

## 1. Part #1-

Heroes. They're everywhere... shaping the future in unimaginable ways. They are the teachers that finally break through with a student, changing their lives forever. They are the servicemen and women keeping our communities safe and sound. And they're the civilians that stick up to the villains when it matters most. Heroes are so much more than the comic book stories they're made out to be, and the CyberCards are striving to become part of their numbers. Reaching out to the youth of our community to inspire them has never been more important, especially now in a world where everyone is hard pressed to plan out their future. So to keep up with the times, team 1529 is branching out. We are leading out into the community, arms outstretched to those who want to learn and are willing to go the extra mile to secure their futures and find their passion. The CyberCards are bringing up the new generation in the light of FIRST and STEAM, introducing them to what it truly means to find their passion. We are striving to be heroes, because we are the future, and what we do could impact the world.

Building a team of extraordinary heroes begins with recruiting the ordinary and building from the ground up. Recruiting, of course, is the hardest part. To remedy this, the CyberCards have reached out within our school to advertise our call-out meeting. This meeting is where we introduce new students to the different aspects of our team, including both the engineering and non-engineering sides. The engineering group consisting of Build, Programming, Data Analysis, Systems, and CAD; the non-engineering, or Operations group, includes the Media, Awards, and Business teams. While ensuring every student gets a good feel for each side, we have students quickly rotate through each group's station before coming together at the end to discuss the team's overall flow and season goals. And although we keep things simple, these rotations give the students a good idea of the groups they may want to become a part of. This system works to our advantage in more ways than one as well; since it also helps to establish the familiar atmosphere that our team has become known for and forms loose bonds between the veterans and future rookies.

## 2. Part #2-

Speaking of rookies, CAGE is one of the CyberCards' largest events that we host in partnership with Red Alert Robotics and is essentially by teams for rookies. What that means is that CAGE is coordinated between us and Red Alert and is used to simulate the stereotypical season competition for the new recruits who attend with their team. And with this year's new rookie drive team rule, rookies got the full experience of both the stress and exhilaration of competition as well as drive team experience which helps them when it comes to an actual competition. This year, we also had to pleasure to have an out of state team that we met in the previous season attend, FRC Team 3266, Robots R Us from Eaton, Ohio. Another important event designed specifically for our rookies is the Mock Kick-Off. The Mock Kick-Off is exactly what the name says, a recreation of the CyberCards' official Kick-Off sponsored and hosted by the University of Indianapolis. At this event, students watch an old game animation and complete the process of creating a design matrix for robot selection as we would during the official season. Both of these events are what establish our team and our veterans as role models for others and continue to help spread our image throughout the community as we continue to grow and prepare our future generations.

Another way the CyberCards are lending a helping hand is through the extensive amount of community service we are a part of. Extensive meaning, this year alone, our team has completed over one thousand hours of community service on record. One event we regularly participate in is Pack Away Hunger, which is centered on packaging meals for the hungry populations in other countries. Other programs that we have been involved in include the City of Southport's Day of Caring and Southport High School's Care Pantry. And on top of community service, our team is a part of many FIRST oriented outreach events. For example, the City of Southport regularly invites us to their Trunk or Treat and Christmas in the Park and Conner Prairie loves for us to demo our robot at their annual Innovation Day's Curiosity Fair. Winchester Village Elementary School has also asked us to appear at their Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration two years running as well as to their Just Say No to Drugs Club. All of these events are an important way that we teach our student leadership skills and get younger audiences involved with FIRST and STEAM.

### 3. Part #3-

Through the aid of our generous sponsors, the CyberCards are able to fulfill our team mission and spread the influence of FIRST. Not only do they donate funds, but also in-kind donations including food, mentors, and robot materials. We owe thanks to all of our sponsors, but especially to our two highest level sponsors, Renaissance Electronic Services and Jackson Systems. RES, specifically, has provided us with both invaluable mentors and repurposed computers on top of their donation. And Jackson Systems has provided food and most of the electronic devices used in building our robot. The restaurants that host our Dine and Donates also support us in many ways and are always growing in number. Our newer contacts include IHOP and Portillos. Jagers, one of our team favorites, even make specialized flyers for us and most of their employees recognize our red shirts on site.

The CyberCards have also recently become a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization to ensure smooth sailing through the build season and to make sure we have time to teach each of our students properly before they leave us to go on the bigger and better things. Before we gained this status, we had to go through a lengthy process to use money through our school account. This became a problem with deadlines, most notably delaying robot part arrivals and rushing the building process. After making the executive decision that a change was needed, our head coach and the CyberCards Parents Association worked together to get our nonprofit organization status. This greatly decreased the time it took to get parts for the robot giving our mentors more time to properly teach and train students for the busy world ahead of them.

#### 4. Part #4-

This past August, the CyberCards were offered a great opportunity to help put our team on the map and get international recognition for our team's achievements. WTHR, Channel 13 News, came to Southport High School for Operation Football Sunrise Pep Rally, to which our athletic director invited our Team Captain and Coach to discuss STEAM and demo our robot. Our school also invited us to participate in their annual Career Fair this year, and the CyberCards were the only school group invited to attend. These events have played a major role in building our team image, conveying that we are a legitimate and respected organization within our community. Because of this, the Chief of Police came to *us* with the request for a threat detection robot.

Yet another way the CyberCards are saving the day is through training our FTC pipeline team, The Steel Beaks Team 13246, and developing district-wide FLL and FLL Jr. programs. And since our FTC team uses the High School as their base, we are able to assist them in any way necessary. Last April, in partnership with the YMCA after-school program, the CyberCards were able to set up FLL Jr. camps at all six of the district elementary schools. Lead by a group of three robotics students per school, this FLL Jr. program provided our students with essential leadership experience and also brought tons of new families into the FIRST circle. Inspiring younger audiences through STEAM being a priority for the CyberCards, these two programs give us the opportunity to complete that mission effectively while continuing to work towards our team mission as well, creating students who are college or career ready and making the heroes that will step up and make a difference in their community, if not the world.