THE Pascack πONEERS Team 1676

2024 Book of Pi-Projects

Pascack Valley Regional High School District

www.team1676.com

"Gracious Professionalism... Don't Leave High School Without It!"

FIRST®

FOR INSPIRATION & RECOGNITION OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Table of Contents - Pi-Projects

1. LEGO WARS
2. Annual Car Wash
3. LEGOs & a Movie
4. 8th Grade Orientation
5. Haiti Bake Sale
6. Fall for STEAM Fair
7. LEGOs & a Story
8. Red Cross Blood Drive
9. LEGOs & a Movie: *Girls Who Build*
10. LEGOs & a Movie: *Day at the Races*
11. Valentine's Day Food Drive
12. Boulders Stadium Stem Day
13. Family Coding Day
14. Washington Township TV
15. Hillsdale Memorial Day Parade
16. Montvale Street Fair / River Vale Day

**Events are listed in the order of when they occur each year*

Table of Contents - Outreach

1. International Mentoring: South Africa
2. International Mentoring: Nigeria
3. International Mentoring: Taiwan
4. *FIRST* LEGO League Qualifying Tournament
5. *FIRST* Tech Challenge Mentoring: Frisch CouGears
6. *FIRST* Tech Challenge Mentoring: Bectobots
7. Pi-Tech Academy
8. *FIRST* Signing Day
9. Annual Food Drives
10. American Cancer Society: Relay for Life

LEGO WARS Event

Hosted by The Pascack Pi-oneers and PVTV

LEGO WARS

COMING SOON

Two representatives from each grade
will have 90 minutes to complete a LEGO creation
with the LEGOs donated by their grade.

The grade that makes the best design
will be awarded Valley Cup Points!

JUDGES:
Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Nielsen, Ms. DeQuintal, and Mr. Koenig

2022 - 2023

EVENT	**LEGO Wars and LEGO Donation Drive**
DATE	LEGO Drive: February 16-March 2/ Event: June 1
PLACE	Pascack Valley / Pascack Hills
PURPOSE	To collect LEGOs for organizations that help children learn about STEM and spark their creativity. To encourage community togetherness within Valley.

NOTES/DESCRIPTION FOR EVENT

This event will take place at Pascack Valley High School. LEGOs will be donated to benefit a children's STEM charity. LEGOs will be collected over multiple weeks at each high school. However, to spark Valley pride, there will be a 'LEGO Wars' event. This event entails eight students working with LEGOs collected by their respective grades to build a masterpiece in front of the student body. This creation will be entered in the competition between the grades.

SCHEDULE/CHECKLIST

Valley:
- Cardboard boxes
- Covering for boxes according to the color of each grade
- Flyers to be put on boxes
- Flyers put on walls
- Emails sent
- Venue set-up
  - Tables
  - Chairs
  - Microphone(s)

Hills:
- Cardboard boxes
- Covering for boxes
- Flyers to be put on boxes
- Flyers put on walls
- Emails sent

SCHEDULE (time in reference to respective school's events)

3 MONTHS - 1 YEAR BEFORE
- Hills
  - Idea process - we will be running a LEGO donation drive to give to underserved children
- Valley
  - Idea process - we will be running a LEGO event to inspire school spirit and to raise LEGOs to give to underserved children
  - Contact PVTV to cover the event
  - Contact student council for their support

2 MONTHS BEFORE
- Hills
  - Finalize graphics
  - Determine exact dates
- Valley

- Secure venue at Valley, including date and time
- Finalize details of event
- Make graphics unique to the event itself
- Email for event participation
- Contact participants
- Contact STEM teachers to judge the final creations

1 MONTH BEFORE

- Hills
  - Finalize flyer and print
  - Send it out on social media
- Valley
  - Finalize graphics
  - Send it out on social media
  - Announce it to the school
  - Check-in with participants
  - Confirm Pi-oneer "LEGO team" coaches for each grade
  - Confirm STEM teacher judges

2 WEEKS BEFORE

- Hills
  - Set up flyers on walls
  - Send a reminder on social media
- Valley
  - Gather supplies
    - LEGOs
    - Tablecloths
    - Lights
    - Cameras
    - Microphone(s)

1 WEEK BEFORE

- Hills
  - Set up additional flyers on walls
  - Put flyers on boxes and set them up
- Valley
  - Send out confirmation email to participants
  - Be sure that supplies are ready

DAY BEFORE EVENT

- Hills
  - Be sure that all supplies are in place
- Valley
  - Transport any surplus supplies from Hills: cloths, LEGOs, etc

DAY OF EVENT

- Hills
  - Two weeks of event
  - Regularly collect LEGOs from boxes
  - Send out reminder email
- Valley
  - One multi-hour event
  - Ensure that LEGOs from each grade are collected and kept separate
  - Set up tables, tablecloths, LEGOs, etc

POST EVENT	

What works:
• Planning started with ample time to work out details
• There was a good amount of participation from the student body in collection
  ○ There was a good amount of LEGOs
• The venue (Valley cafeteria) worked well
	What doesn't work:
	• LEGOs began to spill out of boxes
	  ○ LEGOs should be frequently collected from boxes
	• Gathering participants for Valley
	  ○ Participants should be contacted months beforehand
	  ○ Back-up participants included
	• Location and date
	  ○ Should be determined and confirmed first-thing
	  ○ Communicated to participants asap
	• Host should have a script on-hand
	• Need to keep in touch with PVTV

Annual Car Wash

PLEASE SUPPORT THE PASCACK PI-ONEERS

Purchase a Car Wash Ticket $5.00

Car Wash is October 7th, 20203 9am to 1pm At Pascack Hills High School Rain or Shine

Donations are used to support team robotics equipment,
travel to regional and world competitions, team uniforms and other expenses.

Thank you! We appreciate your support.

Pascack Pi-oneers
***FIRST* Robotics Team 1676**
www.team1676.com

Pascack Valley Regional High School District
Pascack Hills High School
225 West Grand Avenue · Montvale, N.J. 07645

2007 - Present

EVENT	**Car Wash Fundraiser**
DATE	October 7, 2023
PLACE	Pascack Hills High School
PURPOSE	To raise funds for the Pascack Pi-oneers.

NOTES/DESCRIPTION FOR EVENT

In order to raise funds to run our other projects, build our robot, and travel, the Pascack Pi-oneers will host our annual Car Wash to raise funds for the remainder of the year. Our members sell tickets to the community in front of several small and chain business locations and to their friends and family. Then the Pi-oneers wash cars in two shifts from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, and local FLL teams dry the cars.

CHECKLIST

- Emails sent
  - Pi-Parents
  - Principals
  - Middle Schoolers
- Social media posts sent
- Flyers
  -
- Tickets
- Hoses
- Soap
- Sponges
- Buckets
- Cash jar

SCHEDULE

3 MONTHS - 1 YEAR BEFORE

- Plan out ticket sales with Pi-oneers for advertising
- Create/update graphics and flyers

2 MONTHS BEFORE

- Do ticket sales, begin to advertise in other ways through posters, word of mouth, etc
- Have each Pi-oneer sell their 5 personal tickets

1 MONTH BEFORE

- Begin advertising event online
- Plan out what will be needed at the event
- Contact middle schools and plan out middle school volunteers for drying

2 WEEKS BEFORE

- Send out Pi-oneer Sign Up Genius
- Continue advertising
- Confirm middle school volunteer participation

1 WEEK BEFORE

- Remind Pi-oneers
- Send out continued social media posts
- Collect Pi-oneer sales

DAY BEFORE EVENT
• Take inventory of supplies and be sure that we have everything needed • Send out final social media posts
DAY OF EVENT
• Have first shift Pi-oneers arrive early and lay out soap and other materials • Have two Pi-oneers holding a sign to attract more customers • Utilize the dryers at Hills to maintain number of dry towels

POST EVENT	

What works:
• Having the event be mandatory helped with participation
• Using the dryer and all other materials listed
• Having two Pi-oneers collect tips
• Middle schoolers are very good at collecting tips
	What doesn't work:
	• Selling tickets
	  ○ 10 tickets per pi-oneer may require more ticket selling events closer to the final due date
	• Collecting towels
	  ○ They got dirty quickly, so we need more

LEGOs & a Movie

2011 - Present

EVENT	**LEGOs & a Movie**
DATE	10/10/22
PLACE	Pascack Hills cafeteria
PURPOSE	To continue outreach to the local community in order to encourage children to develop an interest in STEAM through fun experiences that promote building skills and creativity.

NOTES/DESCRIPTION FOR EVENT

Columbus Day - no school. Our LEGOs & a Movie will be from 2pm to 4pm for elementary school students. Students will build creations using LEGOs and watch a movie, "Wall-E", by Pixar.

CHECKLIST

- LEGOs
- Snacks
- Cups
- Drinks
- Napkins/Paper Towels
- Table Cloths
- Hand-out flyers for future events
- Robot cart

For Pi-oneers:

- Name tags
- Team uniforms
- Robot
- Safety kit
- Laptop to play the movie
- The movie
- Tables

SCHEDULE

3 MONTHS - 1 YEAR BEFORE

- Plan the event
  - Have a coach reserve the space
  - Pi-oneer Volunteer
  - Pi-Parent Chaperone
  - When
  - Location
    - If at Valley, reserve projector
  - Things needed
    - Find a movie
    - Start planning the flyers

2 MONTHS BEFORE

- Make the Sign Up Genius, include the Project Manager role
- Keep making changes to the event

1 MONTH BEFORE

- Send out the Sign Up Genius
- Start preparing supplies for the activities

2 WEEKS BEFORE

- Contact the 4 superintendents to get permission to send flyer out to schools
- Send an email out to the volunteers

- Make sure you have all the supplies
- Get the movie online or request at the library
- Post flyers online on Patch and social media
- Send out email to Pi-Parents
- Send a Sign Up Genius with flyer and permission slip/photo release to Pi-Parent event email list

1 WEEK BEFORE

- Send an email out to the volunteers
  - Confirming the time to meet
  - Wear team uniform
  - What to do
- Get the movie online or request at the library
- Send reminder on Nj.com, facebook, other social media

DAY BEFORE EVENT

- Go over this doc and make sure we have everything
- Contact the Project Manager to make sure they know what to do
- Co-leads of Community Project Group contact each other to make sure everything is good
- Make sure laptops are charged

DAY OF EVENT

- Pi-oneers arrive at 9:15 am to prepare the venue
- Some Pi-oneers should be at the entrance to escort participants inside
- Pi-Parents should bring the cash box, refreshments and snacks, and volunteer chaperones
- Have fun and be safe!

POST EVENT

What works:	**What doesn't work:**

- Assigning each Pi-oneer to a table that they have to set up.
- Making sure none of the children eat or drink at the LEGO tables.
	- Assigning 2 kids to a Pi-oneer (got messy)
	  - Solution: Children are filed to one table until it is fully occupied, and then sent to the next table over.
	- Playing the movie while the kids are playing with LEGOs.
	  - Ask children when they come in if they want to watch the movie because we can separate them at tables according to that
	- Hyper and running around with snacks
	  - Specified snack time
	- Timed stations
	  - The kids can pick what they want to do first and switch later

8th Grade Orientation

Back to School Night

EVENT	**Pascack Hills/Valley 8th Grade Orientation**
DATE	November 14/16, 2023
PLACE	PV/PH cafeteria
PURPOSE	To inform the incoming 8th graders about robotics, our team, and FIRST, and spread awareness about STEAM.

