

8726

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# CRYPTOHAWKS 8726



## ITS TIME TO GET CHARGED UP!

SATHYA KRISHNAN, DEVEN PATEL



PG. 1-4



PG. 5-7

With the 2021-2022 officially over, it's time we say farewell to Rapid React, our problematic robot child Peanut Butter Crackers, and our rookie season. During the FRC World Championships in Houston, Texas this year, it was announced that *Haas Automation* would be the next sponsoring company, the largest mechanical and industrial tool building company in the world. We are excited to work with them, as we enter our second year of FIRST Robotics.

The Offseason has been off to a great start. With the participation in our first offseason event at Battle O' Baltimore (*and winning*), we are officially done with our rookie year. While we progressed a lot, there is much to improve, and with the new season and new team, we are aiming for the best. And just around the corner is another competition in December, that being BunnyBots. Our team has been working hard, finalizing prototypes, finishing designs, and programming the robot. With each step we go, we are all improving. As for our Non-Technical division, they are also working hard, planning, and organizing team bonding and educational events (*such as our upcoming STEM Night on December 15th*), and social out-reach with the community, and with other teams. We have all been working on our own projects and collaborating with each other to put our best effort forward.





## UPCOMING PLANS

As we draw closer to FRC 2023; CHARGED Up! we have many more events to look forward to. Our first STEM night will be on December 15th, 5-8:30 pm organized by our Outreach team. This event is made for children grades 3-5 to get an insight into robotics and just to have fun. There will be pizza, and the kids will work on a domino robot. We will coordinate this event with teachers and volunteers from the Robotics team.

We are also proud to partake in BunnyBots, hosted by FRC 449 *Blair Robot Project*. BunnyBots is mainly for students who just joined Robotics, so they get a feel of what the game is truly about. So far, the mechanical and design team has created prototypes that have been tested and almost finalized. Official building will start somewhere next week. We invite all students, staff, and parents to watch us compete, either in person (*should space permit*), or via Twitch, where almost all FRC CHS events are streamed.



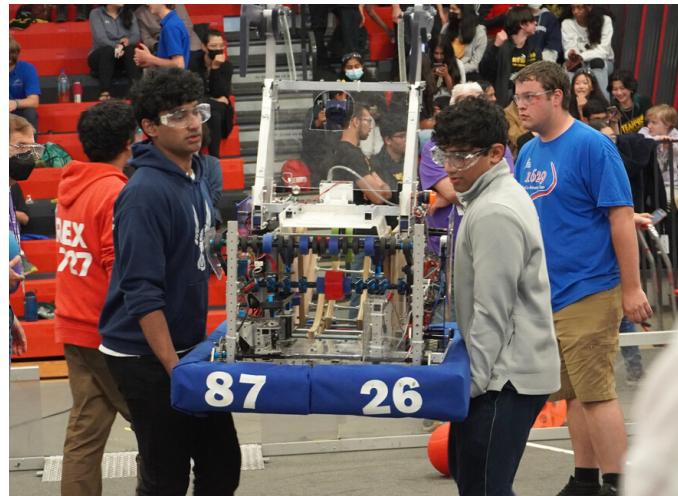
## NEW MEMBERS

We held our open house a few weeks ago, and with uncertainty of member turnout after the '22 seniors graduated, we were pleasantly surprised that approximately 60 new members were interested in joining 8726. With Battle O' Baltimore being a returning-members-only event (*to have one final outing with our rookie team*), we plan to let the new members take control of BunnyBots, so they can gain firsthand experience how an FRC event is like. Experienced team members will help mentor and train them, but we want to put BunnyBots entirely in the hands of the rookie members.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Robotics is a fantastic opportunity to hone their skills in a variety of areas (*business, marketing, hands-on building, etc.*). It is, however, an expensive program, with the costs being used to fund various aspects of our team. As of now, the costliest part of our budget is registration for official competitions, which sums up to around \$14,000. That total does not include World Championships (*if we qualify, which is another \$15,000*).



