

Dear Potential Sponsor,

FIRST Robotics Competition team 1625, Winnovation, is starting its 20th season of building robots and learning about STEM in a hands-on atmosphere. Winnovation's mission is to expose students throughout the year to leadership, teamwork, and community service. These community service opportunities allow our team to expand in a science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) environment via FIRST. More specifically, Winnovation strives to:

- Bring youth into positions of leadership
- Build cohesiveness, camaraderie and responsibility
- Support and engage the local community through service projects
- Generate experience and knowledge in the fields of STEM
- Demonstrate gracious professionalism*

In the past 20 years, Winnovation has earned 49 trophies, including eight Regional wins. Winnovation Team 1625 has also won the Regional Industrial Design award, Innovation in Control award, Engineering Inspiration award, and Driving Tomorrow's Technology award. In 2014 and 2010, we earned the honor of being in the Final Four at the World Competition hosted in St. Louis, Missouri.

An estimated 80% of team members are pursuing further education in STEM fields. Colleges such as Iowa State, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Michigan Technological University, and more are accepting students from Winnovation. Team alumni have interned with Woodward, Collins Aerospace/Raytheon, SpaceX, and Forest City Gear over the summer. They are now graduates and working for companies such as Woodward, Raytheon, John Deere, Sierra Space Systems, Auris Health, and more.

By being a part of FIRST Robotics, students have a chance to dream big, help design a robot from scratch, learn about business roles and projects, and compete in exciting competitions. Students are also giving presentations, developing business plans, and doing community service. More importantly, they learn what teamwork is and gracious professionalism!*

Currently, there are over 30 students on our team. Adult mentors, team alumni, and upperclassmen mentor underclassmen to keep the team strong. In twenty years, we have achieved the respect of long standing champion teams. Team 1625 hosts an off-season competition called R2OC. Our team collaborates with other teams in the area to host this competition at Rock Valley College. Students from Winnebago and Pecatonica High schools, as well as other local High School students participate on the team and volunteer at this event to help make it possible.

Winnovation members also mentor a middle school robotics team, along with an elementary school robotics team. These teams are Minivation FIRST Tech Challenge team 10505 and BagoBotics FIRST Lego League Challenge team 45024. These teams use various grants to support their work but not all grants are received, so they use Winnovation as a backbone.

Hundreds of hours are donated from volunteer mentors to help teach our fellow students teamwork and to gain hands-on experience. While we do receive support from the Winnebago and Pecatonica school districts, these funds are limited. We apply for grants to support the program, but the majority of our financial support comes from local companies and businesses. We firmly believe that this program is important to building many important life skills in our high school students. We hope you will consider financially supporting Winnovation FIRST Robotics Team 1625 for the 2024 competition season.

** As quoted in FIRSTinspires.org, Gracious Professionalism is defined as the following. "Gracious Professionalism is part of the ethos of FIRST. It's a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. With Gracious Professionalism, fierce competition and mutual gain are not separate notions. Gracious professionals learn and compete like crazy but treat one another with respect and kindness in the process."*

Here are some suggested levels of giving:

Level	Amount	Reimbursement
Golden Gears	\$3,000+	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Name on team publications such as<ul style="list-style-type: none">— On the 2024 Season Robot— In program book— On pit banner— At community presentations— On team t-shirt- Invitation to annual sponsor banquet-Team T shirt-Name in team yearbook-Team yearbook
Silver Sprockets	\$1,000 - \$2,999	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Name on team publications such as<ul style="list-style-type: none">— On the 2024 Season Robot— On pit banner— At community presentations— On team T-shirt- Invitation to annual sponsor banquet- Team T-shirt-Name in team yearbook-Team yearbook
Bronze Bearings	\$500 - \$999	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Name on team T-shirt- Invitation to annual sponsor banquet-Team t-shirt-Name in team yearbook

Any amount and/or in-kind donation is appreciated! Any amount makes a difference. If you would like, students are available to visit and tell you about the program via video call or in-person presentations. Financial donations are tax-deductible. All sponsors will be invited to our Annual Sponsor Appreciation Dinner in May. Please contact Karen Hill at team1625@gmail.com to discuss donations of any kind. Donations may be made payable to FRC Team 1625 Booster Club, and mail to Winnovation, 110 N Pecatonica St, Winnebago, IL 61088.

Sponsors are our lifeblood, so please give this project serious consideration so that together we can develop a talented and educated engineering/manufacturing workforce. We are looking forward to competing again in 2024, so please consider keeping us in your community outreach budget. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

The Members of Winnovation



Contact Karen Hill, Coordinator of Team 1625 Winnovation
Team1625@gmail.com or 815-742-0873