NOTES/DESCRIPTION FOR EVENT

- inform the incoming 8th graders about robotics
- spread awareness about STEAM, FIRST, and what we do

SCHEDULE/CHECKLIST

- Name tags
- Team Brochure
- FIRST Brochure
- FIRST Materials (sheets of FIRST information)
- Scrapbook
- Bug Out Bag
- Robot
- Banners
  - Blue Banner
- Tablecloths
- Holder for all paper

SCHEDULE

3 MONTHS - 1 YEAR BEFORE

- Consult coaches to apply for the team's attendance of Orientation

2 MONTHS BEFORE

- Make the Sign Up Genius ready for people who can attend the orientation
  - Need people who can operate the robot
  - Need people for MOD/Outreach
  - Need a mentor or supervisor
  - Need a photographer
  - Make a list of supplies we need for the orientation.

1 MONTH BEFORE

- Send out the SUG to the team
- **FOR VALLEY**: Robot Transportation to Valley

2 WEEKS BEFORE

- Send reminders for all signups

1 WEEK BEFORE

- Send reminders for all signups
- Start organizing supplies
- Send reminders to people who signed up as to where your meeting

DAY BEFORE EVENT

- Send final reminder to all those who are attending
- Make sure all supplies are ready

DAY OF EVENT

- **FOR VALLEY:** Drive robot and materials over
- Charge batteries - someone from Hills
- Arrive early (~ 1 hour before) to set up
- Make sure we brought everything and are able to talk about our team and our handouts
- Designated time to take pictures

ITEMS NEEDED BEFORE EVENT
• SignUp Genius
ITEMS NEEDED AT EVENT
• Blue Banner • Brochures • Brochure holders • Outreach Materials • Table cloths • Robot and batteries

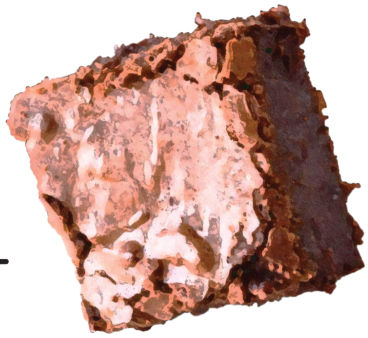
POST EVENT	
What works: • Showing off the robot really interested the 8th graders more than anything else	**What doesn't work:** • Limited space to move the robot around

Bake Sale for Haiti

BAKE SALE

for

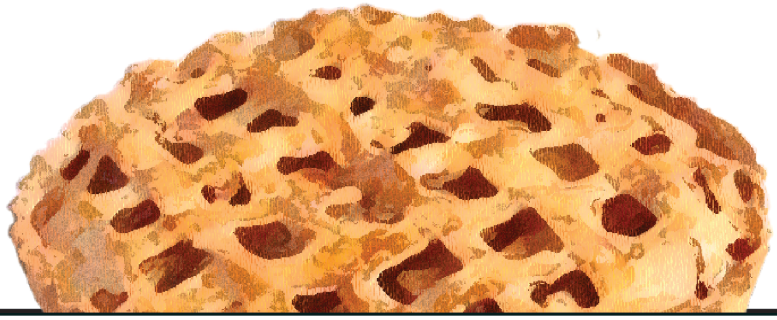
HAITI



100% of proceeds will be used to purchase laptops for robotics teams in Haiti

TUESDAY, OCT 18TH

DURING LUNCH | AFTER SCHOOL



2022 - Present

EVENT	**Hills Bake Sale**
DATE	10/18/23
PLACE	Pascack Hills (above main stairs)
PURPOSE	Fundraising

NOTES/DESCRIPTION FOR EVENT

This event is intended to raise funds for our international outreach by selling baked goods at Hills during lunch and after school.

SCHEDULE/CHECKLIST

- Materials
  - Paper Towels or Napkins
  - Table Cloth.
  - Cash box.
  - Hand Sanitizer.
  - Plates/containers for baked goods.
- Baked Goods (no nuts) (get gluten free alternatives).
  - Small Apple Pies
  - Brownies
  - Chocolate Chip Cookies
  - Candy Apples
  - Cupcakes
  - Chocolate covered pretzels w/ yellow drizzle
  - Seasonal treats

Flyer:

SCHEDULE

1 MONTH BEFORE

- Make flyer
- Make Signup Genius
  - Confirm date, location, purpose
- Draft emails
  - School population
    - Preliminary with flyer
    - Reminder
  - Pi-oneers
    - Preliminary with Sign Up Genius
    - Reminder
  - School administration
    - Securing location
    - Allowing ‘to-school’ emails
  - Pi-parents provide baked goods

2 WEEKS BEFORE

- Send emails
  - School administration
  - Pi-Parents
  - Pi-oneers preliminary

1 WEEK BEFORE

- Send more emails
  - Pi-oneers reminder
  - School population preliminary

DAY BEFORE EVENT

- Send even more emails
  - School population reminder

DAY OF EVENT

- Set up tables with baked goods
- Sell baked goods

POST EVENT

What to continue doing:

- High demand for baked goods
- Continue having enough tables
- Bring a lot of napkins
- Prices were good
- Items were good
- Brownies were a great seller
- Good items should be grab and go

What to start/stop doing:

- Better packaging/container or grab-n-go items needed (individual servings)
- Make sure there are no nuts
- Stop more people from grabbing goods with their hands
- Flyer update
- Worst seller was the apple pies but everything still went

Fall for STEAM Fair

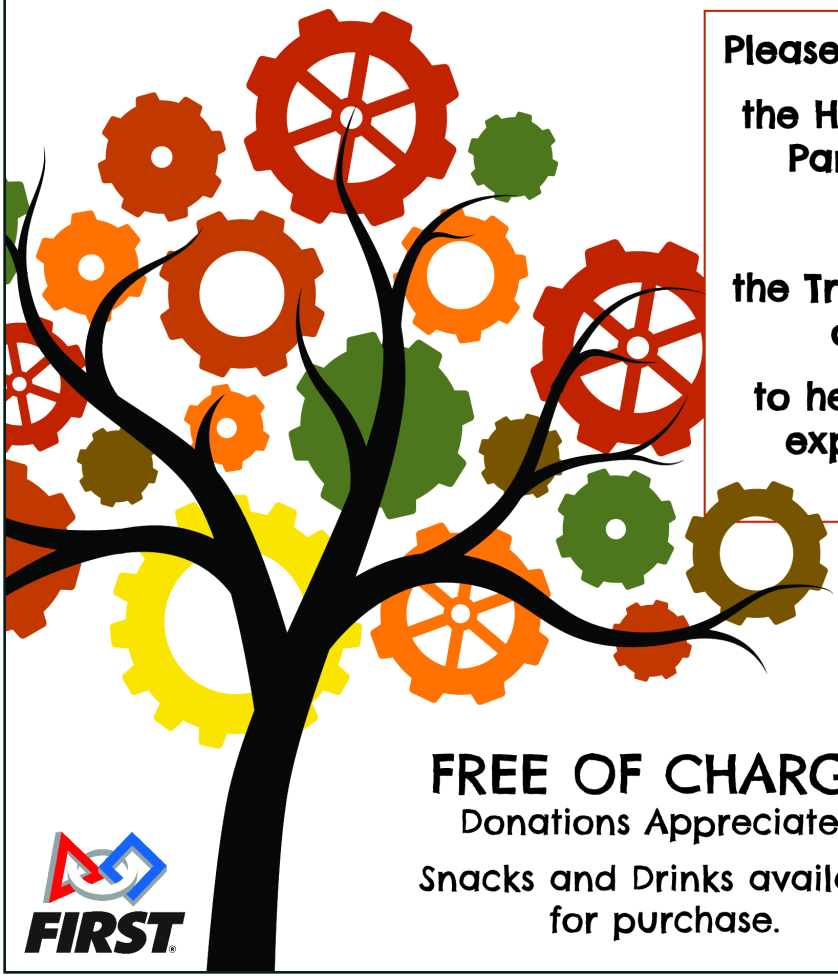
Science. Technology. Engineering. Art. Math.
In 20 Interactive Exhibits!

FALL FOR S.T.E.A.M. FAIR

OCT 21
October 21, 2023
12:00pm - 4:00 pm

Pascack Valley High School
200 Piermont Ave., Hillsdale

Kids of All Ages Welcome! Parental Assistance Required.



Please bring an item for:

the Helping Hand Food Pantry of Hillsdale

and

the Tri-Boro Food Pantry of Park Ridge

to help our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

FREE OF CHARGE!
Donations Appreciated.

Snacks and Drinks available for purchase.

2019 - Present

EVENT	**STEAM Fair**
DATE	October 21, 2023
PLACE	Pascack Valley High School, Cafeteria
PURPOSE	For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology

NOTES/DESCRIPTION FOR EVENT

This is an event to promote STEAM and involve the community. It is also to create an interest in STEAM and robotics for all age groups. It is a wonderful day for families and the kids to go home with new facts about STEAM. Tables are set up with fun demonstrations of different STEAM related concepts.

SCHEDULE/CHECKLIST

Materials: Scissors Tables Colored stickers Table Cloths: - Science - green - Technology - blue - Engineering - yellow - Art - purple - Math - red Pamphlets : Tree with circles filled with symbols of each table's activity that would be covered by a sticker upon completion, as well as a brief overview of the event and what the team does.	Amount of tables: 25, 5 tables of each subject https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_Uici8kx5q1aBxgM2phZbNrtp5Sq6ptV_WQQbttQLps/edit	Food and Snacks: - chips - water - lemon tea - candy Merchandise: • Pi-oneers hat • FIRST lightbulbs • Pi-oneers shirts • STEAM fair coloring book • Pi-oneers wallets • Lanyards

SCHEDULE

3 MONTHS - 1 YEAR BEFORE

- Reserve the room
- Sent out signups for the STEAM fair in September

2 MONTHS BEFORE

- Brainstorming table ideas.
- Look at previous years post-mortem information

1 MONTH BEFORE

- Finalize tables
- Make supply list, Begin buying supplies
- Send out Pi-oneer Sign Up Genius
- Begin social media posts
- Update brochures, flyer

2 WEEKS BEFORE

- Started organizing materials needed for the steam fair.
- 2 to 3 weeks- advertise/FB, twitter, instagram, local online, schools
- Start to decide what materials we can order for some tables to see if there is anything we can improve.
- Order brochures initially

1 WEEK BEFORE

- Got all missing materials
- Get all materials laid out and numbered up making sure we are not missing anything and pack them up into bags.
- Make sure all the tables are able to be set up by us or the custodians.
- Send out reminder emails to all that are signed up.

