

The bulk of building the Rover takes place in our Design Den, a 4,000 sq. foot workspace complete with a laser cutter, CNC ShopBot router, plasma cutter, 3D printers, welder, and many more tools in both the metal and wood shop. We open the Den all day for many classes such as Robotics and CAD/CAM but it's large enough that kids can come during free time.

Veterans to the team typically start coming once a week for lunch a few weeks into the school year. This allows for yearly planning of the events this year will hold. Sometime in September team members start coming twice a week after school for two hours and once the second trimester starts we have class time to work. Class time consists of 85 minutes every other day. Once January rolls around and the closeness of competition gets to everyone we start six hour work sessions every Saturday that continue till competition, this allows for extended periods of work time that allow for test driving and large projects.

Another thing we do to increase efficiency is split into subgroups (wheels, seats, telemetry, frame, etc.) that can tackle individual tasks throughout the design/build process. Once each team is established we started using a program called Smartsheet to keep track of everyone's schedule and accomplishments. This was a great way to stay on track and keep everything organized.

Our goal was to test drive by the end of February and we ended up test driving on February 22, five days before last year's drive date!