



Mountain View High School
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To Current and Future Sponsors,

The High Desert Droids Robotics team brings engineering and science opportunities to our youth opening up a world of possibilities. In this way, we are helping America stay competitive in the fields of science and technology, so we can help to solve our growing global problems. For the ninth year, the High Desert Droids have formed a collaboration of students from the local high schools to compete in the international **FIRST** Robotics Competition. This program is unique among all the available high school clubs.

Dean Kamen, inventor, and Woodie Flowers, MIT professor, founded **FIRST** (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) as a way to help young people explore the fields of science and technology. **FIRST** is a non-profit sponsored by many, many major corporations including NASA, Boeing and General Motors and has grown to 1800 high school teams. This year over \$11 million in scholarships are available to **FIRST** students. The **FIRST** Robotics Competition (FRC) partners professional mentors with high school students and together, they will design and build their robot in just six intense weeks.

Last year our exceptional group of students attended the World Championships in Atlanta, Georgia. We had an amazing time and held our own against some of the largest teams in the country including those with major funding and mentoring from major corporations. This year we will attend the Portland Regional and the new regional in Salt Lake City.

As you can imagine this is an expensive venture. Entry fees alone come to \$9,000 for the two regionals. We need to raise an additional \$9,000 for robot components, public outreach, and travel. Our team also gives back to the youth in our community with events that include running our robot at the Bend Fall Festival, letting kids operate a catapult at the Bend Park & Rec. Pumpkin patch, running LEGO camps and helping sponsor the local FIRST LEGO tournament in December.

With the coming challenges faced by our nation and world, now more than ever, we need to encourage our students to excel in school and continue their educations so that they will be able to develop innovative solutions to our world's problems. Many of our alumni have earned or are working on engineering and science degrees. You can help by joining us in this endeavor. We appreciate your gifts and thank you for your consideration,

Kim Thwaits
Lead Mentor
(541)389-7904


Mentor and School Liaison
(541)322-5083

For more information about the **FIRST** organization, see the enclosed brochures or visit their website at <http://www.usfirst.org>. Please feel free to call us at the numbers above.