DAY BEFORE EVENT

- Set up tables for event
  - Put out tablecloths(red,yellow,green, blue,purple) and dedicated each table to a specific activity
  - Organized materials for each table/event
  - Fold brochures
- Sent out reminders to Pi-oneers

DAY OF EVENT

- Shifts were from 11:00-1:45 and 1:45-5:00
- Clean up after Steam fair ends

POST EVENT

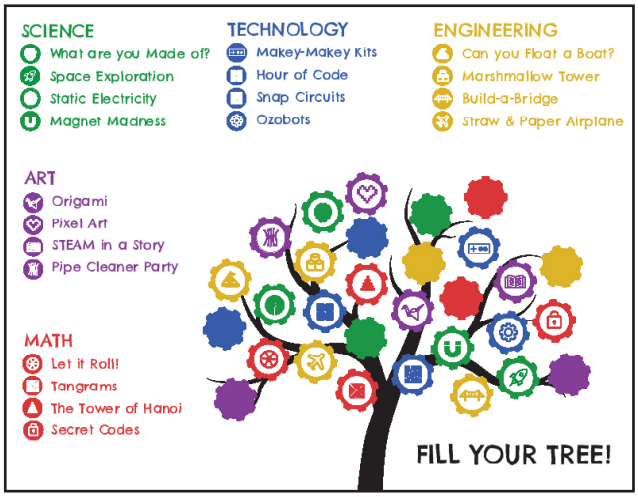
What works:

- 25 Tables worked well
- STEAM ordered layout
- Snacks, team info, and robot in another room
- Tech Dissection
- Table examples

What doesn't work:

- Robot could have been shown off more
- Certain tables need revising
  - Glow in the Dark Goo
  - Let it Roll
- Age ratings should be more obvious
- Table partner collaboration

THE FALL FOR S.T.E.A.M. Journey
Go on an adventure and experience 20 demonstrations about:
Science
Technology
Engineering
Art
Math
Collect stickers from each table and fill up your tree!
WHO WE ARE
We are the Pascack Pi-oneers, FIRST Robotics Competition Team 1676.
Our team members are from Pascack Valley High School and Pascack Hills High School.
We host various other events for curious kids! To sign up for our children's events, email:
piparents@team1676.com
To stay up to date, follow us on our social media:
: @FRCTeam1676
: @Team1676Safety
: @frcteam1676
: @pascackpioneers
To learn more about us:
team1676.com
To learn more about FIRST:
firstinspires.org
Hosted by
The Pascack Pi-oneers
FIRST Robotics Competition
Team 1676
FALL FOR S.T.E.A.M. FAIR
December 3rd, 2022
12:00pm - 4:00 pm
Pascack Hills High School
225 W. Grand Ave., Montvale


SCIENCE
What are you Made of?
Space Exploration
Static Electricity
Magnet Madness
TECHNOLOGY
Makey-Makey Kits
Hour of Code
Snap Circuits
Ozobots
ENGINEERING
Can you Float a Boat?
Marshmallow Tower
Build-a-Bridge
Straw & Paper Airplane
ART
Origami
Pixel Art
STEAM in a Story
Pipe Cleaner Party
MATH
Let it Roll!
Tangrams
The Tower of Hanoi
Secret Codes
FILL YOUR TREE!

LEGOs & a Story

LEGOs & a Story!

Hosted by the Pascack Pi-oneers
FIRST Team 1676

Build a LEGO creation and tell your story about it!

Pascack Hills High School
225 West Grand Avenue
Montvale NJ

- Saturday, December 2
- 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Grades 1 through 6

$25 Includes:

- A certificate
- A digital storybook
- Your child's LEGO creation
- Snacks and drinks!

REGISTER: tinyurl.com/3nt9dt78

Questions?

Contact piparents@team1676.com

team1676.com

2020 - Present

EVENT	**LEGOs & a Story**
DATE	December 2, 2023
PLACE	Pascack Hills High School, in the cafeteria
PURPOSE	To continue outreach to the local community to encourage young students to develop an interest in STEAM through fun experience with the goal to combine engineering, building skills, and creative writing.

NOTES/DESCRIPTION FOR EVENT

LEGOs & a Story will provide an opportunity for young students to meet with the Pascack Pi-oneers to build fun structures with LEGOs and write a story about the creations. Pi-oneers will engage participants in-person to encourage creative story writing and construction skills. Afterward, they will receive a certificate and a copy of their story to keep forever.

CHECKLIST

- Find certificate template online
- Name tags
- Charged laptops and chargers
- Team uniform
- LEGOs
- Music
- Sign Up Genius
- Snacks and refreshments
- Legos and a Story Template
- Mad-Libs With Frame

SCHEDULE

3 MONTHS BEFORE

- Plan the event
  - Have a coach reserve the space
  - Pi-oneer Volunteer
  - Pi-Parent Chaperone
  - Exact date
  - Location
    - If at Valley, reserve projector
  - Things needed
  - Start planning the flyers

1 MONTH BEFORE

- Brainstorm general event
- Plan outline and event details
- Send out Sign Up Genius to the team
- Update flyer
- Send promotional email to Pi-Parent event email list
- Send promotional social media posts (Save-the-Date)

2 WEEKS BEFORE

- Finalize outline and details for event
- Finalize team sug, is it full
- Mandatory meeting to go over the event outline and activities with Pi-oneer volunteers
- Post on social media
- Send a Sign Up Genius with flyer and permission slip/photo release to Pi-Parent event email list

1 WEEK BEFORE

- Send reminder to community and team
- Print out certificates

DAY BEFORE EVENT

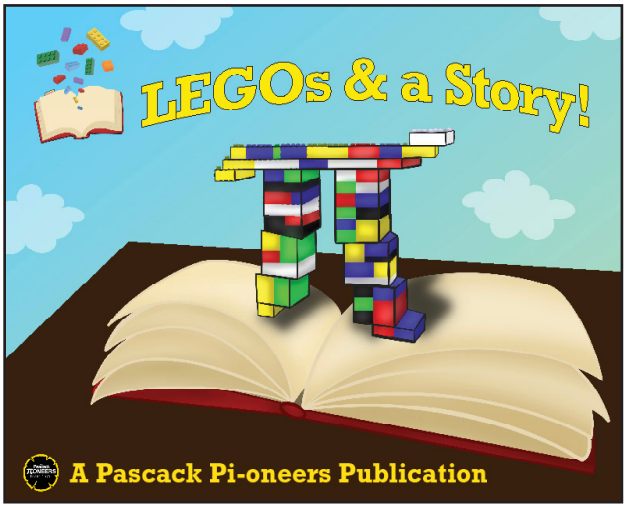
- Send out final reminder email to Pi-oneer volunteers
- Final checklist to ensure that everything needed for the event is present

DAY OF EVENT

- Pi-oneer volunteers report at 9:00 am
  - Ensure team brings charged laptops, chargers, and a refillable water bottle, along with wearing their team uniform
  - Team stays after the event to upload photos and stories
- Items to bring:
  - Table cloths need to be put over the tables (Teachers lounge)
  - Banner with tape (shop)
  - Robot & robo carpet (Teachers lounge & shop)
  - Charge batteries
  - 2-3 Folding tables (Teachers lounge)
  - Small folding table (shop)
  - Take home boxes (Breezeway)
  - Nametags
  - Boxes for LEGOs to go
  - First aid kit
- Go over event agenda
- Open event to public
- Engage participants from 10:00 am to 11:50 pm
  - Robot demo at this time
  - Final announcements
- Pi-Parents should bring the cash box, refreshments and snacks, and volunteer chaperones
- Take pictures of students and their creations for personalized book
- At the end of event, talk to parents and take group photo of participants and team members
- Clean up after all guests have left

POST EVENT

What works:	**What doesn't work:**
• One-on-one Pi-oneer and participant • Having extra Pi-oneers for walk-ins • Utilizing a list of questions for Pi-oneers to ask about the creation • Using boxes for participants to take home their LEGO creations • Advertising on social media	• Set up banner in prep period • Make name tags ahead of time for Pi-oneers • Have somebody outside to welcome attendees • Try to assemble boxes when there is time • Have 2 people setting up robot instead of 5 • snacks



LEGOs & a Story!

Hosted Virtually by the Pascack Pi-oneers
FIRST Team 1676

Certificate of Accomplishment

This certificate is presented to

_____

For successfully building a LEGO creation
and
writing an original creative story

November 5, 2020

Red Cross Blood Drive

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, November 29
2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Pascack Hills High School Cafeteria
225 West Grand Avenue, Montvale, NJ

To donate blood you must:
– be in good health and feeling well
– be at least 16 years old
– weigh at least 110 lbs
– not have donated blood in the last 56 days.

For the full list, read the Extended Eligibility Requirements on the Red Cross website at:
https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/how-to-donate/eligibility-requirements

To Register,
Scan the QR code and select Pascack Hills High School.

American Red Cross

Hosted by
The Pascack Pi-oneers *FIRST* Robotics Team 1676 - team1676.com
Pascack Hills High School Medical Club

2019 - Present

EVENT	**Red Cross Blood Drive**
DATE	November 29, 2023
PLACE	Pascack Hills High School cafeteria
PURPOSE	To promote the end of the severe shortage of blood donations due to the pandemic.

NOTES/DESCRIPTION FOR EVENT

The Pascack Pi-oneers and the PHHS Medical Club are partnering to host a Red Cross Blood Drive. It will be November 29th, from 2:00 to 7:00 pm in the cafeteria.
https://docs.google.com/document/d/19NUsKC8MCm0MbgJkmKJcbJ3jupcbtGjdWZFp6cVb70c/edit

SCHEDULE/CHECKLIST

To donate blood you must:

- be in good health and feeling well
- be at least 16 years old
- weigh at least 110 lbs
- have not donated blood in the last 56 days.

