



Snake Bytes

Team 401:

Who We Are and What We Do

FRC Team 401 is made up of high schools in the Montgomery County Public School System. Students from all the high schools in Montgomery County participate on Team 401. Even though the students come from very different schools that serve the MCPS community, the students converge to form one team with a unified goal. Students leave behind their school alliances to work together for the love of the sport. We design, build and troubleshoot in unison.

TOGETHER we can meet any challenge set before us.

We are FRC Team 401-

The Copperheads!

Journey to the Center of FIRST:

The road to the 2016 World Championship was a long one. Starting with our very own district competition. 401 hosted a competition this past year, and we also competed the same weekend! After receiving the grand Imagery Award, we were off to Doswell, VA. Once we took the title of Runner Up for our alliance placing 2nd overall, The Copperheads headed up to Maryland to storm the competition in the District Championships. We placed in the top eight, and after a long weekend, the World Championship proposed a visit. Of course we said yes! The Air Force Base welcomed us, and going to Worlds was a great end to the season.



For Inspiration and Recognition in Science and Technology

Changes: A New Leadership Style

In the 2016 season, Team 401 has introduced a new leadership program called the Veteran Leadership Program. It puts our 3rd year veterans in control of a subteam during the off-season. This program helps to better prepare the Veterans for the build season and beyond. It also provides real-life challenges such as working with other teams, handling inter-team issues, and develops strong communication skills.

This program has been put in place for the new leaders to teach pre-season classes to the rookies. The rookies can gain critical knowledge and learn to handle the intense build season with ease. Meanwhile, the veteran members can become familiar with their future subteam members and can get better prepared for life after high school.

Let's Get Ready to Rumble

We eagerly anticipate the kickoff for the 2017 First robotics season and we plan to use the remaining break as a great time to renew our energy, fine tune our skills, and reach out to the community. There are many opportunities for experienced as well as new team members to get involved. Workshops, outreach, team building, and community service have kept us busy. In addition, we are trying to promote team spirit by tackling challenges that prepare us to work together effectively after the kick-off. After the FIRST STEAMWORKS™ teaser, we have started to design our jersey, make competition spirit items, and teach first-year students key knowledge for when build season gets started again.

We are excited to begin working with our Virginia Tech student mentors starting in November. With their guidance and collaboration, we know that our season will be great. There are many preparations that still need to be accomplished. We face these challenges with renewed vigor, and are ready to take on whatever issues the season holds.



NEWS FLASH

Our first competition will be hosted at HOME!

The CHS District - Southwest Virginia FRC Event will be held at Blacksburg High School, March 3-5 2017.

We invite anyone who has not see the excitement to come see the sport for the mind in action!

Support Our Team

There are ways for the whole community to get involved. Our efforts require capital support and donations to continue the program. We ask our community members to help. We are looking for business partners to help sponsor our team for the 2015-2016 season. The team needs to cover expenses for entry fees, parts, materials, and transport and travel. We require support to assist our team in achieving our goal to compete in regional events and win a place in the Championship event held in St. Louis, Missouri, in April of 2016. Your support can help us achieve that.

Please contact 401frc@gmail.com for sponsorship information.

Any support that we receive will be greatly appreciated.



Reaching Out to the Community

We have had a very busy preseason. Our focus has been on community involvement and outreach. Each of our robotics II/III students have been involved in the planning and running of various types of outreach projects. During the summer of 2016, we hosted a successful iDreams camp, and recruited a few new rookie members for 401. We also continued our Copperheads STEM month.

After the beginning of the 2015 school year, we had fun with technology during our STEMtember series. This 2016 season, we decided to continue the series into a STEMtober month, which involves a string of STEM and FIRST related activities. We publicize this through Macaroni Kids, a local newspaper geared specifically for kids in the New River Valley area.

Also this year, 401 has done more public event demos than in any other. We've demoed both our 2014 and 2016 robots at Steppin' Out, a local small-business showcase that brings an average of 200 vendors to the streets each year. 401 has done presentations at Virginia Tech STEM Summit, and brought robots to almost every school in Montgomery County. We are supporting other technical organizations by providing a LabView workshop at the TSA Fair at BHS.

What is FRC?



FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) is an international high school robotics *FIRST® Robotics Competition* competition. Each year, teams of students and mentors work for six weeks to build game-playing robots that weigh up to 120 pounds. FRC is more than a competition for robots--FRC is a community, a team of teams, a family of sorts. FRC is not just a competition, it isn't just an event, it isn't *just* anything--it is a world built around zipping, cracking, snapping machines and a community of people focused on one thing. Teams working for and against each other. Teams bolting, building, and coding tirelessly. FRC is a committed nation that will work until the robot is immaculate until the energy and brilliance from their chests shines through the 120 pound beast that they've created. FRC is not a competition, FRC is a commitment that hungry teenagers will devour again and again, until it is better each time. What is FRC? It is a dedicated work of brilliant art.



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