

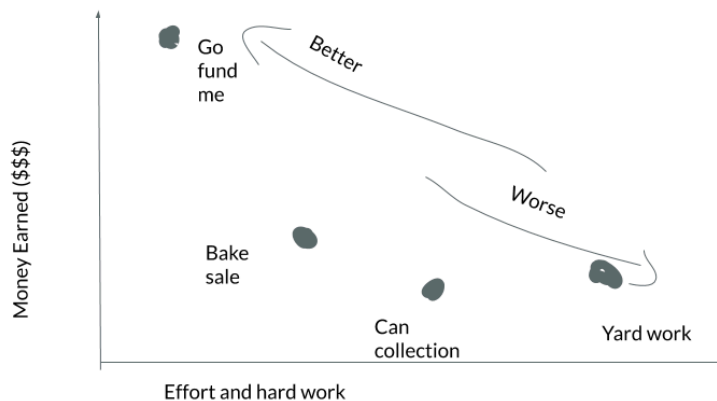
Fundraising and Corporate Sponsorship

Pre Season: How we decided which fundraising to pursue.

We had several leadership meetings where we decided what fundraising we were going to do. We each came up with some ideas and we rated them depending on the amount of work and how much money we get out of it. This is the list that we came up with during one of our meetings:

- | | | |
|--|------------|--------------|
| ❖ Yard sales | work = 30 | money = \$20 |
| ❖ Booths | work = 60 | money = \$50 |
| ❖ Can drives | work = 60 | money = \$30 |
| ❖ Chores | work = 75 | money = \$25 |
| ❖ Bake-sales | work = 50 | money = \$25 |
| ❖ Lemonade stands | work = 30 | money = \$20 |
| ❖ Carnival | work = 100 | money = \$25 |
| ❖ Local Restaurants society agreement - show the engineering notebook. | | |
| | work = 90 | Money = \$50 |
| ❖ Donations - Talk to Restaurants, neighbors, friends, families, etc. | | |
| | work = 20 | money = \$20 |
| ❖ Through the school | | |
| ❖ \$1 for driving a robot | work = 30 | money = \$10 |
| ❖ Car Wash | work = 60 | money = \$30 |
| ❖ Personal Library | | |
| ❖ Lazer design | work = 20 | money = \$30 |
| ❖ Yard Work | work = 75 | money = \$50 |
| ❖ Competition Game | | |

Here is a chart as an example of how we decided which to pursue:



FUNDRAISING CHART

GoFundMe

We decided to try a GoFundMe for fundraising because it was easy to set up, we wouldn't have to pay to do one, and anyone could contribute. Since it is online, people from all over can contribute, they can contribute at their convenience, and can contribute at any time. All we had to do was create one on the website, send invites to people who we thought would contribute, and then thank our donors.

It worked really well, and we got over \$1000 dollars from it so far. Everyone agreed that it was a good idea, and most team members sent invites.

N.E.R.D. Bots FTC Robotics Team



TEAM FUNDRAISER

Ben Nault and 15 others are organizing this fundraiser on behalf of Elmer Lee.

\$1,295 raised of \$5,000 goal

29 donors 40 shares 29 followers

Donate now

Share



Emily Lazalde
\$25 · 9 d



Krish Muthuraman
\$50 · 1 mo



CHINNAIYA PANDIAN
\$20 · 1 mo



Himabindu Panditi
\$20 · 1 mo

Link to our GoFundMe

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/nerd-bots-robotic-team>

Mod Pizza:

Intro

We went to MOD Pizza with a robot and we went there to raise money to buy different parts for our robot. We interacted with around 50+ people and every single person enjoyed their experience and asked questions about the robot. This means that many people got to drive our robot and learned about driving a robot. It was a cold and cloudy day, and it looked like it was about to rain. We were really worried that it was going to rain and then we would not be able to do robot demos. Thankfully, it did not rain so that was a plus.

Robot

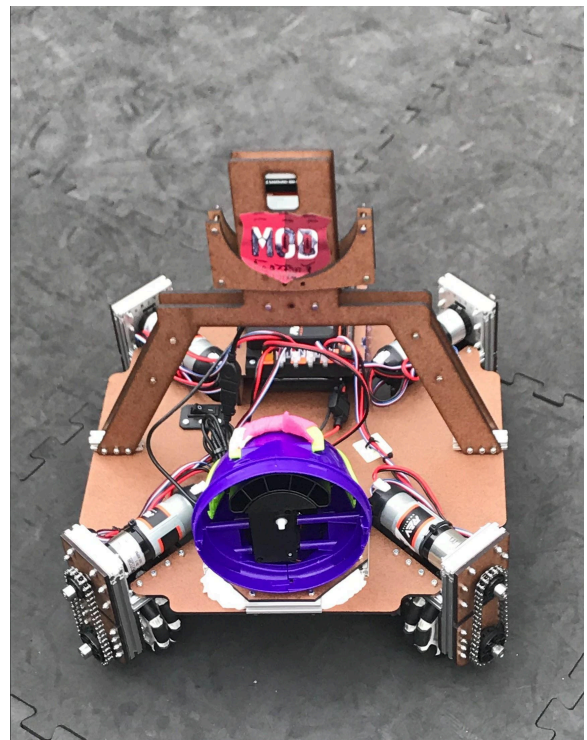
There were many kids along with adults that came to Mod pizza and had a lot of fun driving our robot. Lots of people, including kids asked questions about the robot. Our robot was made out of MDF boards that are a wood-based material. We had a bubble-blowing robot but the bubble blower was leaking. Since the bubble blower was leaking we could not have kids use the bubble blower. To this day, the reason why the bubble blower leaked is still a mystery. We also had a baby bot but the motor died. A gear stripped in the gearbox and it stopped working.