With all, it is very expensive in terms of funding the entire team. The most expensive part is funding the creation of the robot and entering competitions. We have gone to many lengths in the past year thanks to previous sponsorships and grants, however, sponsorship opportunities become very vague and come and go. With the start of the season soon approaching, real opportunities for students also close. Without the money, we can't fund the materials needed for the robot, continue competing in competitions and host a wide variety of events for educational purposes. This is a great loss for the club and the community. Another fantastic way to support us is if you, or someone you know, is willing to be a mentor for 8726, offering your knowledge, time, and experience to help train and better the team for the future.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP P.II

If you or someone you know have contacts with a company that is willing to sponsor or mentor for us, please contact *Mr. Joshua Holmes* at [joshua.holmes@fcps.org](mailto:joshua.holmes@fcps.org). We have a sponsorship packet that gives a rundown on the benefits of sponsoring us, which you can obtain a copy of the pdf [linked here](#), and here is the individual interest form that you can find [linked here](#).

Everyone in the club has made a great effort toward this club and all its achievements. Thanks to the mentors, members of the club, parents, and everyone else who have supported us along the way. It is because of you all that 8726 is possible. Everyone plays their part, and each team is working hard, so in the end, we're all striving toward one main goal. We are proud to see all this collaborative work between groups and students. As you all know, we are always looking for more talent, and I hope this inspires some of you to join or help us to represent Urbana High School at its finest. Our club is developing itself with each passing year, making improvements, and connecting with others. Thank you to all the club members and all the time your guys put into the club. Seeing these accomplishments lets us know that anything is possible when we put our minds to it.

Thank you so much for reading, and we thank you for your continuous support!



FRC 5338 UP NEXT...

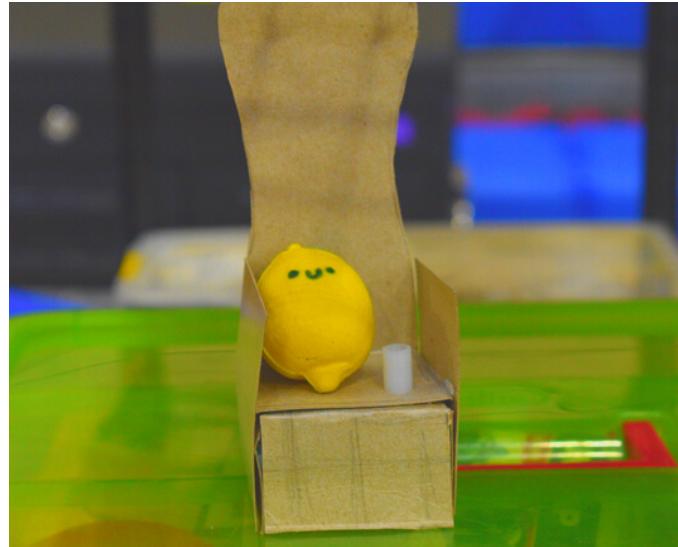


# NOVA CORPS.

## FRC 5338 - ACADEMIES OF LOUDON ROBOLOCO

**SHRUTHIKA SUNDAR, NAISHA MISTRY**

Team 8726 wants to promote togetherness and unity within the FIRST Community, which includes collaborating with other teams from all around the FRC (and FTC) world. Our first team hails from Northern Virginia, from Academies of Loudon - RoboLoco 5338. Having completed a trip to FRC World Championships, they have firsthand experience for what it takes to reach the top, and how to navigate around a season of challenges.



If you ever see them at competitions, be sure to stop by and say hi to Gerald the Safety Lemon!

FRC 5338 began their robotics journey in 2014, winning 15 awards and going to Worlds twice. We were fortunate enough to work alongside them during our rookie year, seeing how a high-caliber team functions. 8726 and 5338 were able to form a friendship of sorts, supporting and rooting for one another at District Championships, with each team growing and learning from the other.

