



Interested in Making a Difference?

On being a mentor with Team 781 – The Kinetic Knights

It has been often said that this team is about “*kids building robots, and robots building kids*”. Over the years the team has grown and built a reputation as a team that does things the right way, helping others, supporting each other and working to set everyone’s potential in motion. Mentors have been part of that journey, learning alongside of the student team members.

We have also developed our approach in mentorship outlined below:

Our Mentor Philosophy

As mentors work with students there will be times that we are a:

- Teacher: passing on knowledge and skills
- Coach: guiding performance and providing feedback
- Facilitator: helping them think and work through issues
- Coordinator: checking to ensure things are integrated and completed
- Team member: acting as a peer, providing input as requested by the team

As mentors our focus is to help the students with whom we interact with be successful. Success means:

- Independence: they are able to do as much on their own as possible - in other words our goal is to get them to the point of doing the tasks and coming to us for guidance not for us to do it for them
- Interdependence: they work together as a team helping each other out, teaching each other
- Responsibility and Accountability: they know what is expected of them and take ownership for it
- Ethical: they understand and commit to the concepts of gracious professionalism, honesty and integrity

Recognizing that the greatest influence we have is through our own behaviours, we will strive to model the values we expect to see in others.



Q & A's

What Areas Do Mentors Work In?

The team works on a wide range of areas and divides them into the robot focused build side of the team and the team management administrative side of the team. Many students do both but it helps with organizing things into those two broad areas. On the build side, mentors teach students how to use tools and equipment safely, how to design using CAD software, how to build, wire and program the robot as well as support the logistics of planning, managing work, getting ready to go to competitions, and supervising the pit area at a competition.

On the admin side, mentors help with preparing the business plan, budget, writing grant applications, editing awards submissions, making presentations, organizing fundraising activities, organizing outreach activities, preparing press releases, making videos, and general organization.

Process For Becoming A Mentor

Because mentors can and do work alone with students, it is important that everyone is clear on the expected behaviours expected of mentors and students. There are some on line videos that FIRST has put together which mentors will need to watch and in addition we will have you complete a Police check for working in a vulnerable sector. One of the Board members can issue a letter for you to take along with your form to the OPP office. This is to let them know you are doing this in a volunteer capacity and hence will likely not need to pay (or pay as much) for the check to be done.

Mentors are also team members and you will need to pay your registration fee which goes towards you getting a team shirt.

Other Adult Volunteer Positions

If you are not able to make the commitment to work with team members on a on-going basis, but are still interested in helping, there are lots of areas where you can help out as available. This includes helping provide meals during the build season, chauffeuring, organizing some fundraising events, helping build the practice field among other things. Just let one of the mentors know that you are interested.

More info

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