



**FIRST Robotic Competition  
Zero Gravity - Team 2180  
2009 Season**



# Season at a Glance



## Broken into Four Quarters

- **Fall – Set the Foundation**
- **Winter – Hit the ground running!**
- **Spring – Celebrate Successes**
- **Summer – Maintain Momentum**

**Each Quarter has a set of Goals**



# Season at a Glance



## Fall – Set the Foundation

- Recruit mentors, students, sponsor partners
- Register for events
- Apply for grants
- Fundraise
- Form teams and sub teams
- Train our team
- Stress safety
- Attend an off-season event -  
students/mentors/partners
- Research scholarships



# Season at a Glance



## Winter – Hit the ground running!

- Attend the Kickoff on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009
- Brainstorm
- Design, Build & Test a robot
- Ship our robot
- Make travel arrangements
- Submit for awards
- Apply for scholarships
- Collect “Consent and Release” forms
- Compete in events



# Season at a Glance



## Spring – Celebrate Successes

- Attend the Championship?
- Recognize our sponsor/partners Fundraise
- Recognize our mentors, parents, teachers, students
- Contact local media about our successful season
- Participate in the Team Forum to provide feedback.



# Season at a Glance



## Summer – Maintain Momentum

- Attend/participate in off-season events
- Fundraise
- Conduct workshops and training
- Create community visibility opportunities:
  - Exhibits
  - Demonstrations
  - Presentations to sponsor/partners



# Season at a Glance



## General Points for the Season

- Keep it Simple - The easier we make it, the smoother things will go
- Keep good notes and documentation as we go
- Clear and consistent communication is key
- Staying on track with a schedule is difficult at times
  - Everyone should understand that things change and your flexibility and cooperation is needed



# Season at a Glance



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- Research scholarships



# Recruit Mentors, Students, Sponsor Partners



## Parents - A valuable resource!

- Find out if any parent is an engineer or has any useful skills for the team
- Someone may be able to handle the robot shipment and deadline.
- Parents may help with fundraising, programming, or marketing experience
- Willing to provide snacks or donate food
- Parents make good chaperones when traveling to competitions



# Register For Events



FIRST Robotics Competition Calendar of Important Deadlines - 2009 Season

Registration		Opens	Closes	Payment Due	Cost (USD)
<b>Registration Opens</b> Update Team Profile / Create New Team					
Must be completed prior to Initial Event Registration	<a href="#">Via TIMS at noon Eastern</a>	9/10/2008	12/1/2008		
<b>FIRST Initial Regional Event Registration</b> (Non Michigan Teams)	<a href="#">Via TIMS at noon Eastern</a>	10/2/2008	12/1/2008	12/5/2008	\$6,000
<b>FIRST 2nd Regional Event Registration</b>	<a href="#">Via TIMS at noon Eastern</a>	10/23/2008	12/1/2008	1/16/2009	\$4,000
<b>FIRST Unrestricted Regional Event Registration</b>	<a href="#">Via TIMS at noon Eastern</a>	11/6/2008	12/1/2008	1/16/2009	\$4,000
<b>FIRST Championship</b> Pre-qualified and veteran teams who did not compete at the 2008 Championship	<a href="#">Via TIMS at noon Eastern</a>	10/2/2008	12/1/2008	4/10/2009	\$5,000
<b>FIRST Championship</b> Veteran teams who did compete at the 2008 Championship	<a href="#">Via TIMS at noon Eastern</a>	10/23/2008	12/1/2008	4/10/2009	\$5,000

