Our team would like to thank you for all of your support during our first season. The team exceeded all its goals and expectations and it wouldn’t have been possible without help from all of you.

We started our season by learning “righty tighty” and “lefty loopy”. We ended our season representing Wisconsin at the FTC World Championship in St. Louis. We met and became friends with teams from around the country and world. And most importantly, we learned how to work together as a team to achieve success none of us dared to dream possible this year.

During our first few months, we had to learn many new things. We created a robot design which was unique for this year’s game. The design focused on an arm made out of a drawer slide which could be raised and lowered using lead screws.

The team learned how to work with electronics and electrical wiring. We also had to learn how to program using RobotC to control the actions of the robot in both autonomous mode and controlled through the use of wireless game controllers.
In February and March, the Patronum Bots had the opportunity to participate in two FTC tournaments where they competed against almost 60 teams from a variety of states in the Midwest. The team did extremely well at both tournaments:

**Wisconsin FTC Championship: Feb 1-2**
- Won 3 of 5 qualifying rounds – seeded #8
- First pick for 3rd seeded alliance
- Nominated for Think and Innovate awards
- Winner of Robot Design award
- 2nd Place for Inspire Award (this is the highest award given at an event)

**Indiana FTC Championship: March 2**
- Won 4 of 5 qualifying rounds – seeded #9
- First pick for 4th seeded alliance
- Nominated for Design, Connect and Motivate Awards
- Winner of Think award (for the team’s engineering notebook)
- 2nd Place for Inspire Award
Because of their strong performances in Wisconsin and Indiana, the Patronum Bots received an invitation to the 2013 World Championships! Only 128 out of 2500 FTC teams in the world qualified for this Championship! The team performed very well alongside the best teams in the world and had a chance to work with teams from Russia and Jamaica as well as teams from all across the United States.
Reflecting on Our Season

As our season was finishing up, we met as a team one last time to talk about what went well, what we can do better and some of our favorite memories for the year. We wanted to share with you the results of that discussion.

What we did well this season:
- “We worked well as a team and it showed during our competitions"
- “We had an organized work shop and the tools we needed to build our robot"
- “We had a unique robot design that set us apart from many other teams"
- “We responded well to challenges and in the end became stronger because of the adversity"

What we should do next season:
- “Use our robot and what we learned this year to do more outreach in our community and with local businesses"
- “Learn and use CAD to design and draw our robot design"
- “Pay closer attention to game strategy at start of season to design a robot that can be competitive both offensively and defensively"

Favorite memories from the season:
- “Becoming such good friends with so many teams from all over the country”
- “The success we had at our first tournament – we didn’t know what to expect and were thrilled to be recognized by the judges.”
- “Being able to lift a 25 pound robot – many of us didn’t believe it would be possible so we were all so excited when the new hook design worked so well”

Favorite memories from the World Championship:
- “Walking into the dome for the first time – it was huge but awesome”
- “Hearing from so many people how much they loved our booth and robot”
- “Being partnered with teams from Russia and Jamaica”
- “Collaborating with Illinois FTC team at the hotel and competition”
- “Making friends and learning from veteran teams that we follow online”
- “Ending on a high note in our last match where we were successful in playing defense to allow our partner score lots of points and earn a victory”

Thank you for making all of this possible!

From the Patronum Bots – FTC Team 5972

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