Pi-oneers and PHHS Med Volunteers:

- Sign Up Genius for volunteering
  - Three shifts - each 2 hours
  - 12:45 - 3:00, load-in, set-up, and first hour, 3:00 - 5:00 continued, 5:00 - 7:45 end and clean-up (even it out next time)
- Research requirements for donation
- Send emails to libraries, student body, principals, and Red Cross informants
  - Be sure to include all main requirements and 16-year-old consent forms
- Social media posts

SCHEDULE

3 MONTHS - 1 YEAR BEFORE

- Begin collaboration with the PHHS Medical Club
- Get ideas going about the date, location, and other essentials

2 MONTHS BEFORE

- Make lists of emails and social media posts that need to be sent out
- Draft the flyer with pertinent information
- Begin drafts of above emails
- Draft a Sign Up Genius for volunteers

1 MONTH BEFORE

- Finalize and send emails
  - Libraries
  - Principals
- Refine the flyer
- Send out the flyer on various social medias, such as Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook
- Send out the Sign Up Genius for volunteers

2 WEEKS BEFORE

- Send out preliminary email to student body
- Contact Red Cross informants to be sure of all details
- Contact student volunteers and confirm their participation

1 WEEK BEFORE

- Send out reminder email to student body
- Send out the flyer again on various social medias, such as Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook

DAY BEFORE EVENT

- Ensure that all supplies are ready for the event
- Confirm with janitors and administration about tables, chairs, and other essentials

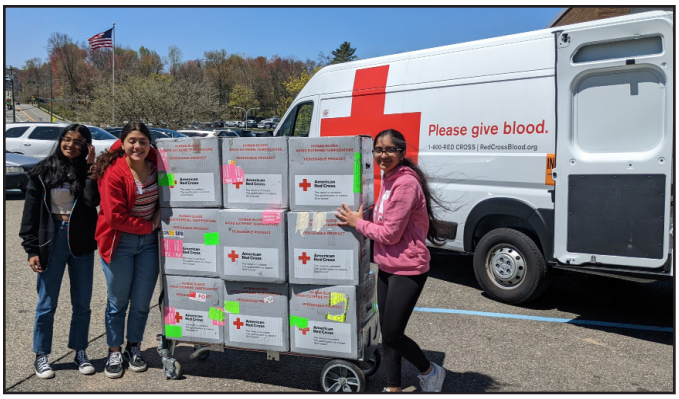
DAY OF EVENT

- Send out final email to student body
- One hour before, allow volunteers to begin preparation for the event
- Until one hour after, allow volunteers to assist with the clean-up process

POST EVENT

What works:	What doesn't work:

• Our schedule allowed for ample time to plan
• Collaboration with the PHHS Medical Club and the American Red Cross went smoothly
• All emails were concise and sent out on time
	• Even out the Pi-oneer shifts
	• The closet in the gym was locked, so we couldn't get yoga mats in case people fall
	• There were some no-shows and some slots weren't filled
	  ○ More info to reassure people
	  ○ More social media posts, earlier


Please give blood.
1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org

LLS

LEGOs & a Movie: *Girls Who Build*

2015 - Present

EVENT	**LEGOs & a Movie: Girls Who Build and Code**
DATE	December 9th, 2023
PLACE	Pascack Hills High School
PURPOSE	To continue outreach to the local community in order to encourage girls to develop an interest in STEAM through fun experiences that promote building skills.

NOTES/DESCRIPTION FOR EVENT

This event will take place from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm for elementary school students. This specific event recognizes girls as the future of STEAM, and focuses on female participation in STEAM fields. During this event, participants will watch a movie and build skills, such as creative building and teamwork, along with coding, while having fun with LEGOs.

CHECKLIST

- Name tags
- Team uniform
- Robot/batteries
- Safety Kit
- Laptop to play movie
- The movie
- Other laptops for girls to code
- LEGOs
- Snacks/napkins
- Drinks/cups

For the younger group or those who want an easier task: introduction or dance party
https://curriculum.code.org/hoc/plugged/1/
https://curriculum.code.org/hoc/plugged/8/

For the middle group: star wars or minecraft
https://curriculum.code.org/hoc/plugged/5/
https://curriculum.code.org/hoc/plugged/6/

For the older group or those who want a challenge: flappy bird
https://curriculum.code.org/hoc/plugged/3/

SCHEDULE

3 MONTHS - 1 YEAR BEFORE

- Plan the event
- Determine items needed
- Find a movie
- Start planning the flyers
- Reserve a location

2 MONTHS BEFORE

- Make the Sign Up Genius
- Keep making changes to the event

1 MONTH BEFORE

- Send out the Sign Up Genius
- Start preparing supplies for the activities

2 WEEKS BEFORE

- Send an email out to the volunteers

- Make sure all the supplies are ready to go
- Get the movie online or request at the library
- Post flyers online
- Send a Sign Up Genius with flyer and permission slip/photo release to Pi-Parent event email list

1 WEEK BEFORE

- Send an email out to the volunteers with more information
- Send out final reminders on social media

DAY BEFORE EVENT

- Set up the venue
- Make sure laptops are charged

DAY OF EVENT

- Pi-oneers arrive at 9:15 am to prepare the venue
- Some Pi-oneers should be at the entrance to escort participants inside
- Pi-Parents should bring the cash box, refreshments and snacks, and volunteer chaperones
- Bring robot for a demonstration, make sure batteries are charged
- Have fun and be safe!

POST EVENT

What works:

- Having a gratuitous amount of LEGOs on each table
- Checking our equipment beforehand
- Due date for team members to sign up for the event 2 weeks ahead of event
- Scheduled snack time
- Having boxes for participants to take their creations home
- Ask parents to arrive 10 minutes early to see the robot demo and take pictures of their children

What doesn't work:

- Making the Sign Up Genius
  - Permission slip should be more pronounced
  - Basic information should be highlighted
- Attending Pi-oneers
  - More people due to the large turnout
  - More volunteers for transportation of robot
  - More people to escort and sign in participants
- Having materials
  - Pi-oneers should bring their own water
  - More LEGOs
  - Dimmer lights to see the movie
  - More tablecloths

LEGOs & a Movie: *Day at the Races*

2015 - Present

EVENT	**LEGOs & a Movie: Day at the Races**
DATE	12/17/22
PLACE	Pascack Valley cafeteria
PURPOSE	To continue outreach to the local community in order to encourage children to develop an interest in STEAM through fun experiences that promote building skills and functional creativity.

NOTES/DESCRIPTION FOR EVENT

Our LEGOs & a Movie will be from 10am to 12pm for elementary school students. Students will build vehicular creations using LEGOs and watch a movie, as well as race their creations down a ramp.

CHECKLIST

- LEGOs
- Snacks
- Cups
- Drinks
- Napkins/Paper Towels
- Table Cloths
- Hand-out flyers for future events
- Robot cart
- Specialized pieces
  - Axels
  - Wheels
  - Connection pieces

For Pi-oneers:

- Name tags
- Team uniforms
- Robot
- Safety kit
- Laptop to play the movie
- The movie
- Tables

SCHEDULE

3 MONTHS - 1 YEAR BEFORE

- Plan the event
  - Have a coach reserve the space
  - Pi-oneer Volunteers
  - Pi-Parent Chaperone
  - When
  - Location
    - If at Valley, reserve projector
  - Things needed
    - Find a movie
    - Start planning the flyers

2 MONTHS BEFORE

- Make the Sign Up Genius
- Keep making changes to the event

1 MONTH BEFORE

- Send out the Sign Up Genius
- Start preparing supplies for the activities

2 WEEKS BEFORE

- Contact the 4 superintendents to get permission to send flyer out to schools
- Send an email out to the volunteers
- Make sure you have all the supplies
- Get the movie online or request at the library
- Post flyers online on Patch, on social media
- Send out email to Pi-Parents
- Send a Sign Up Genius with flyer and permission slip/photo release to Pi-Parent event email list

1 WEEK BEFORE

- Send an email to the volunteers
  - Confirming the time to meet
  - Wear team uniform
  - What to do
- Get the movie online or request at the library
- Send reminder to NJ.com, facebook, other social media

DAY BEFORE EVENT

- Go over this doc and make sure we have everything
- Contact the Project Manager to make sure they know what to do
- Co-leads of Community Project Group contact each other to make sure everything is good
- Make sure laptops are charged

DAY OF EVENT

- Pi-oneers arrive at 9:15 am to prepare the venue
- Some Pi-oneers should be at the entrance to escort participants inside
- Pi-Parents should bring the cash box, refreshments and snacks, and volunteer chaperones
- Have fun and be safe!

POST EVENT

What works:

- Assigning each Pi-oneer to a table that they have to set up.
- Making sure none of the children eat or drink at the LEGO tables.

What doesn't work:

- Assigning 2 kids to a Pi-oneer
  - Solution: Children are filed to one table until it is fully occupied, and then sent to the next table over.
- Playing the movie while the kids are playing with LEGOs.
  - Ask children when they come in if they want to watch the movie because we can separate them at tables according to that
- Hyper and running around with snacks
  - Specified snack time
- Timed stations
  - The kids can pick what they want to do first and switch later

Valentine's Day Food Drive

Show Your Community Love!

Be a Food Pantry Valentine!

Valentine's Day Food Drive!

Hosted by the

Pascack Pi-oneers

First Robotics Team 1676

February 9

— To —

February 21

Benefiting

The Helping Hand Food Pantry &

Tri-Boro Food Pantry

Items Needed:

Flour	Shampoo	Hot Cereal	Paper goods
Sugar	Conditioner	Cold Cereal	Canned Fruit
Oil	Liquid Hand Soap	Rice/pasta	canned Veggies
baby products	Dishwashing liquid	personal care	Canned Meats

Dropoff Locations:

School:

Pascack Valley High School

Pascack Hills High School

Lobby:

Hillsdale Library

River Vale Library

Montvale Library

Supermarkets:

Shoprite Hillsdale

372 Broadway

Kings Supermarket

381 Washington Ave, Hillsdale

For Pickup:

piparents@team1676.com

2015 - Present

EVENT	**Valentine's Day Food Drive**
DATE	February 9-21, 2024
PLACE	Pascack Hills and Pascack Valley High Schools, Local libraries
PURPOSE	To help those experiencing food insecurity within our community and inspire our community to share their compassion with others.

NOTES/DESCRIPTION FOR EVENT

We are partnering with the Tri-Boro Food Pantry and Helping Hand Food Pantry to help those experiencing food insecurity. The Pascack Pi-oneers act as a vessel through which our community can show their support.

CHECKLIST

- Flyers
- Send emails to principals, student bodies, librarians, mayors and Pi-Parents
- Social media posts - Facebook (team, local neighborhood and parent groups), Instagram, Twitter, Online Patch
- Collection boxes for each location
- Transportation to food pantries

SCHEDULE

3 MONTHS - 1 YEAR BEFORE

- Start generating ideas

2 MONTHS BEFORE

- Refine ideas
- Begin making graphics for the flyer

1 MONTH BEFORE

- Make and send emails to principals, mayors, newspapers, librarians, and Pi-Parents
- Update flyer

2 WEEKS BEFORE

- Make email drafts to student population
- Print out flyers to be posted around the schools and our community

1 WEEK BEFORE

- Buy collection boxes and red plastic tablecloths to cover them
- Finalize email draft
- Send the email
- Post on social media
- Post flyers in school

DAY BEFORE EVENT

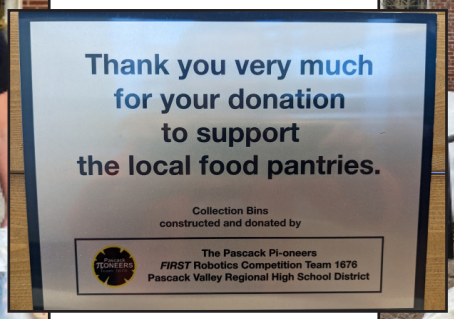
- Set up and deliver boxes with flyers attached to collection locations
- Resend social media posts with tagged people

DAY OF EVENT

- During
  - Check on boxes
  - Send reminder
- After
  - Gather donations from all locations
  - Contact Pi-Parents to help gather, weigh, and transport donations
  - Transport to Tri-Boro and Helping Hand

POST EVENT	

What works:
• Updating the flyer and posting it around the schools
• Putting boxes in various places around the towns
• Emailing the student population
	Improvements:
	• Consider more options to communicate the project
	  ○ Send an extra reminder email
	  ○ Different wording of emails
	  ○ Submit a morning announcement for each school
	• Consider contacting parent-teacher organization



Robotics team Valentine's Day food drive Feb. 9–21

2024 team photo, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District's Pascack Pi-oneers FIRST Team 1676. The team is in the midst of its Valentine's Day Food Drive, Feb. 9–21.

