

TEAM UPDATES

May 18, 2008



THE MONTY MADNESS CAFÉ AT LUNCHTIME Once again, the Monty Madness Café will be offering a number of lunchtime options including hot pizza, Famous Dave's pulled pork sandwiches, and a variety of submarine sandwiches. In addition, this year we'll be adding a separate drink stand for those only wishing to buy water, soda or juices.

As mentioned in our last update, this year we are introducing the convenience of pre-ordering of full eight-slice pizzas at a discount and using your Visa or MasterCard for payment. *(You will not be able to use Visa or MasterCard on the day of the event for food purchases.)* Pick-up of the pizzas will not require going through the regular food queue.

Go to <http://www.montymadness.org/downloads/FoodPreOrder.pdf> to download the form. **Please forward this form to the appropriate person/mentor on your team.** Deadline for pre-ordering this way is May 28th.

DON'T FORGET WE'RE STARTING EARLY! Remember we told you we are starting the competition matches earlier this year? Well we are - with **our first FRC match beginning at approximately 8:15AM!** Unfortunately, if you're not ready - we can't hold up everyone else and we'll be playing the match without you. 😞 It's not fair for us to hold everyone up for late teams. So here are two things to keep in mind: don't get lost, and drop off your robot early.

Don't Get Lost Getting to the Montgomery Township High School! So one thing we've found is that people have gotten lost coming to the Montgomery Township High School in Skillman, NJ. One reason is that our high school is only three years old, and some maps are not yet updated! Google and Mapquest appear to be updated and appropriately bring you to our address when you use our correct address as destination: **1016 Route 601; Skillman, NJ 08558-1799**. However, some GPS units are not quite updated and don't seem to know where we are. So here's another way, enter our longitude and latitude into your GPS:

- **N 40 degrees 25.116'**
- **W 74 degrees 42.316'**

Drop Off Your Robot Early If you are close enough to the Montgomery Township High School, you should consider dropping off your robot on Friday, May 30th, the day before the event. This will reduce your stress and number of things you need to do Saturday morning. **You must let us know by sending us an email at registration@montymadness.org with a good estimate as to your time of arrival.** Do not show up without alerting us please! You may drop off your robot and pit items between 3:00 PM and 9:00 PM and any team members must be accompanied by an adult. A map showing the robot unloading location is found on page 3 of this update.

MONTY MADNESS GEARING UP FOR NEW FTC PLATFORM FTC at Monty Madness will be holding competitions throughout the day and will be located this year right outside the FRC pits. A focus of the event will be in learning about the new FTC platform. If you know an FTC team that is interested in participating, have them email Vince Frascella at vincent.frascella@montymadness.org.

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MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE VIDEO CHALLENGE As we mentioned in our last update, we will be accepting competitors in our 2008 Monty Madness Video Challenge. Since each team must find ways of promoting themselves each year, often to locate new sponsors, start early by putting together a 45 second video commercial for your team and enter it in our competition. Teams would likely include their team leadership and/or chairman's committee in the creation of this video.

Here are the guidelines for the video:

- You must let us know at registration@montymadness.org by 5-23 that you will be entering
- The video must be no longer than 45 seconds
- There should be no credits listed during the video – sponsors wouldn't accept that
- Videos should be provided on either a mini-DVC tape or on a DVD
- Mail the video for receipt by Thursday, May 29th to 35 Montfort Dr, Belle Mead, NJ 08502
- Bring a copy with you to the competition on the day of the event

COLLEGE FAIR AT MONTY MADNESS We will be presenting a College Fair from 10AM to 1:30PM this year. If you know of colleges that might be interested in participating, please ask them to visit our website or email us at collegefair@montymadness.org

MONTY MADNESS VOLUNTEERS We're still looking for volunteers for Monty Madness. We have employed approximately 110 volunteers in each of our prior years to run the event and we're still looking to fill our ranks for May 31, 2008. Anyone interested in volunteering, please let them know to fill out our volunteer form at our website or by emailing us at volunteers@montymadness.org. **We do not accept drop-in volunteers on the day of the event.**

SOME INITIAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE EVENT Here is some logistical information about the event, we'll be sending out some guidelines about playing in the competition in our next update:

- The main entrance is located near the main parking area (please see map graphic on page 3). This entrance is for team members and the public. No robots are to be brought into this entrance. Robots are to enter/depart through the specified entrance.
- The FRC arena will be located in the Main Gymnasium. No food or drink allowed.
- The FRC Pit Area will be located in the Auxiliary Gymnasium. No food or drink allowed
- There is a special robot transport corridor behind the Pit Area connecting to the playing arena. This robot transport corridor is only to be used by Robot Drive Teams. **Drive Teams must be wearing one of four yellow Monty Madness badges provided per team by Pit Administration.**
- As this is a one day event, please bring only what you need for the day. For instance, please bring only a few battery chargers. **In addition, please use only battery powered tools so we don't blow a circuit breaker.**
- We will be maintaining a machine shop for repairs on the day of the event. See Pit Administration for assistance.

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PARKING AND UNLOADING AT THE MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