We learned that we should always check our robot before we did something. In the end, the “bubble bot” ended up being a normal robot that kids could drive around. We used 4 drive pods with wheels so that the robot could move around in any direction. The tall structure in the center of the robot was our phone case. The Control Hub is on the backside of the robot, right behind the phone case.

Our bubble bot!

Evaluation

What we struggled with was the fact that many people were more focused on eating the food, rather than being

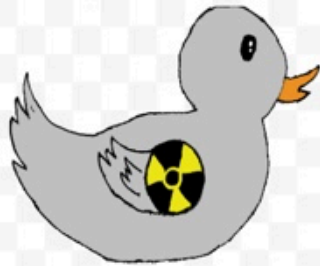


involved at the fundraiser. What we would change the next time we have a fundraiser, would be that we should have checked with Mod Pizza if we could drive the robot there ahead of time. We learned that next time we should have followed through with our ideas. We had many roles but no one followed through with it. Also, everyone said that we should advertise ahead of time, so we could raise more money, but no one got to it.

Conclusion

We got 20% of the total amount of money that we raised. We raised a total of \$392.95 which means that we got exactly \$78.59!! For our next fundraiser, we would definitely advertise more and be more focused. All in all, it was an awesome experience and we are sure everyone would like to do it again.

We did individual bottle and can drives. People who wanted could volunteer to collect cans for many. People had many strategies. One strategy was going door to door asking for cans. Another was asking friends and family for cANS AND BOTTLE. The last was handing out flyers asking for cans to be put outside. See below. We found that adding the gofundme link to flier was also a good way to allow contributions from those with bottles and cans to donate.



The N.E.R.D. Bots Bottle and Can Drive!!

Hi my name is Gretchen and i am a sixth grader who lives in Parkside Estates. I'm on the N.E.R.D. Bots (Nuclear Explosive Rubber Duckies) FIRST Tech Challenge robotics team, and we are raising money to help with the costs of building and programming a robot. One of the ways we are fundraising is by a bottle and can drive, so we are collecting bottles and cans from our neighborhood.

About FIRST

"FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was founded in 1989 to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. Based in Manchester, NH, the 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity designs accessible, innovative programs that motivate young people to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math, while building self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills.

*FIRST is **More Than Robots**. FIRST participation is proven to encourage students to pursue education and careers in STEM-related fields, inspire them to become leaders and innovators, and enhance their 21st century work-life skills"*

"FIRST is now universally recognized as the leading, not-for-profit STEM engagement program for kids worldwide."
<https://www.firstinspires.org>

If you would like to help, place your bottles and cans in a bag on your front porch by 6:00 pm on Friday, September 6th. We also accept donations of money on our GoFundMe page.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/nerd-bots-robotic-team>

Corporate sponsorships

Part of our team's fundraising success is the funding that our corporate sponsors provided us. To secure corporate sponsorship, we tried three different approaches: companies of team parents, grant opportunities through FTC, and local Intellectual Property law firms. We were successful in securing funding from Aisin, Arconic Foundation, Flex N Gate, and Red Viking. We were most successful when pursuing corporate sponsorship where a parent works. We did not have a connection to the Intellectual Property law firms. We contacted five, received a return e-mail from one, but ultimately did not receive any sponsorship from IP firms. Here are the logos for our sponsors:



Appendix B: Intellectual Property Law Firm Sponsorship Request Letter Example

Dear Jessica Lister,

Hi, my name is Gretchen Nault. I am a 6th grade student at East Middle School in Plymouth, MI. I am writing to you on behalf of my FTC robotics team, the N.E.R.D. Bots (Nuclear Explosive Rubber Ducks).

We participate in the FIRST Tech Challenge robotics event. FIRST (For Inspiration & Recognition of Science & Technology) is the leading not-for-profit STEM engagement program for kids worldwide. Their mission is “to inspire young people to be science and technology innovators, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering, and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.”

This is my second year participating in a FIRST team challenge event, and several of my teammates have participated in even more. There are 18 of us. 15 team members and 3 interns. I have a lot of fun working in a team, feel challenged and rewarded to learn new skills and participate in the competitions.

But we need help. It costs a lot of money to build a robot and participate in the events. As a team, we are trying to raise about \$8,000 to support our team for the coming year.

Would Cantor Colburn LLP consider sponsoring our team? Please see the attached sponsorship packet for more information about our team and the benefits of helping us out.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cvWKAQgEVEO4xtcSHuk4kti-dH0q7fZmVZlpBW9XH5E/edit?usp=sharing>

The robot we design is much like a vehicle, in that it uses electric motors, battery stored energy, and drives autonomously with vision systems. Our robot uses an Android phone to run the software, which is programmed in Java.

Please let us know if you are interested in sponsoring our team for the 2019 season. Also, attached is a sponsorship packet that provides more information about our team and goals.

We are happy to answer any questions.

Thank you,

N.E.R.D. Bots

Team #14353

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<https://www.nerdbots.org>

