project leader and I have led the RobotC workshop at one of the three Illinois FTC kick-offs for the third year running. This spring I will be coaching two 4-H robotics teams. -K



Matthew

Lead Engineer/C.A.D Engineer

Itsa' Meaa!! Matthew! I am a 7 year FIRST veteran and main engineer. I am a 17 year old homeschooler who loves working on engineering challenges (difficult but not entirely impossible) and Fragging my way to the lead in Minstagib, or whatever the practical equivalent is (I have been known to settle for a 9mm.) I hope to employ all sorts of wacked out technologies on our robot. (For both Fun and Profit!!)

I mentor Jr FLL, FLL, and other robotics teams, and have been known to do presentations and training sessions for new teams. If I am ever filed in a missing persons report just ask for the nearest shop with high speed broadband internet and power; I spend way too much time on Wikipedia, Tom's hardware, or Newegg reading or designing computer rigs.

My favorite subjects are science, reading, and I kinda guess this so called "math." I will be teaching Python Programming this spring semester. -Matthew --
V01dMain



Aidan

Team Engineer/Backup gunner

My name is Aidan, I'm 15 and a freshman in high school. I have been a part of FLL for 2 years. This will be my second season in FTC and its good to be back in the swing of things. I enjoy the subjects science and literature. My hobbies are board/video games and building things out of cardboard. And I can't wait to get started on this year's game, Cascade Effect! --AMP



Bo

Lead C.A.D Engineer/Lead Driver/Social Media Head

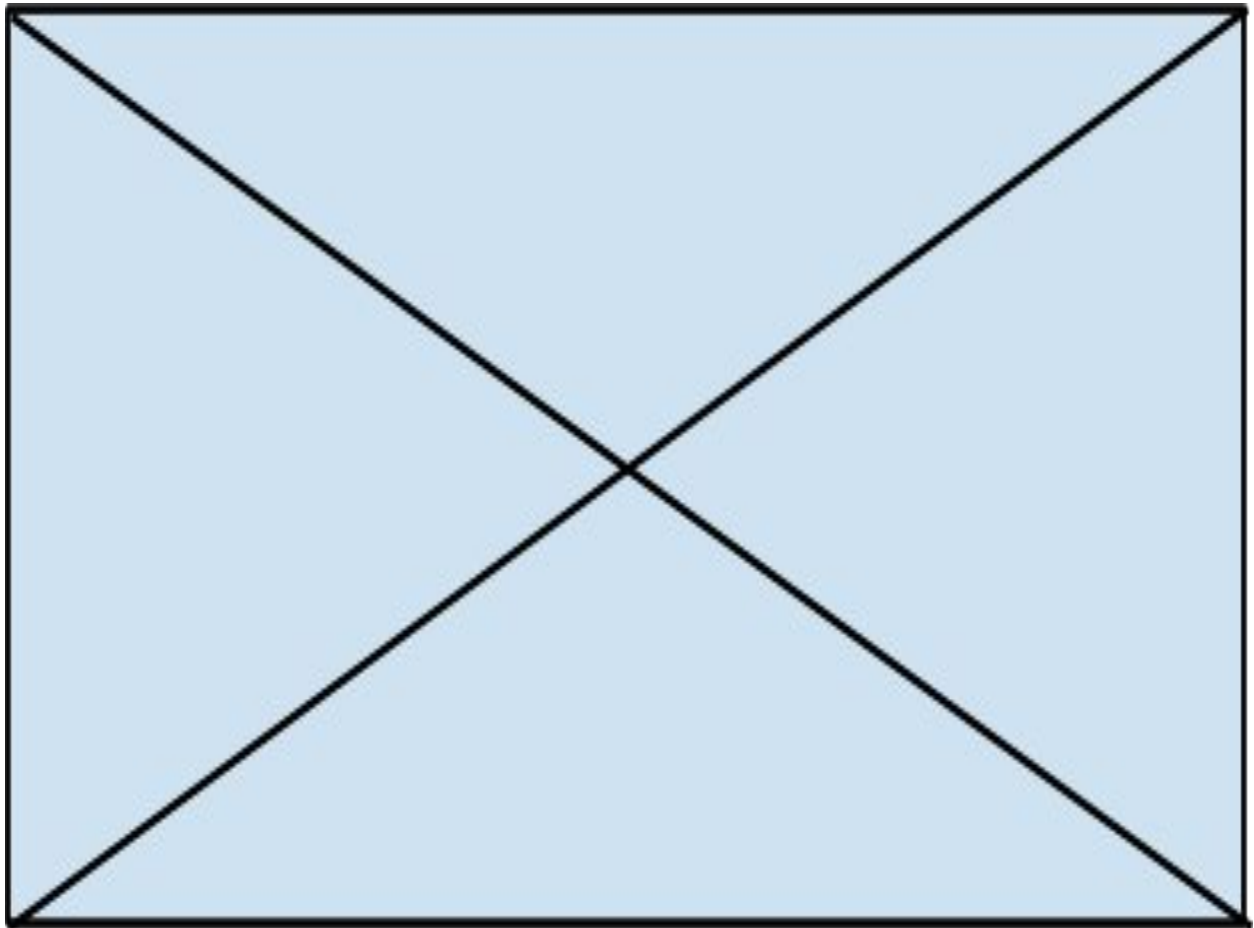
Hello, my name is Bo! I'm 16 and have been involved in FTC for 3 years and the FIRST program for 6 years. I am a musician, football player, and a film and graphic design student. I have been homeschooled my whole life and my favorite subjects include: science, music, art and of course robotics! My hobbies are editing videos, skateboarding, sleeping, and spending a ridiculous amount of time on the internet. I am super excited for the challenge of this years 2014-2015 game: Cascade Effect! -Bo



