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# THE PONYTAIL EXPRESS



## WHAT'S NEW & HAPPENING WITH THE PONYTAIL POSSE

### WHO IS THE PONYTAIL POSSE?

The Posse is an all-girls FTC team from St. Paul, Minnesota. We are in junior year of high school and this is our eighth year participating in robotics. Find out more at [www.theponytailposse.com](http://www.theponytailposse.com).

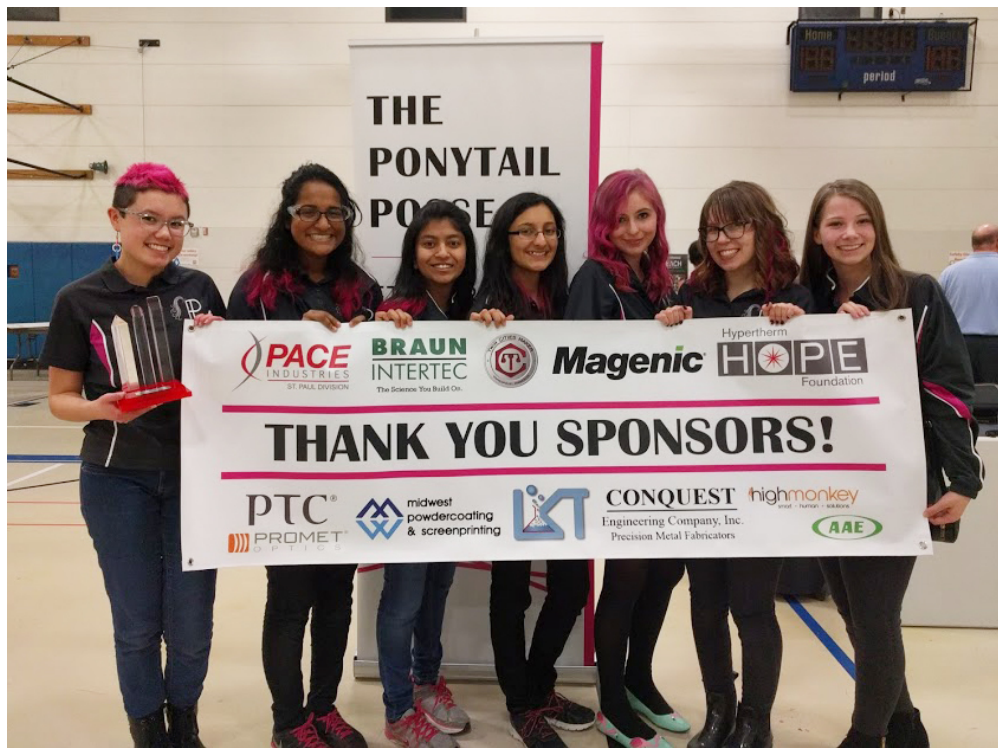


### STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

We had an amazing time competing among the top 48 FTC teams in Minnesota last weekend. The event took place on February 10–11 at Washington Technology Magnet School and included a team interview, six qualifying robot runs, and a few fantastic dance parties.

At the end of the day, we received the **Think Award** for our engineering notebook. Our coach also won the **Compass Award** (more information below) and we are honored to be one of 8 teams **advancing to the next level of competition**. The FTC North Super Regional Championship will take place in late March in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. If we place in the top 38% of the competition, our team will then have the opportunity to travel to St. Louis and compete in the *FIRST* World Festival.

None of this could have happened without help from our sponsors and we are very grateful for your support!

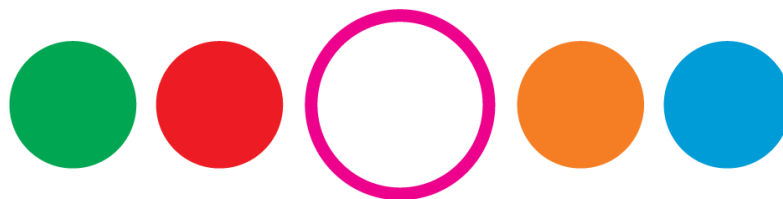


## COMPASS VIDEO

The Compass Award is given to recognize a mentor that has given their team outstanding guidance/support throughout the season. To be eligible, teams must submit a minute-long video describing the impact of their mentor on the team's journey and success. We decided to make a video this year to show our appreciation and thank our mentors for everything they've done.

Our coach, Norton Lam, won the Compass Award at the MN State Championship. You can watch our video below:





# THE PONYTAIL POSSE FOUNDATION

Our newest project is the Ponytail Posse Foundation, which will grant funds to local schools in the Mounds View School District with the purpose of starting more robotics teams. We are specifically focusing on schools with lower-income students that currently do not have robotics programs in place. The foundation's mission is to provide students equal opportunity to participate in STEM activities across the district.

If your company is interested in this cause, please send us an email! We are in the process of creating a business plan and would be happy to give an update when more details are available.

## SHOREVIEW LIBRARY OPENING DEMO

In late January, we had the honor of being invited by a local FRC team to demo at the Shoreview Library grand opening. There were also other FTC and FRC teams, a couple of FLL teams, and an FLL Jr. team; this meant that all levels of *FIRST*, from kindergarten through high school, were represented. It was a cool opportunity to introduce ourselves to the librarians and demonstrate Shoreview robotics teams in our community. We had a blast talking to all the visitors – especially the younger kids, who were very interested in the LEGO robots. This was a great first demo at the new library and we're already looking forward to the next time we can visit.

[Click here](#) to read the demo blog post.



ABOVE: team member Heeral talking to visitors



ABOVE: showing our robot to High Monkey

## HIGH MONKEY DEMO

Last month, we had the wonderful opportunity to meet [High Monkey](#) consulting company in person and show them what we've been working on. We spent the first part of the demo presenting about our team and the robotics program. Then, the presentation moved to their open break area and we showed what our robot could do. It was a lot of fun to answer questions while letting employees drive the robot around and shoot wiffle balls.

Thank you for your support, High Monkey!

[Click here](#) to read the blog post.

## VOLUNTEERING

We have been volunteering with [High Tech Kids](#) (the organization that runs most robotics tournaments in Minnesota) since we were about ten years old. This year was especially exciting because some of us tried roles out of our comfort zone; specifically, two Posse members were emcees at FLL tournaments. They had a lot of fun sharing the teams' excitement and providing pun-filled commentary during the robot runs. We also filled various other roles this year such as manning check-in tables and running activities for FLL Jr. participants.

Our favorite event of every year is the *FIRST* LEGO League State Championship, which is now only a couple of weeks away. We can't wait to see what the teams have accomplished and finish off our volunteering season with a bang.

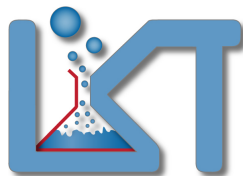


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