



CITRUS CIRCUITS

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kickoff
January 9, 2021

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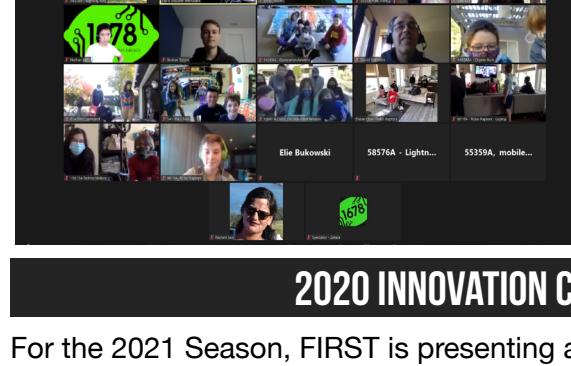


NOVEMBER GIRL POWERED EVENT

On Saturday, November 28, we held another successful Girl Powered Event. Girl Powered Events are one subset of our DiSTEM Outreach program on Citrus Circuits, and they are geared to elementary and middle school-aged girls in the hopes of piquing their interest in a STEM-related career. Our current format for Girl Powered allows us to spend more time with individual participants, but limits us to activities that can be explained and demonstrated through Zoom. Through this outreach event, among many other forms of outreach Citrus Circuits plans to conduct this year, we hope to reach a larger audience and instill STEM into students of all backgrounds.

1678 HOLDS VIRTUAL DYR TOURNAMENT

This past month, we had a successful virtual DYR tournament to end the season. DYR tournaments are another one of our outreach programs on Citrus Circuits designed for students in 4th-8th grade. The program allows students to demonstrate everything they've learned while participating in DYR League. The DYR League seasons start in October, where students build and program their VEX IQ robots to complete certain tasks, much like FRC robotics competitions. During our new COVID-adjusted competitions, teams now experience how to work through new challenges in a virtual



format, which fosters both an interest in STEM and a unique set of teamwork skills. Despite lacking in physical interaction, this year's DYR League and DYR Tournaments have provided a fresh and new experience for mentors and students alike.

2020 INNOVATION CHALLENGE

For the 2021 Season, FIRST is presenting a new challenge called the Innovation Challenge in lieu of in-person gameplay. During this challenge, FIRST will present us with a topic in the world, and over the course of the season, we must identify a problem related to the topic. The team must create a business model with a solution for the identified problem, and this will foster skills often introduced in FIRST, but not actively worked on, for example, business model education and product development. Our Innovation Challenge Lead Helena Young says that the challenge is like the Chairman's Award, where "we must present our innovation in front of a panel of judges in a businesslike manner, but completely different in that Chairman's relates to past and current outreach projects which can be organized into a similar presentation each year, whereas the Innovation Challenge will [require us] to work from the ground up." The Innovation Challenge has given us a new set of goals to work on, including educating our members on developing a business model and looking for solutions to everyday problems in a way that benefits our community.

CLIMATE SURVEY

Citrus Circuits just completed the first of what is intended to be an annual climate survey designed to get feedback from students on their experience with the team and recommendations for improvement. The survey was completed by over 85% of the team and yielded important insights on how well Citrus Circuits has been meeting their expectations; their understanding of the team leadership structure and decisions; and relationships between students and mentors, team leaders, and other students. The information gathered from the survey will be used by leadership and mentors to help continue to improve the experience for the wide range of students on the team. New and returning students reported that the program has helped them develop technical skills, as well as communication and management skills, confidence, prepare for college and the workforce, and establish friendships.

24 HOURS OF STEM

This past Friday and Saturday, Citrus Circuits presented at the 24 Hours of STEM event organized by ourselves and teams 503 Frog Force from Michigan, 971 Spartan Robotics from Mountain View, 1073 Force Team from New Hampshire, 1816 The Green Machine from Minnesota, and 3132 Thunder Down Under from Australia. 24 Hours of STEM is a continuous 24 hour virtual festival that includes a variety of presenters- such as industry professionals, college professors, and FIRST students and mentors, on topics that cover various aspects of STEM. Some of the presentations by Citrus Circuits mentors and students included Iterative Design, Working With Scouting Data, and Pneumatics and Power Transmission. The archive of all the presentations from 24 Hours of STEM will be available on their [website](#).

