

November 14, 2017

Spotlight on:

FRC 6888 Cavagears

Connelly Springs, NC

Formed 2017

[Facebook](#)



The following information about the team was submitted by coach Kim Aiello.

Share some of your team's highlights as you prepare for your rookie season. What is the team most excited about for this upcoming season?

We are a new team that had the opportunity to enter a partnership with *FIRST* and the Zebracorns for a mentorship program. Currently, we are an all-ladies team and we are very excited to be entering the world of FRC. The ladies spent two weeks this summer at NCSSM under the mentorship of *FIRST* NC and the Zebracorns and are thrilled to be able to make an appearance at THOR.

Share some of your team's challenges. How is the team working to overcome those challenges?

Our biggest challenge right now is starting from scratch and beginning the fundraising process. We are somewhat limited by fundraising guidelines to the number of fundraisers we can do since we are a school, but we will have to get creative to make it happen.

Describe your team's culture. What are some of your team's values? How do you communicate your team's culture and values to new members of the team?

Our team is currently all ladies. All of them have had Project Lead the Way classes in middle school and some have taken the PLTW Engineering classes in high school or are planning to take them. They are competitive and extremely hard-working ladies and work together beautifully. The ladies have very high expectations for each other for attention and pulling their weight. They are fun-loving and talented in many areas. Our team meetings are never without singing and laughter mixed in with the work. The ladies have already experienced and embraced the spirit of gracious professionalism and cooperation through the mentorship program this summer.

Explain your experience with TIGER.

The team was founded through the TIGER (Teaching Innovation, Graciousness, and Engineering through Robotics) program this summer in Durham. Five students, which ended up being all females, attended a two-week program where they were mentored by Team 900 Zebracorns and Julia Wagner from *FIRST* NC. With the assistance of the Zebracorn team members, they built a functioning robot in eight days. They received information on fundraising, programming, networking, mechanics, safety, and use of power tools, etc. Two other teams attended the program also, so the girls had an opportunity to make friends with teams from 3 different areas of the state. Throughout the program, everyone kept reassuring the girls that someone would always have their back and be there to help with parts, programming, and whatever they needed. They simply said, "That's what *FIRST* is all about." They really didn't understand why anyone would want to give them parts and assistance in a competition setting. Again, "That's what we do." is what they were told. The girls were encouraged to take their robot to THOR even though they had a robot that could only do part of the challenge (the gear part).

Describe your teams experience at THOR.

A couple weeks before THOR, an email came in that another team wanted to give them a climber for their robot for THOR and promised to help them attach and program it. The girls and the coach were completely shocked but thrilled. So, they decided to go. Many members and mentors from other teams came up to welcome us and offer assistance for anything we needed. It was unexpected, but a great feeling! The day began with tons of nerves and fear of the unknown. The girls had some technical issues with the first match. They were able to resolve those and performed better through the second match. The climber wasn't attached for their 3rd qualification match. Even without the climber, they were in 23rd place out of 30 after 2 rounds. With the climber, they jumped up to 19th. Fast forward to alliance selection when they were honored to be chosen by two of the most experienced teams in the state. Fast forward again, their alliance WON! Team 6888 Cav-A-Gears now understands gracious professionalism and cooperation. Thanks so much to the TerrorBytes for the climber and assistance as well as T-Rex for the main breaker replacement for their broken one. Special thanks to the Zebracorns and Julia for the mentorship and opportunity to get the team started. We are looking forward to our rookie season and being a part of *FIRST*.