PASCACK VALLEY—Love's come calling on rugged rollers and rubber tank treads, the device holding you close at heart through infrared sensing optics. You will, no doubt, comply.

Well, maybe that's overstating it. You're certainly cheerfully, warmly invited to support Pascack

Pi-oneers FIRST Team 1676 in its annual Valentine's Day Food Drive, this year Friday, Feb. 9 to Wednesday, Feb. 21, as so many others have.

The needed food and supplies will be donated to the Hillsdale Helping Hand Food Pantry and the Tri-Boro Food Pantry in Park Ridge.

- Donations sought: canned/non-perishable food, personal care items, and baby care items.
- Donation locations: Hillsdale ShopRite; Hillsdale Kings supermarket; the lobbies of the Hillsdale, River Vale, and Montvale public libraries; and the lobbies of Pascack Valley High School and Pascack Hills High School.
- You can contact piparents@team1676 to arrange a donation pickup, if that's more convenient.

The team tells Pascack Press it created and constructed two food donation bins in partnership with ShopRite of Hillsdale "to provide receptacles for the generous customers who continue to donate."

Team members retrieve and deliver the donated food bi-weekly. Since summer 2022, store customers have donated more than 3,500 pounds of food, according to a team fact sheet. The donation bins are inside the store, at the exit. The team also donated a food donation bin to Kings, near the exit.

"Our team is committed to helping those in our community who are experiencing food insecurity. We, as a team, created the Valentine's Day Food Drive to support local pantries and inspire food donations throughout the winter," Treshan Nilaweera, Pascack Pi-oneers co-CEO, tells Pascack Press.

Pascack Press | Northern Valley Press South | Northern Valley Press North Edition
69 WOODLAND AVENUE, WESTWOOD, NEW JERSEY 07675 • 201.664.2105

Winning awards, learning skills, changing lives

Pascack Pi-oneers FIRST Team 1676 is a force of some 67 student members from PVHS and PHHS. Now celebrating its 20th season, the team competes in FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), putting its robot through grueling paces against other talented teams from far and wide.

The build season begins the first Saturday in January and continues to the end of February, during which time the Mechanical Division begins designing and building its robot.

The team says its Management, Outreach & Design Division writes award submissions, creates graphics, and plans team publications, creates the animation submission, produces the team video, updates the website, and creates apps.

Pascack Pi-oneers FIRST Team 1676 competes in the FIRST Mid-Atlantic District, which is composed of New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, and Delaware. It participates in the Mount Olive event and the Montgomery event initially, looking to qualify for the District Championship.

We're told the Pi-oneers have pre-qualified for the 2024 FIRST World Championship by earning the 2023 Engineering Inspiration Award Johnson Division at the World Championship in Houston.

FIRST says it "celebrates outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering within a team's school or organization and community."

The program is heavily invested in international outreach, as well: 1676 mentors teams in South Africa, Nigeria, Haiti, Brazil and Taiwan.

And it's created and designed a website, Ready, Set, Speak! (readysetspeak.org), which "uses verbal imitation to help children with autism and speech apraxia pronounce basic sounds and words. The website is translated into Spanish and is being translated into French thanks to a new mentorship with a FIRST team in Haiti. The team is proud to partner with the French Honor Society at PVHS and French teacher Mrs. DelGiudice, who assisted the effort."

The team also partners with the PHHS Medical Club to host an annual Red Cross Blood Drive.

For more information about Team 1676, visit team1676.com. To sponsor Team 1676, write piparents@team1676.com. You can learn much more on the team's social media platforms: Facebook @pascackpioneers, Twitter @FRCTeam1676, @Team1676Safety, Instagram @frcteam1676 @frcteam1676safety, and YouTube Team1676.

0 comments

Add a comment...

Facebook Comments Plugin

Robot Reveal Night

THE Pascack πONEERS Team 1676

Robot Reveal Night 2024

Meet the team! See our new robot!
Learn about our outreach efforts!

Who: Local STEM Supporters and Government Officials

When: 6pm - 7:30pm
Tuesday, February 27th, 2024

Complimentary food and drinks will be served!

Where: Pascack Hills High School Cafeteria
225 W Grand Avenue, Montvale, NJ 07645

FIRST

Please RSVP by February 16th
at: www.team1676.com/RSVP

2024 - Present

EVENT	**Robot Reveal Night**
DATE	February 27, 2024
PLACE	Pascack Hills High School Cafeteria
PURPOSE	Introduce this year's robot to potential sponsors, current sponsors, and invited guests

NOTES/DESCRIPTION FOR EVENT

This event provides an opportunity for Pi-oneers to introduce the team and network with potential new sponsors,meet with current sponsors, and capture the interest of our community.
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KQyhDtAShcB2bCMxMim3MR9j7hHzFTeI?usp=drive_link

CHECKLIST

- Send out RSVP form
  - Sponsors
  - Mayors
  - Principals
  - Potential Sponsors
  - Reporters
- Email to secure the cafeteria
- Prepare a presentation
- Prepare the robot and field
- Email to Pi-oneers
- Update flyer
- Team backdrops to hang and blue banners
- Name tags

SCHEDULE

3 MONTHS - 1 YEAR BEFORE

- Research and create a list of people to invite

2 MONTHS BEFORE

- Continue adding potential invitees
- Secure the cafeteria
- Update event flyer

1 MONTH BEFORE

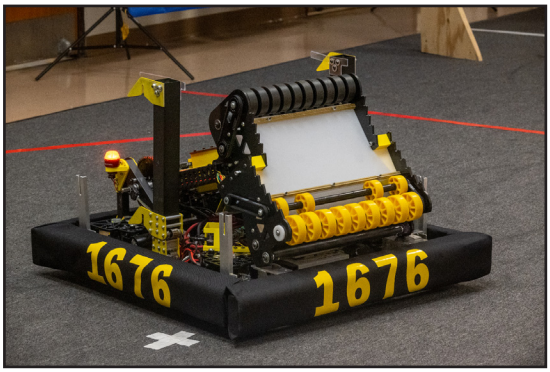
- Send email to invitees
- Determine presenters
- Email PI-Parents to organize food
- Contact the newspapers

2 WEEKS BEFORE

- Send follow up email to invitees
- Email Pi-oneers who will be presenting to confirm attendance
- Start preparing the presentation

○ Assign roles ○ Create a slideshow
1 WEEK BEFORE • Send reminder to people who rsvp'd • Email all Pi-oneers ○ Team uniform • Practice presentation
DAY BEFORE EVENT • Reminder emails to everyone attending
DAY OF EVENT • Set up the field • Set up the robot and conceal it for the reveal • Charge batteries • Display team awards • Set up seating • Set up food

POST EVENT	
What works: • Demonstrating the robot • Student speeches • Talking about outreach + team organization	**What doesn't work:** • Remember to follow up with potential sponsors



northjersey.com

MONTVALE

Pascack Pi-oneers team introduces 'Velociraptor' for 20th annual robotics competition

2-minute read

Marsha A. Stoltz
NorthJersey.com

Published 4:12 a.m. ET March 5, 2024 | **Updated 4:12 a.m. ET March 5, 2024**

MONTVALE — It shoots, it pivots and it lifts itself on a chain to reach its target.

"Velociraptor" was unveiled last week by the 63-student Pascack Pi-oneers academic team from the Pascack Valley Regional High School District as its entry in this year's international FIRST Robotics Competition. The contest attracts 3,300 student teams from more than 30 countries.

The game and the robotic skills needed to master it change every year and are announced the first Saturday in January.

Using the guidelines of the competition's 100-page participant manual, teams then have six weeks to design and build an industrial-sized remotely controlled robot that competes at district and regional events leading to the FIRST World Championship, this year in Houston from April 17 to 20. The team's 2017 entry, "Brazin'," won it all.

Team 1676's Velociraptor has a square black base with a pickup arm that resembles a blend of a small excavator and a bulldozer. With the number 1676 painted in bright yellow on all sides, it scurries across the floor, picking up orange rubber rings that it shoots into one wooden container or deposits in another.

This is no toy store kit undertaking. The club's $63,000 budget must be raised through a combination of sponsorships and fundraisers under its two divisions, 13 subdivisions and five project groups organization chart. They are supervised by 16 adult mentors, 10 of them team alumni.

"The amount of time involved is way too much work for one person," said Pascack Valley senior Nathaniel Veit. "And what works one year is not always the best idea the next."

Yet the time-consuming contest is only part of what the after-school program accomplishes each year. Students host a variety of activities that promote science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) education in the community.

"It's not just about the robot," said Lisa Ruggieri, one of the group's four adult coaches. "They are learning to be future employees and collaborators."

Community outreach

With the program now in its 20th year, the Pi-oneers say many got their start in one of its outreach programs: FIRST Lego League, Family Coding Day, and a STEAM Fair aimed at introducing tech and construction concepts at the district's feeder grade schools in Hillsdale, River Vale, Woodcliff Lake and Montvale.

"They brought a robot to our school, it was spinning around in the lobby, and that was magical for me," said one of this year's Pi-oneers student CEOs, Eliza Kriegsman."All I wanted to know was how on earth that thing was spinning around."

More: Knicks' coach presents 'Coach of the Year' trophy to Mike Simmel of Mahwah

The two high schools offer tech classes as part of their curriculum, but Pi-oneers is a separate after-school team that meets at Pascack Hills.

"I joke around with members of our community that if they drive past Pascack Hills late in the evening and see the cafeteria lights on, it's most likely our robotics kids working hard," said Pascack Hills Principal Tim Wieland.

Participants receive seven sessions of training at its Pi-Tech Academy in the weeks leading up to the competition, depending on the niche they have chosen.

"I'm brand-new to this, and was surprised how welcoming everyone was," said Taj Cameau, a Pascack Hills freshman. "They were interested in my work, my ideas, my thoughts."

The FIRST competition is much more than computers and machines. Participants must build a simulated competition course on which the robot "practices" maneuvers. Other groups work on publicity, graphics and even safety. In the group's "spare time," members also mentor student startup teams locally and internationally.

"These kids walk away from this with more than a couple years' worth of college learning," said head coach Jack Teadore. "When they start college they are way ahead of their classmates in skills."

The Pi-oneers are excited to spread their message about "the hardest fun you'll ever have." Their motto is "Gracious Professionalism ... Don't Leave High School Without It!"

The Pi-oneers began competition the first weekend in March in Mount Olive. The team's progress may be seen on YouTube at youtube.com/@FRCTeam1676.

For more information about Pascack Regional's Pi-oneers team, visit team1676.com; on X: @FRCTeam1676; Instagram: FRC Team 1676; Facebook: @pascackpioneers.

