



Team photo 2019. Photo by Geskus Photography Inc.



Fruitport Middle School robotics team, the Techno Trojans II. Top Row, L-R Mentors: Kris Cole, Nathan Whipple, Logan Tromp, Rachel Cole, Caden Whipple, Nick Piper, Jeremy Martinez, Christian Whipple, Amy Carlson. **Middle Row, Students:** Owen Tromp, Quinton Schaub-Olsen, Cole Woodard, Levi Glynn, Jaelynne Ellis, Landon Johnson, Cole DeRuijter. **Front Row, Students:** Brantley Mellem, Kiera Cole, Tyler Carlson, Kendall Lee, Jaden Baxter. **Not Pictured:** Eli Hulka, and Mentor, Noah Fehler.



The Fruitport robotics “FIRST Lego League” team, named the “Techno Trojans 2.0”, winners of the Innovative Solution award in 2017.



Fruitport's 2018 “Techno Trojans 2.0” FIRST Lego League robotics team.

Fruitport Techno Trojans at Robo-Con



by Kate and Calvin Holtrop

The Lakeshore Robo-Con was held Saturday, September 28, 2019, at the Lakes Mall, and was a great opportunity for area students to get exposure to local FIRST Robotics Teams. At Robo-Con, the Techno Trojans FRC team, and their robot Ursa Major, got good publicity. The middle school FTC team, Techno Trojans II, couldn't get their robot working for part of the time. “But it was all time well spent, because we got it running,” said their coach, Kris Cole. Fruitport's FIRST Lego League team was there also.

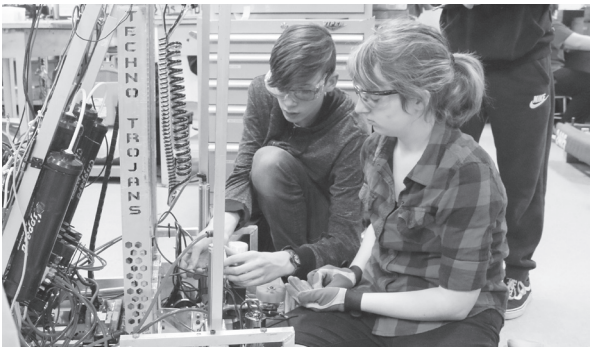
To contact the teams about how to join, donate, sponsor, or volunteer, or to find out more about the season's schedule, check out their website, www.fruitportrobotics.org, or email the teams at: FruitportRobotics@gmail.com. Folks can find links to the team's Facebook and Twitter accounts on their website, as well as a You Tube link to watch FRC Team 2405 videos.

According to Brantley Mellem, of the middle school team, “We also have an Instagram page, where we post a bunch of pictures for people on Instagram, so they can see them.” Follow the team, Techno Trojans II, on Instagram: *Techno_Trojans_2*.

Thanks to all those who supported the teams by coming to Robo-Con, and who follow them online. As Shay, one of the Techno Trojans, said in 2017, “Robotics is something that brings people together, and I'm so thankful to be a part of that...”



Interested kids check out the FIRST Lego League table-top playing field at “Robo-con”.



Team members working on their robot - left to right: Caden Whipple, Megan Capaldi. Photo by Marc Hendricks



Drive team at the Grand Rapids Girls Robotics Competition - left to right: Chloe Norman, Angelina Hulka, Mrs. Liz Birr, Gabrielle Hebert, Emily Fairfield. Photo by Joe Hebert

Techno Trojans and Techno Trojans II - Upcoming Events

by Kate and Calvin Holtrop

Get ready for the Fruitport Robotics teams' next competition events in the 2019 FIRST® Tech Challenge season, and 2020 FIRST® Robotics Competition season.

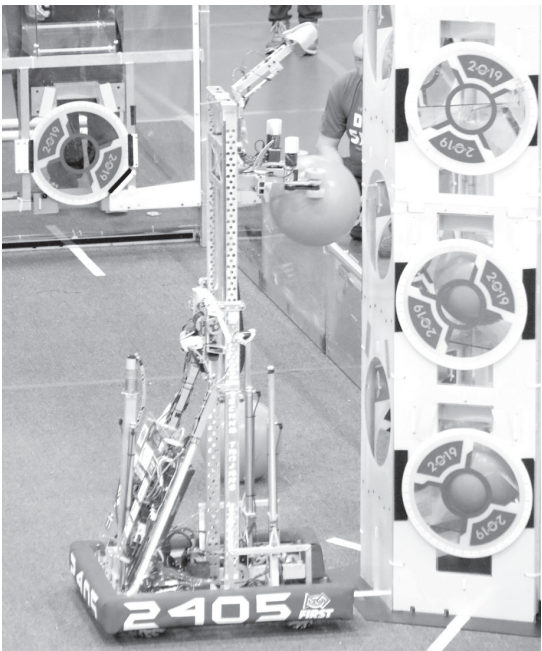
Techno Trojans, FRC Team 2405, 2020 season:

- January 4, 2020: season kickoff event.
- March 12 - 14, 2020: first competition of the season: Orchard View High School.

Techno Trojans II, FTC Team 11531, 2019 season:

- December 6 - 7, 2019: Allendale Middle School, Allendale.
- December 14, 2019: state championship: Kellogg Arena, Battle Creek.

Tyler Carlson of Techno Trojans II knows how important going to the state championship is to his team. “We have to go to state, and win at state,” he says. Coach Kris Cole acknowledges that this is a goal, perhaps an extreme goal, he says, but the team knows it can be attained one step at a time.



Ursa Major in competition loading the rocket. Photo by Marc Hendricks



Team members working on their robot's electrical systems -left to right: Dennis Hendricks, Gabrielle Hebert. Photo by Marc Hendricks



Winning the Grand Rapids Girls Robotics Competition - front row, left to right: Emily Fairfield, Gabrielle Hebert, Megan Capaldi, Mrs. Liz Birr; back row, left to right: Rachel Cole, Chloe Norman, Angelina Hulka. Photo by Joe Hebert