We decided to ask some of their members how they felt about this season, any thoughts they have on the upcoming one, and any advice they have for rookie teams.



## INTRODUCTION TO FRC ROBOTICS

Most members of RoboLoco were already familiar with robotics, having either done FLL with the team, or VEX Robotics. FRC was a big part of their lives, having either piqued their interest, or honing pre-existing skills. Robotics can be scary, and can seem like a handful at the beginning, but as they put it; "***Just go for it.***" If there is even the slightest interest in STEM or FIRST, try it out because the program is what you make of it. If you want to code, you can learn to code. If you like to animate, you can make animations. If you like writing essays, you can do that too! The program encourages you to try new things, in and out of STEM (*though it's going to be related to robotics somehow*), so you're bound to learn and find something you like along the way. At the same time, you'll be surrounded by people in the same boat as you (*new and hesitant*), seasoned members, and coaches/mentors who are all there to encourage, support, and guide you. When the season ends, it's your choice whether you want to continue on that team or in that program - but you won't be able to make that decision if you never try.

To them, FIRST's core mission is to inspire students to pursue STEM and become future community leaders. Because the core mission of FIRST is so people-oriented, so is their mission of creating a supportive and collaborative community. "*We want to help guide anyone, regardless of whether they are our team members, to a path that will make them happy, ignite their passion for STEM, and encourage them to challenge themselves.*"



## HOW AN FRC TEAM OPERATES

Like most teams did (*at least from what we heard*), membership retention and turnout declined during the Pandemic, not allowing many teams to hit goals and deadlines for Outreach and Business. RoboLoco

wanted to become more flexible around the pandemic, being able to continue operations without risking member safety. Like any good team, they were able to overcome these issues once students

were allowed to return to school, by hosting recruitment events and school orientations. They also started holding mandatory meetings, which not only committed members to the team, it allowed them to apply knowledge to the team and STEM activities. Additionally, they were able to continue outreach in the community by beginning a podcast,

***RoboCast***, and start a website that helps share resources for rookie teams, ***FIRST Steps***



## DEAR ROOKIES...

*"Some advice that I would give to a rookie team in their first season is to observe, be open to change, and have fun. This isn't one single piece of advice, but they're all connected. As a first-timer, while it would be nice to start off as a superstar team, the journey is more of a learning process. When you go to competitions or start doing outreach events, take time to meet or observe other teams, see how they got there, and how you could apply something that they've done. And every team, rookie, or veteran, goes through multiple iterations of everything (team organization, strategy, design, etc.), so walk in with an open mindset that's ready to adapt to whatever your team needs. Finally, have fun! As a rookie member/team, FRC can be intimidating and stressful at first glance, but ensuring that your teammates are enjoying the process will make them eager to learn and the team more sustainable."*

## CONTACT TEAM 5338!

This segment was written in collaboration with Naisha Mistry (Business Lead) and Shruthika Sundar (Software Lead).

5338 can be found on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and their [Team Website](#).

**RoboCast** is available on all streaming platforms  
FIRST Steps: [frcfirststeps.weebly.com](http://frcfirststeps.weebly.com)  
Email: [team5338@gmail.com](mailto:team5338@gmail.com)

## HOW TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES

Being new to FIRST can be overwhelming at first, and there are genuinely tons of cases where you simply don't know how to do something. Instead of shying away, seize the opportunities you can get.

*"I took the opportunity to learn as much as I could, attending all of the programming/electrical workshops our leaders held that year. I began to challenge myself and ask questions. I enjoyed every moment on the software subteam, especially the ones where I had no idea what I was doing because those are the moments that I ultimately learned the most from. Over my time on the team, I have learned how to admit "I don't know," because I now know that doing so only facilitates my own growth and knowledge. As a leader, I feel the pressure to know the answer to every question more than ever, but I acknowledge that I myself am still learning and will strive to always do so."*