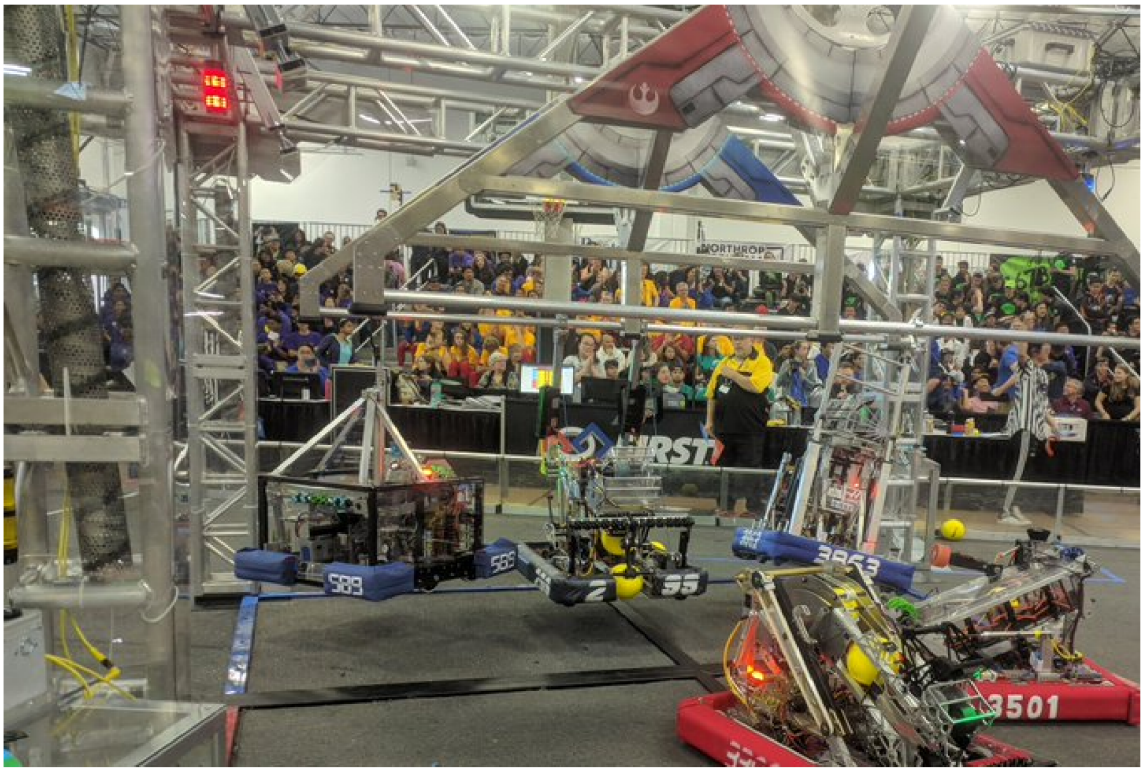
An Overnight Sucess 20 Years in the Making, Competitive Robotics, or “March Mathness” Keeps Extending Its Reach..

We were scrolling through our local news site this morning when we saw the story…the one that always makes me smile this time of year…our local Robotics team once again kicking butt. Take a read about this years Velociraptor (\"https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/bergen/montvale/2024/03/05/meet-velociraptor-pascack-pi-oneers-20th-anniversary-robot/72744903007/\"), a combination of science, media, technology, deep storytelling, and high competition that is 20 years in the making. It is why I always tie this time of year as much to “March Mathness” as to our other love, “March Madness.”

As a reminder, March 14th is Pi Day, the day that celebrates the mathematical constant (3.14). Pi Day was founded by Physicist Larry Shaw in 1988 and has grown in every area of science, especially as areas like gaming and analytics continue to be even more interesting to a younger demo. **Maybe it wasn’t what Dr. Shaw had in mind, but it certainly is more applicable today than maybe ever before.**

This past weekend we again spent two and a half days at the Sloan Sports Analytics Conference, and the value and balance of data tied to the billion dollar business of sport has never been more vibrant across the board. **More on Chess Boxing and other findings coming later this week BTW**.

While there was a time, even recently during the pandemic, where science, including all areas of STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, Math) were on the downside, the growth of areas like streaming, AI, VR, AR, the use of analytics in all areas of sport, gaming, esports, ticketing, health and wellness, business intelligence even most recently the explosion of tokens and games of strategy played in the digital space, like traditional gaming, have continued to show how the worlds of science and sport continue to meld.



There used to be the great divide; those who loved sports and those who loved science, and rarely the two crossed paths. An area that we continue to watch, one that has taken a bit of a hit and pivoted from the tangible to the virtual this past year, is competitive robotics. Now we are not really talking

about Battlebots, which made its mark on TV, although it certainly doesn't hurt. We are talking about the competitions that have arisen in high schools and middle schools around the country which combine teambuilding and competition with every area of science.

The annual N**ational Robotics Kickoff** starts in early January in high schools around the country, with teams were given their assignment to build not just the device, but the narrative around the project, all leading to a world championship head to head competition later this spring. No different than say, the NCAA basketball championship or even the NFL Playoffs. During the Pandemic teams even used their team skills to build devices that helped the elderly or the medical community. Some found ways to stream and conduct other sessions that can keep their communities together until, normalcy in robotics competitions returned robustly.

Why the bounce back? It's because all areas of science, have again become cool, and robotics as a crossover genre, blends the competitive side of sport with high tech like nothing else.

They have names like the **RoboWarriors and the Miracle Workers, LuNaTecs and Pi-oneers**. There will be faces painted and logo'ed flags to rival any traditional sporting contest. The field of play even resembles a hockey rink, complete with boards and plexiglass. Teams as large as 100 students or more work on various aspects of the presentation, from video and animation to programming and design, each helping to task and tell the story around the assigned robotic project.

The original program was entitled FIRST, standing for Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology and was the brainchild of Segway PT inventor Dean Kamen over 25 years ago with the goal of boosting science in the way that high school's glorify sports.

The competition is not your father's Erector Set version of building a robot. Each team trains for weeks many using the designated program to have its robot perform a series of complex tasks against another table of robots, with competition set up in teams of three.

However what is more amazing is the sense of fun, competition and creativity that each of the teams have throughout the event. From posters to mascots to elongated signs, the students and their supporters cheer with a fervor that would match any athletic event. Everyone who goes sees the best of what robotics has to offer…healthy

competition with a mosaic of children from every ethnic and social background in a healthy competition devoid of many of the trappings that childhood events have these days. There may be some uber parents in the crowd, but most are there for good natured support both moral and emotional.

Robotics is a key area of growth as we come out the other side of this…a competition that is fun, ties to STEM, unites people from all backgrounds and since it has its science and team ties, streams really well for an audience that is mobile first.

I'm looking forward to seeing Robotics, in this new science and data friendly environment grow even more. The Olympics…The World Mind Games…with so many platforms looking for content how come no one has packaged this "Road To The Motor City"…where the championships are taking place this year again…and found a streaming home for it. It's all in the way the narrative is framed.

March Mathness is bigger than ever before, and that's a good thing. Co-ed success, teamwork, sports and science all in one amazing package. Check it out.

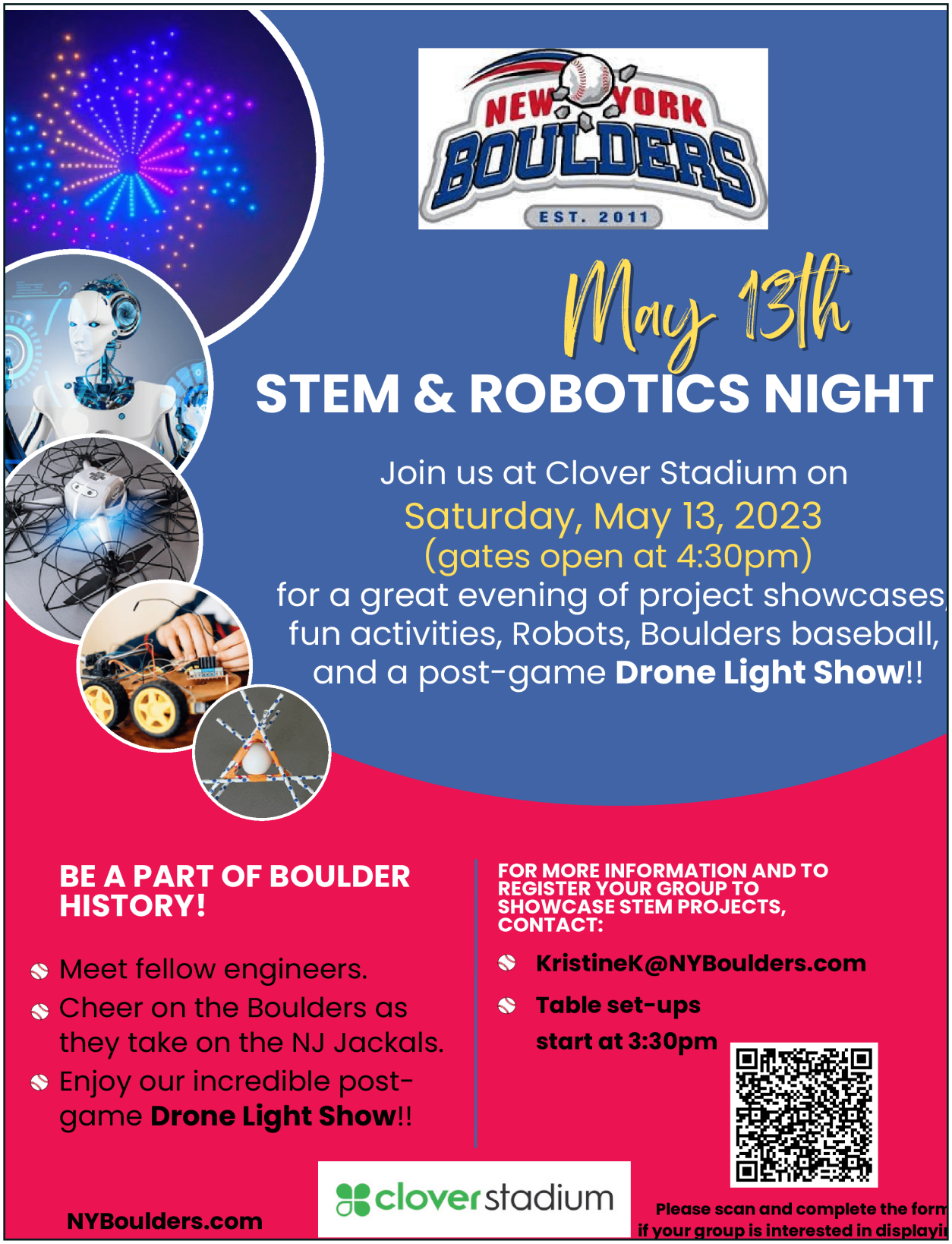
Category: Boxing (https://joefavorito.com/category/boxing/), Crisis Management (https://joefavorito.com/category/crisis-management/), Gaming (https://joefavorito.com/category/gaming/), Jobs (https://joefavorito.com/category/jobs/), Most Recent Posts (https://joefavorito.com/category/most-recent-posts/), NCAA (https://joefavorito.com/category/ncaa/), Olympics (https://joefavorito.com/category/olympics/)
Tag: Bloomberg (https://joefavorito.com/tag/bloomberg/), FIRST Robotics (https://joefavorito.com/tag/first-robotics/), NFL (https://joefavorito.com/tag/nfl/), STEM (https://joefavorito.com/tag/stem/)

About Joe Favorito

'March Madness' of A Different Kind…Finding The Indy Career Path…

Volleying, Blood With Chess, Getting Rid Of Your Stuff, Taylor Swift And Other Thoughts From MIT Sloan '24…

Boulders Stadium Stem Day



2023 - Present

EVENT	**Boulder Stadium STEM Day**
DATE	May 13, 2023
PLACE	Boulder Stadium, 1 Phil Tisi Way, Pomona, NY 10970
PURPOSE	Promote STEM, FIRST, and our team with FIRST teams from Rockland County

NOTES/DESCRIPTION FOR EVENT

The Pascack Pi-oneers showcased their robot for STEM Day at Boulder Stadium, and introduced the young children into the world of robotics through sign-ups for community events, children's books, and robot demonstrations. It was a good team bonding event with our Rockland County neighbors.

