

SUMMER CAMP WITH 4557, THE FULLMETAL FALCONS

The summer of 2017, we decided it would be proactive to help another team, FRC 4557 Fullmetal Falcons, run their summer camp in order to host our own in the future. We had 3-7 people at their school, Xavier High, every day for a week. We helped teach kids how to make and program EV3 robots, practice kid level programming, take apart PCs, demonstrate our own FRC 2168 and 4557 FRC robots and other STEM activities. We compared and contrasted the different ways to accomplish the same tasks and the creativity of the designs as well as correlated the EV3 systems to the FRC robots systems. We learned how to keep the kids engaged, and what worked and what didn't in terms of activities. By the end of the week we had established that robotics and FRC could be an incredibly rewarding experience as well as created an awesome relationship with the kids and FRC 4557. The experience was invaluable for how to host our own summer camp in 2018.



GROTON FALL FESTIVAL AND CITY DAY

Every year, our team makes it a mission to attend the Groton Fall Festival to spread the word and create excitement about STEM and FIRST Robotics. This festival is pivotal in making connections within our immediate community. Many small businesses and other community based groups set up in one location, and it allows for us to create a community coalition. This year's Fall Festival featured our 2017 robot "Precipitator" that shoots large Wiffle balls (a crowd favorite). We explained what the robot does, how it works gave demonstrations to both children and adults and even let children operate the robot. Our ultimate goals are to continue to develop interest in STEM and eventually get FIRST Robotics Lego League teams in all of our community's schools. By using the Fall Festival as an introduction to STEM, we hope to gain the support we need to continue spreading our mission



CAR WASH AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Aluminum Falcon (FRC 2168) Car Wash Fundraiser Sep 28, at Johnson's Hardware True Value. A team turnout of 12 students were in the parking lot to support the FREE car wash. The Johnson family hosts car wash fundraisers each year and many teams at Fitch HS benefit because of their community involvement and generosity. The event ran from 1 pm to 4 pm and approximately 35 cars came through the line. The team passed out flyers about STEM, FIRST Robotics and FRC2168 and our Summer robotics camp. The work paid off as our customers were generous and donated approximately \$700! To our community supporters, the Falcons express their deepest gratitude and will put your hard earned money to good use. Way to go, Team 2168!

Every year, the robotics team hosts its annual Pancake Breakfast. We serve pancakes, eggs, sausage, and home fries made by the parents and boosters. There is a basket raffle that help raise money for the team and we show off our robots from previous years. We also feature a lego verion of our robot for younger children to play with. It is a fun family friendly event that everyone enjoys.

CROHN'S AND COLITIS WALK

On October 21st, team 2168 had a tent at the Crohn's and Colitis Walk in Guilford CT. The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation organizes these walks to help raise awareness and funds to help fund research for the disease. Nine team representatives arrived at 7AM to help set up the venue and manned a kids tent engaging the walk participants and kids in attendance about STEM, FIRST, and our robotics team. The tent was filled with families, young children, and adults that are interested in the robotics. The team provided presentations, demonstrations, and entertainment from 8-1 and helped to make the event a lively and memorable fundraiser for the cause. One student, Aveline, looked back fondly on the event, "There was a bouncy house for the kids and we had a lot of fun".