**Open**



# Register For Events



FIRST Robotics Competition Calendar of Important Deadlines - 2009 Season

Team Information for Judges		Opens	Closes
<b>Team Information</b> Complete Team Information section of Team Profile, including Robot name, # of students on Team, Team website, Team motto. This information is used for program books.	<a href="#">Via TIMS</a>	9/10/2008	TBD
<b>Judges' Information</b>	<a href="#">Via TIMS</a>	TBD	2/18/2009
Kit & Kickoff		Opens	Closes
<b>Kickoff Registration</b> Attendance & kit pick-up location	<a href="#">Via TIMS at noon Eastern</a>	10/16/2008	TBD
<b>NH Kickoff Workshop Registration</b>	<a href="#">Via TIMS at noon Eastern</a>	11/26/2008	TBD
<b>2009 Kickoff</b>	NH & Local Kickoff sites	1/3/2009	
Robot Shipment		Opens	Closes
<b>Requests for Robot Removal from last event</b> Section 4 of 2009 Game Manual	<a href="mailto:frcteams@usfirst.org">Submit to frcteams@usfirst.org</a>	TBD	TBD
<b>Robot Ship Deadline</b>	Ship Date	2/17/2009	
<b>Confirm Robot Shipment</b>  (Only if you drove your robot crate to the drayage site or used a shipper outside of the FedEx donation)	By mail only	TBD	TBD

Open



# Register For Events



FIRST Robotics Competition Calendar of Important Deadlines - 2009 Season

FIRST Awards Submission		Opens	Closes
Woodie Flowers Award	<a href="http://www.firstawards.org">Submit online at www.firstawards.org</a>	1/13/2009	2/19/2009 @11:59pm EST
Website Design Award	<a href="http://www.firstawards.org">Submit online at www.firstawards.org</a>	1/13/2009	2/19/2009 @11:59pm EST
Hall of Fame	<a href="http://www.firstawards.org">Submit online at www.firstawards.org</a>	1/13/2009	2/19/2009 @11:59pm EST
Autodesk Visualization Award	<a href="#">Submit through Autodesk</a>	1/13/2009	2/19/2009 @11:59pm EST
Autodesk Inventor Award	<a href="#">Submit through Autodesk FIRSTbase</a>	1/13/2009	2/19/2009 @11:59pm EST
Safety Animation		Opens	Closes
Contest Details Announced	via email	10/9/2008	
Safety animation submissions	Due at FIRST		12/9/2008 @5:00pm EST
Scholarships			Closes
Application dates vary	<a href="http://www.usfirst.org/scholarships">http://www.usfirst.org/scholarships</a>		Deadlines on web
NASA Grants		Opens	Closes
NASA Grant Application Process	Begins and ends online - midnight Eastern	9/19/2008	10/20/2008
Grant winner announced by region	<a href="http://robotics.nasa.gov">http://robotics.nasa.gov</a>		11/12/2008

**Closed to 2180**



# Apply for Grants



- Apply for ? grants



## Fundraise



- Besides the registration and Kit of Parts (KOP) fee, this program requires money for additional parts and travel expenses.
- We should begin our fundraising efforts *well before* the extremely busy design and build season that starts in January.
- Start as early as you can, before the school year begins if possible.
  - Use the following summer to get a step up on our next season.



# Fundraise



- THINK BIG!! Ask for the full registration amount when you petition for funding, but be prepared to graciously accept any offer of help.
- Most teams survive on many small donations.
- If a company can't or won't donate money, be prepared to ask for services such as machining, mentoring, or meeting/facility space.
- Other in-kind donations could include tools, food, printing, copying, or T-shirts.
- Visit the following web sites for information and fundraising ideas:
  - [www.fundraising-ideas.org](http://www.fundraising-ideas.org)
  - [www.fundraiserhelp.com](http://www.fundraiserhelp.com)
  - [www.stepbystepfundraising.com](http://www.stepbystepfundraising.com)
  - [www.chiefdelphi.com](http://www.chiefdelphi.com), a popular, team-run web site, not officially *FIRST* sanctioned.



# Fundraise



Last years sponsors!

- SUN CHEMICAL
- NASA
- DRS C3 Systems
- HTEA and NJEA
- Special Technical Services
- Karl Mey's Collision & Paint Center
- Computer Vision Technology, Inc
- National
- Reliable Plastics
- FindSurge.com
- Hamilton High School East- Steinert
- Others?





## Fundraise



- Raise funds for Nationals in Atlanta, Ga

**On Going  
Student Lead Effort**



# Links of Interest



FIRST website - [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org)

Team 2180 websites -

[www.steinertrobotics.org](http://www.steinertrobotics.org)

[www.steinertrobotics.info](http://www.steinertrobotics.info)