SCHEDULE/CHECKLIST

- Determine the availability of the vehicle transporting the robot.
- Arrange outreach materials, ensure sufficient quantity.
- Set aside LEGOs to bring

- Reserve table at event.
- Gather Pi-oneers to help with the event and assign roles.
- Set up table + supplies when Pi-oneers arrive.

SCHEDULE

1 MONTH BEFORE

- Send Signup Genius to team
  - Robot transportation, outreach, robot drivers

2 WEEKS BEFORE

- Arrange transportation.
- Confirm attendance
- Confirm with Boulder Stadium about tables, chairs, and other essentials

1 WEEK BEFORE

- Send out reminder email to team members
- Send out the flyer on various social medias, such as Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook

DAY BEFORE EVENT

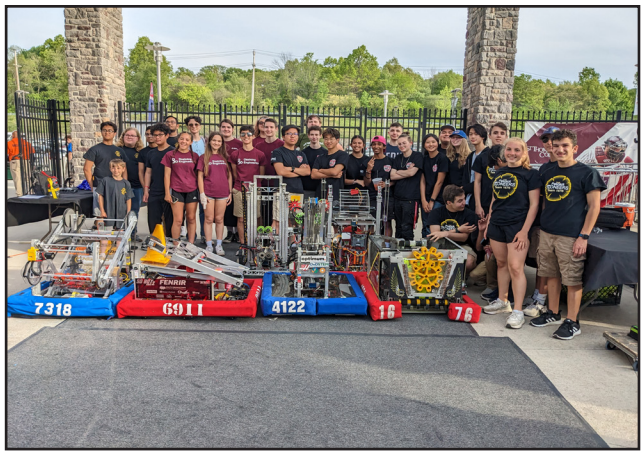
- Ensure that all supplies are ready for the event
- Confirm the robot works and batteries are charged

DAY OF EVENT

- Ensure safe transportation of materials and members.
- One hour before, allow volunteers to begin preparation for the event
- Until one hour after, allow volunteers to assist with the clean-up process

POST EVENT

What works:	What doesn't work:
• It was a great event!	• When selling any items be sure there is a sign.



Family Coding Day

CODING MADE EASY!

FAMILY CODING DAY WITH THE PASCACK PI-ONEERS

FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION TEAM 1676

DID YOU MISS THE HOUR OF CODE?
JOIN THE PI-ONEERS FOR FAMILY CODING DAY!

Date = Saturday, April 15

Time = 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Grades Welcome = Kindergarten to Grade 6

Sign up = tinyurl.com/yb8e3uqs

// Adult supervision for younger participants

// For the best coding experience, each student should have their own computer

FREE OF CHARGE!

– Donations are appreciated –

team1676.com

firstinspires.org

2020 - Present

EVENT	**Family Coding Day**
DATE	May 18, 2024
PLACE	Pascack Hills Library
PURPOSE	To teach children and their families that coding can be easy, fun, and have real life applications, while also providing family bonding time.

NOTES/DESCRIPTION FOR EVENT

Pi-oneers will go one-on-one with families to walk them through Hour of Code programs, while tying it into STEM careers and practical application of code, such as with our robot. Pi-oneers will also explain and showcase the basics of the code for previous years' robots. This year, we will be partnering with the Pascack Valley Girls Who Code Club.

SCHEDULE/CHECKLIST

For Pi-oneers:

- Bring charged laptop and charger
- Wear team uniform
- Look at Hour of Code and Repl.it programs, determine levels of ability to teach

SCHEDULE

1 MONTH BEFORE

- Brainstorming session with Girls Who Code Club
- Complete proposal for event (present to coaches & CEOs)
- Ask the team programmers to participate and be prepared to show our robot code

2 WEEKS BEFORE

- Promote event on social media
- Send Sign up for Pi-oneers and for families

1 WEEK BEFORE

- Send links to team members with corresponding levels

DAY BEFORE EVENT

- Check final details/prepare materials

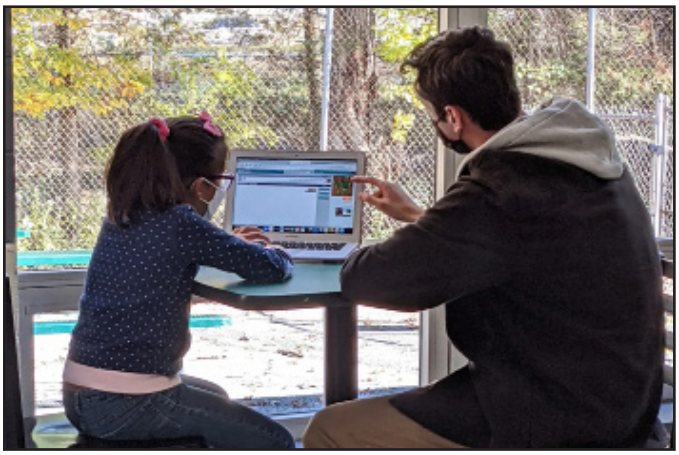
DAY OF EVENT

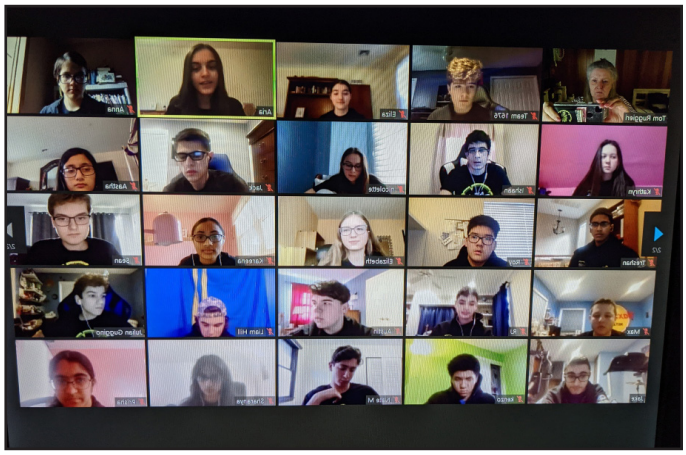
- Members arrive 9:15
- Participants arrive 10am
  - Introduction was about 10 minutes
  - Main event was until 11:30

POST EVENT

What works:	What doesn't work:

● Planning was well done
● Videos for training instead of actual interactive training?
  ○ A lot of people wouldn't watch the video.
  ○ Easier to ask questions during live training.
  ○ Can record and send out to those who must miss the training.
● 'Big Ideas' were really good; helped gear conversations.
● Filled a lot of time with Pi-oneer examples of code.
● Feedback was really good.
	● Pacing of the game was an issue...too easy for some kids
	  ○ Make different levels (easy, medium, hard).
	● Have the family on one computer (work together instead of racing each other to the end).
	● Most groups finished early.
	● Family unit didn't work together enough.





Virtual Family
Coding Day

Washington

Township TV

2017 - Present

EVENT	**Washington Township TV**
DATE	May 19, 2023
PLACE	Washington Township Borough Hall (350 Hudson Ave, Township of Washington)
PURPOSE	To represent our team in an interview on a local cable tv show in Westwood

NOTES/DESCRIPTION FOR EVENT

In a collaboration with the local TV station in Washington Township, we provide an interview for a season wrapup, review accomplishments, and give a robot demonstration.

CHECKLIST

- Send email to participating Pi-oneers
- Make sure everyone has prepared responses for the following
  - General team info (build season, what FIRST is)
  - Favorite Moment on the team?
  - Favorite Event?
  - Why are they on the team/what does it mean to be a Pi-oneer?
  - Were there any difficulties? How did you overcome them? (both robot and MOD)
  - What was your experience/what did you learn/how did you grow?
- Assign speaking roles
- Prepare + transport the robot

SCHEDULE

3 MONTHS - 1 YEAR BEFORE

-

2 MONTHS BEFORE

- Check in with the station supervisor

1 MONTH BEFORE

- Plan for the interview, determine speakers

2 WEEKS BEFORE

- Send email to Pi-oneers confirming participation, robot transportation

1 WEEK BEFORE

- Hold a practice meeting going over roles and potential questions

DAY BEFORE EVENT

- Send reminder email to Pi-oneers
- Wear team uniform
- Confirm robot transportation

DAY OF EVENT

- Transport the robot
- Have fun

POST EVENT	
What works: • Personal anecdotes • Jokes • General enthusiasm • Robot demonstration	**What doesn't work:** • Standing around waiting for questions feels awkward, but necessary

Hillsdale Memorial

Day Parade

2008 - Present

EVENT	**Hillsdale Memorial Day Parade**
DATE	May 29, 2023
PLACE	Hillsdale, NJ
PURPOSE	To inspire the next generation of engineers in our community; to connect with community members personally.

NOTES/DESCRIPTION FOR EVENT
Pi-oneers, alongside a previous year's robot, will participate in a Memorial Day Parade throughout Hillsdale.

