

# UP NEXT

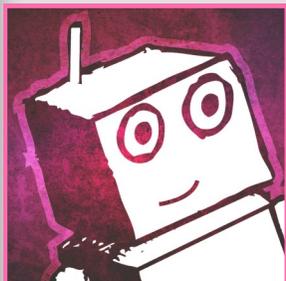
TEAM 3528

**February 2013**

## Save the Date- Sponsor Showcase

**February 12**

Up Next invites all of our supporters to join us on Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at 6:00 pm for a Sponsor Showcase. In addition to a light dinner, we will be revealing our completed (hopefully) robot and share highlights of our build season. Watch your mail or email for more details.



## Up Next- 3528 2013 Regional Competitions

Greater Kansas City  
Hale Arena  
Kansas City, MO  
March 14-16, 2013

Razorback Regional  
Barnhill Arena  
Fayetteville, AR  
April 4-6, 2013

## Ultimate Ascent

The 2013 FRC Game was announced on January 5, 2013 to teams all across the world. This year's game is called "Ultimate Ascent". The game is played by two competing alliances of three robots. The alliances compete to score as many Frisbee discs into their goals as they can during a 2-minute and 15-second match. The higher the goal in which the disc is scored, the more points the alliance receives.

The match begins with a 15-second Autonomous Period. Discs scored during this period are worth additional points. For the remainder of the match, drivers control robots and try to maximize their alliance score by scoring as many discs as possible. The match ends with robots attempting to climb up pyramids located near the middle of the field. Each robot earns points based on how high it climbs.

Up Next is working hard to determine how best to achieve the game challenge. The first three days were spent in brainstorming sessions. The team broke into three different groups, each producing a solution to the challenge. On day 3, the team came together to discuss which options best fit our team goals. The next step was prototyping and testing, then on to building and programming. We cannot wait to see how our final

product turns out this year, and how other teams rise to the challenge. In addition to building the robot, other team members are working on promotional materials, our website, videos, and preparing the Chairman's Award essay and presentation. Up Next is striving hard to be a well-rounded team which represents our sponsors and FIRST in the best manner possible.



## Taking a "Byte" out of Hunger

One of our outreach activities this year is to volunteer at the Harvesters Food Bank. During our first visit in August, the idea came to organize a work day where many FRC teams would come together and volunteer for the community. Take a "Byte" Out of Hunger was then put into action. A flyer was designed and sent out to all the FRC teams in the Kansas City area. Five teams responded to our invitation and more than 100 volunteers came together on December 11, 2012. We were divided into three separate projects. Group 1 prepared care packages for the elderly; Group 2 sorted oranges and carrots; Group 3 was assigned to the sweet potato bins. Teams mingled and chatted with each other while working.



Up Next was especially honored to have Missouri State Representative T.J. Berry and his wife, Shelly, join us for the evening. Representative Berry has been a strong supporter of Up Next and FIRST. Our team plans to make this an annual event and hope to get more teams involved in helping out in the Kansas City community.

## Operation Christmas Child

We had the opportunity to help spread Christmas cheer throughout the world by volunteering at an Operation Christmas Child drop-off location. Operation Christmas Child is operated by Samaritan's Purse and every year individuals and churches pack shoeboxes with small gift items to be sent to underprivileged children all around the world. On November 12, team members gathered to assemble packing boxes, receive and record donated boxes, and then load them into large moving trucks. According to Samaritan's Purse, over 9 million boxes were prepared and sent world-wide. Up Next was pleased to be a part of this mission and hopes to continue participating in years to come.



## FIRST Lego League (FLL) Tournaments



Since many of our students are former FLL members, we were excited to volunteer to help at the qualifying and GKC Regional tournaments. The first event took place in Kearney, MO on December 8, where mentors and team members served as timers, referees, and judges. The following weekend, a couple of other team members also participated in a tournament at the Boys and Girls Club. Finally, on January 12, the GKC Regional tournament was held at Union Station in Kansas City. The winners from this event are eligible to attend the World Fest in St. Louis. Team members assisted at the event by escorting teams to the various judging areas. Congrats to all the FLL teams for a fun and exciting season.

## Quick-Build

On the morning of January 5<sup>th</sup>, team representatives from the Kansas City region gathered at Garmin in Olathe, KS to watch the live feed announcing the 2013 game and to pick up their kit of parts. In the afternoon, six teams stayed for a pizza lunch and Quick-Build, where Up Next mentors and veteran students assisted rookie or struggling teams assemble the kit drivetrain and get their programming up and running. The teams divided into separate groups for drive, electrical and programming. Then they put all their parts together to have a driving robot base when they leave. It was so much fun to hear the cheers rise up when everything worked together. Up Next is looking forward to seeing these teams at the Kansas City Regional in March.



## Leash Release Project

Progress is being made on the Leash Release project. Up Next is working on a way to help Ron, a paraplegic, leash and unleash his service dog. The current leash keeps getting caught up in the wheels of Ron's wheelchair, so the team is working on a solution with a retractable leash that attaches to his chair. Ron and his dog visited the team in December. A small group of students also went to Ron's home in January to survey some of Ron's other needs. We are so excited to be able to give back to our community in this way.

