

# Mentoring a New Team

Ken and Ed, Ed and Ken

# Key Milestones

- 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting – Initial Meeting
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting – Prepare for Build Season
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting – 1-2 weeks into Build Season
- Phone Call before Regional
- Assign contact(s) to guide through Regional

# 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting – “Sell the Teacher”

- Need your teacher with you
  - Answers administrative and financial questions
- Need robot & students with you
  - Choose at least one veteran, outgoing student
  - A couple new students will put the other team at ease
  - Robot demo by students is a must – it ‘hooks’ the other team
- Absolutely need a key mentor with you
  - Demonstrates confidence that this is do-able and they won’t fail
  - After they’re awe-struck by the robot, explain it one system at a time to show it’s not as complicated or as hard as it looks
- Explain ‘season’ to them
  - Sept-Dec – Prep; Jan-Feb – Build; Mar – Compete
  - Say what a regional is like
- FIRST Video helps

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting – “Get Ready”

- Mentor-to-Mentor
  - Give list of needed items for build season:
    - Tools
    - Aluminum
    - Build Area
    - Local Machine Shop Help
    - Mechanical Mentor
    - Programming/Electronics Mentor
  - Explain importance of timeline, driver training
- We have done this ‘meeting’ via phone with e-mail follow-up

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting – “You Can Do This”

- 1-2 weeks into season is a critical time
  - The team often feels overwhelmed and can't start
- Need robot
  - Other team now needs to see details
- Need mentor
  - Other team will have lots of design and rule questions
- Need students
  - One veteran to explain students role on your team, and how you develop and select strategy, divide work, build, pick drivers, etc.
- Leave them with this thought: ***Tell them to get something rolling to gain confidence, and add from there***

# Before Regional – “Bring This...”

- Give list of items to bring
- Done by teacher and mentor
  - Teacher explains they do travel/hotel/meals, pit decorations, buttons, etc.
  - Mentor explains what to take/not take
    - Remember the cart!
- Done by phone call and/or e-mail

# At Regional

- Assign contact(s) for the team
  - Drive team-to-Drive team is important mentoring
- Mentor meets with them early Thursday morning to explain process
  - Inspection
  - Practice Rounds
  - They can ask any team for help/tools/parts
- Meet Thursday night – ‘what to expect’
  - Relate alliance experiences – good and bad
- Be available Friday/Saturday for questions

# Universal Tips

- Student-to-student contacts are wonderful!
  - But don't happen often because of the formal meeting settings; need to encourage this
- Teacher/Mentors - Give your cell number and e-mail address
- If you haven't heard from them in a while, call !
- The other team will always, always have 'panic' questions about building a crate and shipping the robot