

## Mentoring Information

### TechHOUNDS Robotics

**The TechHOUNDS strive to be great. But the only way we can achieve success is with strong support from our parent base.** Many of our most committed mentors are parents or former parents. You are more than welcome to mentor *any* division, regardless of your education, degree, or work experience. For example, a parent may be more apt to mentor the electrical division if they engage in electrical projects as a hobby, despite working in a non-tech field.

**Note:** Team leadership and adult mentors will meet with you before you begin officially mentoring to ensure you are placed in a division in which you can provide valuable aid and most benefit the team. Below is the list of skills utilized in each division.

1. Experience in leadership, administration, organization: Leadership Mentor (2)
  - a. Aid in hotel reservation, team dinner management, and other general organizational tasks
2. Experience in graphic design, business, writing, film, service: PR Mentor (5)
  - a. Organize and manage t-shirts (design, ordering, collection, distribution)
  - b. Help write press releases and newsletters
  - c. Organize and contact sponsors/fundraising
  - d. Lead student teams for submitting FIRST awards (Chairman's Award, Woodie Flowers Award, Dean's List, Entrepreneurship Award)
  - e. Lead student team to develop a season "photo journal"
  - f. Help develop/set up/organize community outreach events
3. Experience in mechanical engineering, architecture, CAD: Robot Ops Mentor (1)
  - a. Help design/prototype robot
  - b. Train students on complex equipment (i.e. CNC mill, lathe, chop saw)
  - c. Work with students on CAD (computer-aided design) modeling
  - d. Help students construct/assemble final robot
4. Experience in electrical engineering, comp. science: Electrical/Programming Mentor (4)
  - a. Teach students basic electrical components/programming fundamentals
  - b. Work with small groups on individual projects
  - c. Help students with final wiring/coding of robot
5. Experience in construction, mechanical engineering: Construction Mentor (3)
  - a. Help students construct the practice playing field
  - b. Help students design/construct pit (robot station at competitions)
  - c. Teach students CAD (computer-aided design) fundamentals
6. Experience in web development/HTML, Javascript: IT Mentor (2)
  - a. Help students design/code website
  - b. Teach students HTML/Javascript fundamentals
  - c. Help students design scouting system

### **How to officially become a mentor:**

In order to officially sign up to be a TechHOUNDS mentor, please send an email to [techhounds868@gmail.com](mailto:techhounds868@gmail.com) with your name, available times, and two potential divisions you could mentor. This will allow us to coordinate with the school the necessary procedures (i.e. background checks) to ensure you can mentor safely without risk of liability. After this relatively annoying piece of bureaucracy, you will meet extremely briefly with the team lead and/or coach to discuss your division placement and time commitment. Once decided, you will be introduced to your division and likely assigned to 1-2 projects by the division leader that you will oversee and contribute to.

### **What mentoring really means:**

Mentoring TechHOUNDS is truly what you want it to be. If you'd like to be heavily involved, you could be managing several student groups, providing input to team leaders, and even travelling to competitions. If you'd prefer less involvement, you could be the "check-in" person for specific teams, provide feedback on basic divisional developments, or just come and fulfill any needs your chosen division has.

Some of TechHOUNDS most valuable mentors have been parents that have truly been drawn in by the work that we do. If you are a person passionate about education, sharing knowledge, learning-by-doing, or team-building, TechHOUNDS is the perfect opportunity to give back to your community.

### **Perks:**

Free TechHOUNDS merchandise, free dinners (on days provided in build season), and the knowledge that you've helped students grow.

### **Mentor Time Commitment:**

Parent mentors are welcome to be as involved/not involved as they would like. We understand that you all lead extremely busy lives and that you may be limited in your mentoring availability. Even so, we would still love to utilize your expertise as a professional and parent.

Please refer to the meeting time information in sections 3 and 4 to see which dates and times you would be able to come in.