CHECKLIST		

Physical materials:
• Robot
• Robot cart
• Computer
  ○ Wires
• Team uniform
• Team flag + banner
	To do list:
	• Preliminary email and reminder
	• Full functional check on robot
	• Check all materials are in trailer
		Digital materials:
		• SUG for Pi-oneers
		• Email reminder for those signed up
		  ○ Uniform, water, sunscreen, etc

SCHEDULE

2 MONTHS BEFORE
- Send out Sign Up Genius to Pi-oneers to attend

1 MONTH BEFORE
- Select which robot to use
  - What can run on gravel/pavement?
  - What is safe for the general public to be in close proximity?
- Send reminder to attendees that they've signed up

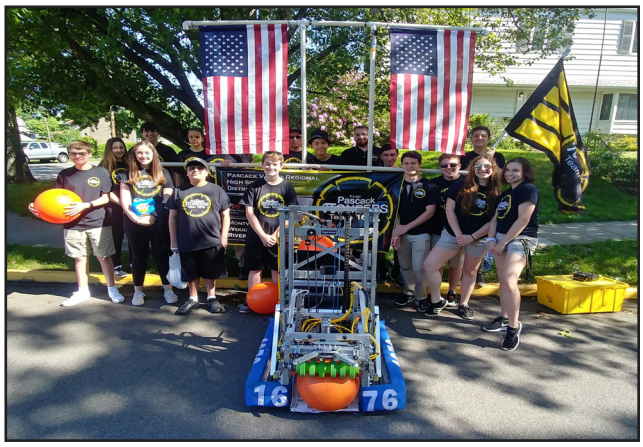
2 WEEKS BEFORE
- Perform check on robot - change wheels
- Gather team materials
  - Banner
  - Team Flag
  - U.S. Flag + Stand
  - Cart
  - Tools
  - Robot
  - Robot game pieces
- Finalize list of attendees

1 WEEK BEFORE
- Remind attending Pi-oneers of expectations, rules, and supplies they should bring

DAY BEFORE EVENT

• Trailer should be loaded up with all necessary materials
DAY OF EVENT • Trailer should be moved to parade beginning location • Have Pi-oneers arrive at parade beginning location a half hour early to prepare the robot

POST EVENT	
What works: • Gathering materials in advance allows for time to fix, find, or get anything not up-to-par • Sending up the SUG two months in advance gets a good amount of participants, as well as the two reminders	**What doesn't work:** • The stand may need new hardware to secure it



Montvale Street Fair

River Vale Day

Hillsdale Day

2009 - Present

EVENT	Montvale Street Fair
DATE	June 11, 2023
PLACE	Paragon Drive, Montvale, NJ
PURPOSE	Interact with the community and spread knowledge about STEAM, *FIRST,* and our team. The purpose is to capture the interest of children and their families, teach them about robotics, and to encourage joining the local teams.

NOTES/DESCRIPTION FOR EVENT

At the Montvale Day event, we spoke to many residents about how our team operates, both robot and non-robot. We made clear that everyone is welcome and all of their skills are useful to the team. We also demonstrated our robot, and worked with children to build LEGO creations!

CHECKLIST

Make sure the team reserves their spot for a tent at the event.	Make sure the Outreach bucket is stocked and has all the materials. Bring: All team documents, LEGOs (½ box), the robot & its cart, tent, tables, cash box for spirit wear sales.	Make sure the robot has transportation to Paragon Drive.	**EMAIL:** - SUG must be created ***three weeks prior*** and sent to the team via email and Slack. - Reminders to wear the team uniform and a laptop.

SCHEDULE

2 MONTHS BEFORE
- Think about improvements for what we can do for Montvale Day
  - Make sure robot works
    - Have a back-up plan

1 MONTH BEFORE
- Continue to brainstorm improvements
- Create the Sign Up Genius for the event

2 WEEKS BEFORE
- Finalize improvements and send out emails to Pi-oneers
- Check team materials

1 WEEK BEFORE
- Remind the team about the event; remind people to bring their laptops and wear team uniform
- Confirm transportation for the robot and materials to Paragon Drive.

DAY BEFORE EVENT
- Remind everyone to wear team uniforms
- Confirm transportation for the robot and materials to Paragon Drive.
- Stock the cars and charge the robot.
- Get out the first aid bag to go.

DAY OF EVENT
- Arrive 1 hour before the event starts.

- Set up the robot (and game pieces) for demonstration.
- Set up the LEGO table.
- Hang up banners, layout outreach materials/merchandise.

POST EVENT	
What works: • Having a LEGO table brings children in • Letting them build while talking to parents about the team. • Having a Pi-oneer talk to the children and their families about the robot during the demonstrations. • Our highlighted demonstration went well.	**What doesn't work:** • Enforce a barrier between onlookers and the robot

The Pascack
ΠONEERS
Team 1676
FIRST
ROBOTICS
COMPETITION
CHAIRMAN'S
AWARD

1676

FIRST Robotics Competition Team 167
team1676.com
FIRST
FRC
Winner

International Mentoring: South Africa

2016 - Present

All our mentored teams
at the 2024 South Africa Championship

Syre

SYRE
FTC TEAM
19001
BEAUTIFUL
CONFUSION

Syre Logo

Syre at the 2024 South Africa
Championship

Syre meets the Pi-oneers
Jan 2024

Syre visits Pascack Hills
High School Jan 2024

International Mentoring: South Africa

2018 - Present

Fairobots at the
South Africa National Championship

Robostones at the South Africa
National Championship

High Voltage at the
South Africa National Championship

Roboso at the South Africa
National Championship

Galactic Einsteins at the
South Africa National Championship

Innovatrix at the South Africa
National Championship

International Mentoring: South Africa

2016 - Present

Astrovo

Astrovo Logo

Astrovo at the South Africa National Championship

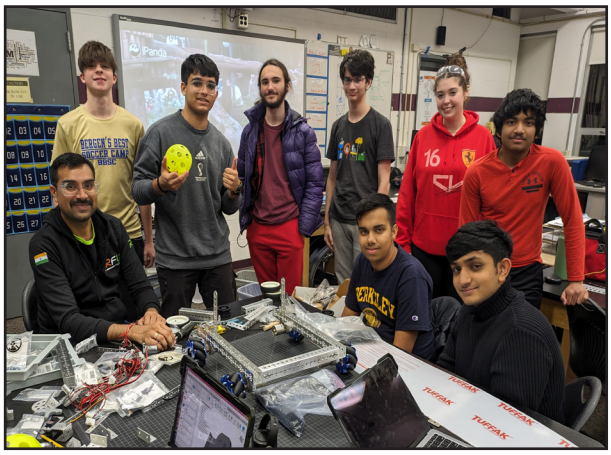
International Mentoring: India

2023-2024

Sigma

Sigma Logo

Sigma visits the Pi-oneers



Sigma visits the Pi-oneers

Sigma visits the Pi-oneers

International Mentoring: Nigeria

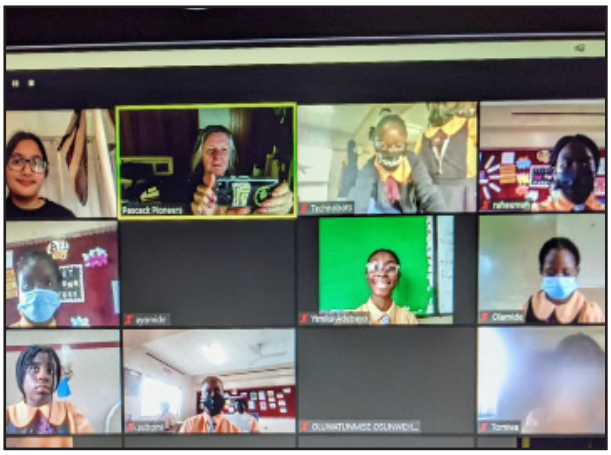
2018 - Present

Technobots

Technobots Logo

Meeting the Technobots at the World Championship

Tech Titans

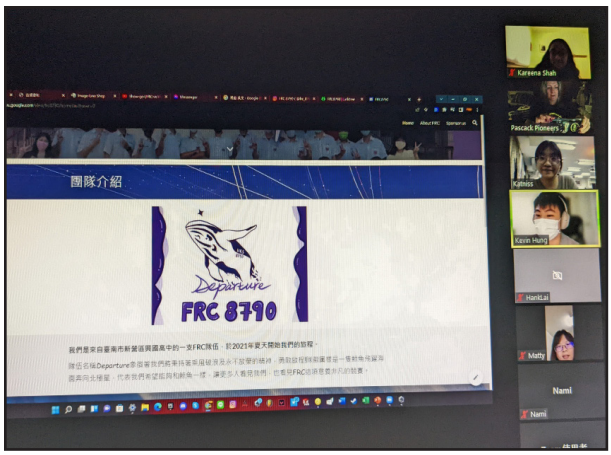


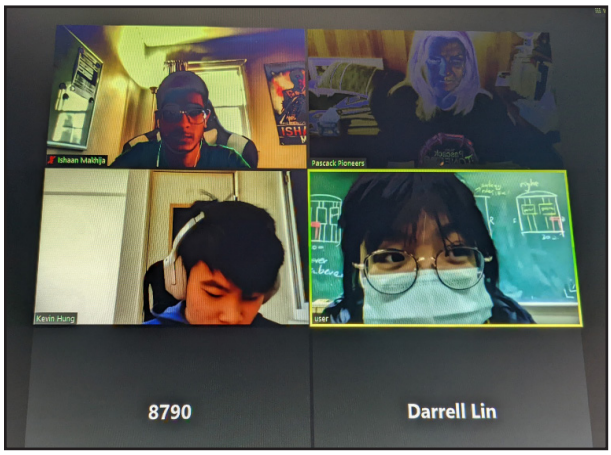
Tech Titans

International Mentoring: Taiwan

2022 - Present

Depature





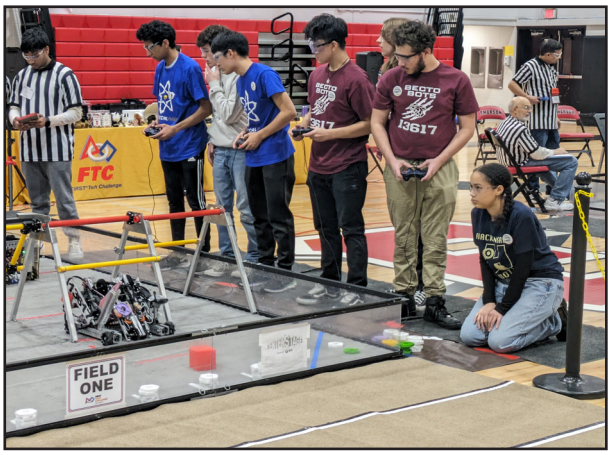
FIRST LEGO League Tournament

2009 - Present

2018 - Present

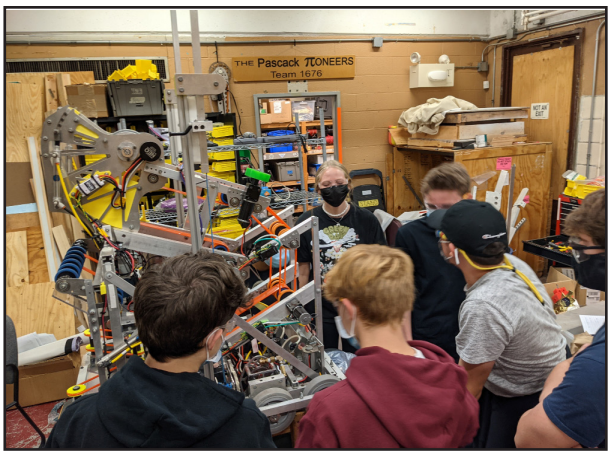
FIRST Tech Challenge: Bectobots

2016 - Present



Pi-Tech Academy

2005 - Present



FIRST Signing Day

2016 - Present

The Pascack Pi-oneers

FIRST Team 1676

2024 Book of Pi-Projects

Pascack Valley Regional High School District

www.team1676.com

"Gracious Professionalism... Don't Leave High School Without It!"