



WW-P FIRST Robotics Team #1923 MidKnight Inventors 2009 NJ Regional Winners

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WW-P Education Foundation Inc. EIN 22-3441000
(501(c)(3) organization)

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Introduction

The West Windsor-Plainsboro (WW-P) FIRST Robotics Team #1923, MidKnight Inventors, are seeking partners to support our team in the 2010 FIRST competitions. The WW-P FRC Team #1923 members represent the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District, and have team members from both High School North and High School South. Funds are needed to both build the robot and compete in FIRST regional and world competitions, both on and off-season.

The mission of FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership. The regional and world competition is designed to not only to get students interested in all aspects of science and technology, but includes working with engineer mentors, robotic design, and actual building and programming a robot. This work is done to meet the demands of the competition game challenge which changes every year.

FIRST enables high school students to learn about working as a team, fundraising, making corporate presentations and in general "gracious professionalism." FIRST Robotics lets students appreciate the fun and hard work of technology, whether the student is interested in engineering, business, or mechanics. FIRST Robotics encourages young women to see engineering, science and technology as career options. FRC #1923 currently has nearly ten young women on the team!

History

The MidKnight Inventors FRC #1923 is five-years-old. The team was established as the WW-P High School North FRC #1923, with rookie funding of \$7,000 a year from NASA for two years. As a rookie team, we received valuable mentoring from engineering students from The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) and Princeton Plasma Physics Lab. In

subsequent years, we were funded by donations from parents and team fundraisers. We had limited funding and no sponsors until 2009.

In 2009, we submitted a grant application to the West Windsor-Plainsboro Education Foundation Inc, and received our first grant of \$1,000. Through their sponsorship, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Janssen – a division of Ortho-Janssen-McNeil Pharmaceuticals became our first corporate sponsors. We also receive a generous \$5,000 grant from Integra Foundation in Plainsboro.



Plainsboro Founders Day: #1923 with Assemblywoman Linda Greenstein

Accomplishments

In 2009, we exceeded our goals for the year. We built our robot in a student’s garage and transported it in another student’s truck, but our robot was so solid that we became the winners of the FIRST NJ Regional Competition in February 2009. We had the best scoring robot at the competition. We also received the 2009 Judges Award for “excellence on a low budget”.

Our journey didn’t stop there. We competed at the FIRST Philadelphia Regional, where we won another Judges’ Award, and placed in the quarterfinals. As a NJ Regional Winner, we were qualified to compete in the FIRST World Championship event in Atlanta. Nearly 30,000 students gathered from around the world to compete. We placed in the quarterfinals for the Galileo Division, which ended our amazing season.



In off-season events, we just were winners in the Brunswick Eruption 8 on October 31, 2009. We were also finalists in the 2009 Bridgewater-Raritan Battle Royale, 2008 Ramp Riot, 2009 Monty Madness (Montgomery), 2008 Brunswick Eruption 7, and 2007 Brunswick Eruption 6 winners.

Team members serve as mentors to the WW-P Community Middle School’s FIRST Lego League, and have provided assistance to Dutch Neck Elementary School’s new Junior Lego League. We also participate in community events including Plainsboro’s Founders Day.

No matter how the FIRST Championship had turned out, the MidKnight Inventors had, in a sense, already won. For the first time in four years, we had sponsors, an engineer, and a great set of trophies. We had the opportunity to travel to the biggest event in FIRST and see teams from across the country and all over the world. It was a landmark year for the team, and we credit our success to a great team, mentors, and first-year sponsorship from Bristol-Myers Squibb, and Janssen, Division of Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, through the West Windsor-Plainsboro Education Foundation, and Integra Foundation.

Request for Support

We have levels of contributors and sponsors that help to support our participation in FIRST Regional and World Competitions. Our fundraising goal this year is \$48,000. The funds will be used for program expenses: registration fees for FIRST Regional Competitions, registration for FIRST off-season events, building supplies and equipment, team supplies including team t-shirts/sweatshirts, and travel to competitions.

As a FIRST Team sponsor/donor of \$1,000 and more, your corporate name and logo will be listed on the team website (under construction), FRC #1923 t-shirts, and your company name and logo will appear on our robot. Your sponsorship will also be acknowledged in FIRST competition publications in which the team is competing. The NJ Regional received a great deal of press coverage, as well as online posting of teams and their corporate sponsors. Thank you!

2010 Sponsors

Bristol-Myers Squibb \$6,000

Integra Foundation \$5,000

Novo Nordisk \$1,500

Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals \$1,500

MIMvista Corp. \$1,000

West Windsor-Plainsboro Education Foundation Inc.

How to Make a Donation

There are several easy ways that you can make a donation to the team.

1. Write a check payable to the WWP FIRST Robotics Team #1923, and mail c/o WWP High School North, 90 Grovers Mill Road, Plainsboro, NJ 08536. Donations to public schools are tax-exempt.
2. If you prefer to donate to an IRS 501(c)(3) charitable organizations, please make your check payable to the WW-P Education Foundation Inc, and designate it for the WWP FRC #1923. All donations are tax-exempt to the fullest extent of the law. You will receive confirmation of your gift. Mail to: WW-P Education Foundation, PO Box 280, Princeton Junction, NJ 08850-0280.
EIN 22-3441000.
3. The WW-P Education Foundation accepts donations for the team, and is registered with most corporate matching gift programs in the area. Please follow directions in #2 above, and enclose your employer's matching gift form, or complete the forms online, if available. For more information, visit www.wwpeducationfoundation.org or email info@wwpeducationfoundation.org.

Thank you!!