Patrick (PJ)

Assistant Programmer

Hi, I'm Patrick (also known as PJ). I am 14 and I am in 8th grade. I have been in FLL for 3 years in the teams Genesis, G2 and Ctrl Alt Del. This is my second year in FTC and I am really excited. I am a programmer along with Kristen and in my free time I like to program as well. My favorite subject is science. -PJ



Mentor Bios



Mr. Michael McKellar - Head Coach

This is my seventh year coaching "got robot?"-- three years of FLL and four years of FTC.

I'm not an engineer, but I get to play one during "robot" season. Professionally I'm a photo retoucher, and have been in the advertising industry for over 25 years.

FIRST is an amazing youth development program!!! I can't say enough about the students, mentors, and volunteers I've met through FIRST. I have gotten to know some of the most amazing people over the years; and the best part is watching how the students grow in skill, character, and confidence.



Mr. Patrick Stephen - Programming Coach

My name Patrick Stephen. This is my second season coaching FTC but I have been coaching FLL for the past 3 seasons. I have also coached a 4-H robotics team. My educational background is in Computer Science and I have worked in both the Telecommunications and Mobile Commerce industries as a Software Engineer and an Enterprise Architect. I really enjoy working with young, energetic and intelligent students who are excited about learning. This is the reason for my continued involvement in the FIRST program. - Coach Stephen



Mr. Marc Solomon - Team Logistics

I am a software engineer with over thirty years in the software industry. About 10 years ago, I was asked by my employer to help out at a FIRST event. Since that time I have been a referee for FRC, FLL, and Vex, a judge for FLL and 4-H robotics, and am in my fourth year as a mentor for got robot? While I have loved all I have done with FIRST, the most challenging and rewarding role has been mentoring. - Mr. Solomon



Mr. Matt Times - Team Mentor

Hi, I'm one of the engineering mentors for "got robot?". I participated in FRC when I was in high school and recently graduated from MIT with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and an emphasis in robotics. I was excited to get back involved in FIRST and help out with "got robot?" after recently moving to the Chicagoland area. It has been great seeing the team's diligence and teamwork in picking up skills such as CAD, sketching, prototyping and design for manufacturing. They constantly seek to refine their process of integrating all the systems on the robot and I am looking forward to great things from the team in the future. -Mr. Times



**Mrs. Carol McKellar -
Administrative Mentor & 4-H Contact Leader**

I've been an Associate Coach and Mentor of got robot? for seven years. Three during got robot?'s time competing in FLL, and now for the fourth year in FTC. I've enjoyed watching the team members grow and I look forward to seeing their future, knowing how much they've learned in FIRST.

We became involved in FIRST through a simple NXT kit 8 years ago. We were sold on FIRST after visiting an FLL tournament. The opportunities for students and the high quality of people we meet through FIRST makes it easy to promote FIRST throughout our community. It is our honor to spin-off a second FTC team this year, Blue Box Bots FTC 8907, who share our HQ located in the Elgin Technology Center.



Mrs. Sandy Laker - Team Mentor

Hello, I'm a team mentor and team parent. This is my second year working with the team. I enjoy working with and teaching students, whether they are preschoolers at church or high schoolers in my science classes. My responsibilities for got robot? are to work with the students on the engineering notebook and serve as a financial and administrative adviser. One of my main jobs at competitions is heading up the scouting in the stands, and overseeing the data compilation. I enjoy doing my part giving the team members the tools they need to succeed.