

Hello Monty Madness 2011 Participants,

We are now within a week of the Monty Madness Scrimmage. Hopefully, everyone is looking forward to this scrimmage as much as we at the NJ FTC Planning Committee.

Attached is the schedule.

Just a reminder of the "FTC @ Monty Madness" format...

1. We play Qualifier Rounds using the traditional "Get Over It!" Game in the morning. There will also be three Skills Competition Fields set up (with Referees) at which your team and its robot can show demonstrate special talents. The special talents may include baton dispensing, baton scoring, agile balancing on a bridge, nimble maneuvering, and thinking on one's feet. Practicing these skills may (☺) help you later in the day.
2. This year, the First and Second place teams in the Skills Competition will receive "FTC @ Monty Madness" plaques, as will the Extreme Game's Winning Alliance and Finalist Alliance! We thank Tim Liecht and the folks at Montgomery Township HS for graciously supplying our FTC plaques. (Note - The First and Second Seed from the "Get Over It!" Qualifier Rounds will be awarded Certificates of Achievement at day's end if they are not Extreme Game plaque winners.
3. Just before lunch, we will have Alliance Selection and the secrets of this year's Game ("Extreme Get Over It!") will be revealed.
4. After lunch, there will be some chance for a two practice rounds of the Extreme Game. Be ready if you want a place in one of those two practice rounds. After these two quick practice sessions, our earlier-selected Alliances will go right into Extreme Game Elimination Rounds.

That is the formula for the day. It is very different than most scrimmages and we did not want to surprise anyone (except for the Extreme Game details ☺). Please contact me if you have any questions.

Some other short, but important, bullets follow.

Thanks again to Montgomery Township HS for their continuing hospitality and to our amazing volunteers, who will be introduced on Saturday.

The registered team list is shown below. There are four slots open. If you have sister teams or are close to other teams, please encourage them to apply. The more, the merrier.

Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

(You might suggest that any interested team members keep an eye on NJ FTC Facebook. We will be sharing some clues about the Skills Competitions ...which will hint at the Extreme Game secrets.)

Other Helpful Notes

Robots – Naturally, you are all bringing your premier robot to compete. In order to play the Extreme game, no robot modification is needed....only strategy modification. (During the previous years, we were fortunate to have several teams bring more than one robot. The more robots that we have in the competition, the better. We really encourage teams to bring whatever working robots they have to the event. If you've got 'em, bring 'em.

Robot Interface –

- This year, we will use the Field Control System that all of you utilized during this season. That is, we will have a centralized Field Control System using Wifi.
- However, please also bring your laptop with FCS loaded. In order to compete in the Skills Competition, you will need to approach each of the standalone Skills Challenges with your laptop and robot interfaced. We will set up a Competition Router for the main event, and a second Router for the Skills Competitions.
- Teams are asked to run tethered or via Bluetooth when debugging their robot in the pits.

Matches - It is our intent to have 5 “Get Over It!” match opportunities per team. That means that we will run about 15 overall matches. You will compete in 5 of them, and you should accomplish your Skills Competitions sometime during the 10 matches in which you are not competing. Given our planned ten minute cycle time between matches, it should be possible to squeeze in the Skills Competitions without too much trouble.

Robot Condition - Once again, it is essential that you have a working robot that uses this year's template and is free of software bugs. Unfortunately, we will NOT have software expertise standing by at this year's Monty Madness. At this point in the season, we are expecting robots to be sound.

Food – The folks at Montgomery Township High School have plenty of the typical great scrimmage food. Simply ask your team members to bring some lunch money. They'll be well fed and fine.

Parking – No problem at all. There is an enormous parking lot.

Forums – We hope to hold two NJ FTC forums around lunchtime for our interested parties. Please try to have a least one representative attend.

- (1) Many will recall that we held August Software and Hardware Workshops last year. We are intending to repeat both Workshops. The Committee is interested in hearing your input on what should be covered at the August Workshops and about the September Kick-Off. Our thought is to include some training on the three software languages, the PTC Pro-Engineer tool, any new sensors potentially in the kit, and the prototyping board. We are interested in your thoughts.
- (2) We are VERY interested in recruiting more FTC teams to join our New Jersey community. We have some special events planned for June and July. Teams that are interested in helping to spread Dean and Woody's vision of a larger, healthy group of FTC teams can join us in making that happen. We'll be having a forum to discuss team growth and the summertime outreach competitions.

Volunteers – As usual at our no-charge events, we are asking if teams can volunteer one adult to lend a hand ...and we are asking team members to assist with field reset. We may not use all of the walk-in volunteers but it is smart to have them in reserve.