



Coconino High School Robotics

FRC Team 2486 · The CocoNuts · Flagstaff, AZ



PROPOSAL FOR SPONSORSHIP FOR THE 2026 FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION SEASON

OPPORTUNITY:

This is an opportunity to sponsor the Coconino High School “CocoNuts” FIRST Robotics Team for the 2025 FIRST Robotics season. The CocoNuts are a competitive FIRST robotics team based in Flagstaff, Arizona.

FIRST® is the world’s leading youth-serving nonprofit advancing STEM education.

For over 30 years, FIRST has combined the rigor of STEM learning with the fun and excitement of traditional sports and the inspiration that comes from community through programs that have a proven impact on learning, interest, and skill-building inside and outside of the classroom. Each season, nearly 700,000 students in over 100 countries compete with their robotic creations at over 3700 events worldwide. www.firstinspires.org. FIRST is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization.

About the CocoNuts:

The CocoNuts are in their 19th season of competition with FIRST. Each year the CocoNuts participate in the FIRST Robotics Competition. The students are challenged to build a 120-lb robot to compete in a game that is unique to each season in just eight weeks. The students then travel to competition to compete against up to 60 other teams for the chance to compete at the FIRST World Championship in April. In addition to building the robot, the CocoNuts are an integral part of the Flagstaff and Northern Arizona STEM communities. They mentor other robotics teams throughout Flagstaff, run the FIRST Tech Challenge program for Arizona and started the “RezBotics” program on the Navajo Nation. The CocoNuts are passionate advocates for STEM education and have traveled to the Arizona and US capitals to raise awareness for STEM and robotics. In 2024, the CocoNuts were named the STEM Community Partner of the Year by Flagstaff STEM City.

In April 2024, the CocoNuts were honored with the World Championship FIRST Impact Award. *“The FIRST Impact Award is the most prestigious award at FIRST. It honors the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST. The FIRST Impact Award is presented to the team judged to have the most significant measurable impact of its partnerships among its participants and community over a sustained period, not just a single build season. The winner is able to demonstrate progress towards FIRST’s mission of transforming our culture. **The recipient team is now a member of the FIRST Hall of Fame!**”*

Benefits of Being a CocoNut:

The CocoNuts are open to all students at Coconino High School, as well as homeschooled students in Flagstaff. The CocoNuts average 20-30 active members supported by the dedicated mentorship of two lead coaches and six technical and non-technical mentors. During their time on the team, CocoNuts get to:

- Learn real-world technical skills, including CAD and manufacturing, programming, electrical work, and computer networking. Students use industry-standard hardware and software, including SolidWorks, Java, and Haas machining equipment to complete a 120-lb machine in 2 months.
- Learn skills applicable to all careers, such as technical writing, presentation skills, teamwork, and how to meet time, budget, and materials constraints. The student members of the CocoNuts have presented to our state and national legislators about the importance of STEM education numerous times.
- CocoNuts are highly competitive for college admissions and scholarships. Past “AlumNuts” have attended Stanford, Kettering, Columbia, Grand Canyon University, Embry Riddle, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and all three Arizona Universities. For example, the ten members of the class of 2022 were offered over \$1.8 million in college scholarships! One-third of CocoNut graduates are the first in their family to attend college. 100% of our graduates get into college, and over 90% choose to pursue STEM careers.

BENEFITS OF DONATING:

Your donation has a direct positive impact on Arizona’s innovators of the future. We rely on donations from businesses to keep the out-of-pocket cost to our students as low as possible. We want every student to have the opportunity to compete regardless of their family’s financial situation. In return for your donation, we recognize your generosity in a variety of ways.



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- As part of our Official Team Name with *FIRST*. Sponsors listed as official team sponsors are listed in *FIRST*'s annual report, which is distributed worldwide and posted to their website. Our official sponsors are also announced out loud by the game announcer during our competitions.
- On our official team t-shirts for the 2026 season, which all students, parents and mentors wear to competition and at innumerable events in our community.
- On our 2026 competition robot! Thousands of people attend our 3 regional competitions and World Championship in Houston. As a member of the Hall of Fame, we are pre-qualified for the World Championship for the next seven years!
- Official recognition on our sponsor slide show, which runs continuously at both the Arizona *FIRST* Tech Challenge Championship and Four Corners Regional Championship. These events are attended by approximately 1000 people from across Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico. We also recognize our sponsors on our Arizona and Four Corners Championship official programs.
- Recognition on all publications and videos that the CocoNuts produce this season. This includes our video for the *FIRST IMPACT* Award, a full color book for judging at competition, outreach events in the spring and fall, and banners displayed in the pit, the *FIRST* Hall of Fame booth at World Championship, and used for our community presentations. Videos will be posted to our team YouTube channel.
- Your logo and a link to your company website on our future team website www.team2486.org.
- Your company will also receive a thank you packet at the end of the season with a picture to display and a thank you from the students.

The CocoNuts are requesting a donation toward our entry fees, travel expenses, and robot kit for our 2026 season. The CocoNuts plan to compete in three regionals and World Championship. Entry fees are very expensive; it is \$6000 for our first regional (*which includes our Kit of Parts and eligibility to compete for official awards*), \$3000 for each additional regional, and \$5750 for World Championship. The robot costs an average of \$8000 per season. Every donation helps!

How to Donate:

1. *FIRST* is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization and your donation is tax-deductible within the guidelines of U.S. law (EIN # 22-2990908). To claim a donation as a deduction on your U.S. taxes, please keep your email donation receipt as your official record. *FIRST* will send it to you upon successful completion of your donation.
2. Please contact us and let us know if you are willing to donate to our team.
3. Your donation can be made directly to *FIRST* and sent specifically to our team for our season. **We are *FIRST* Robotics Competition TEAM 2486 CocoNuts from Coconino High School in Flagstaff, AZ.**
4. The minimum amount that can be donated to a team through *FIRST* is \$99. Please be sure to indicate that your donation is **unrestricted**. Once our entry fees are covered, we can regrant any extra funds to pay for the robot or team travel expenses.
5. Timeline: Our initial registration fees are due to *FIRST* by November 14 and our additional regional and Championship fees are due in January. Please let us know when you plan to make your donation so we can plan. *FIRST* can also take letters of commitment from sponsors if it will take time to complete your donation.
6. Student members of the CocoNuts are available to meet with you in-person or via Zoom, or to present to your company about their experiences.
7. [Information on donations to *FIRST* can be found here.](#) www.firstinspires.org → Ways to Help → Donate
8. To make your donation by phone, please call *FIRST* Finance at 1-800-871-8326 ext. 563.
9. **To make your donation by check, please send it to *FIRST*, Attn: Finance, 200 Bedford Street, Manchester, NH 03101 with the *FIRST* team number and location clearly noted in the memo line.**

Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions regarding this proposal.

~Christine Sapio & Dave Thompson

on behalf of the student members of the CocoNuts

Contacts:

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