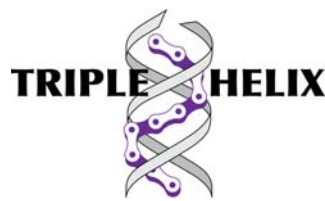




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### ABOUT TRIPLE HELIX

Triple Helix, the Menchville Robotics Team based at Menchville High School in Newport News, Virginia, competes in the FIRST Robotics Competition as team number 2363. FIRST is an acronym that means "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology." Dean Kamen, the noted inventor of the popular Segway Human Transporter, founded FIRST in 1989 as a means to excite students about technology, math, and science. The FIRST Robotics Competition began in 1993 with 28 teams competing in a New Hampshire high school gymnasium. By 2010, the competition has grown to over 1,800 teams internationally, with 45,000 high school students participating. Throughout the years, FIRST has continued to add new programs to appeal to students ranging from 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades, including the Jr. FIRST Lego League, the FIRST Lego League, and the FIRST Tech Challenge. For additional information regarding FIRST, please visit [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org).

Triple Helix was formed in 2007 with a generous grant from the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, an individual sponsorship, and the in-kind support of a few small firms in the Newport News region. The team quickly garnered the support of technical mentors from the Army Research Laboratory, NASA, Old Dominion University, Christopher Newport University, and Menchville High School. The team has achieved success quickly, winning the 2008 NASA/VCU Regional *Rookie Inspiration Award*, the 2009 NASA/VCU Regional *Underwriters' Laboratory Industrial Safety Award*, the 2010 Washington DC Regional *Underwriters' Laboratory Industrial Safety Award*, and the 2010 Virginia Regional *Motorola Quality Award*. The team is also the champion of the 2009 *Robot Rumble*, an off-season competition at the State Fair of Virginia. Our goal as a team is to continue to grow into a world-class FIRST Robotics Competition team by continuing to win awards and compete effectively with our robots on the field of play. Ultimately, we hope to be consistent participants at the FIRST Championship, which is held each year in April at venues like the Georgia Dome in Atlanta and the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis.

### THE TRIPLE HELIX COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

In keeping with the fundamental principles of FIRST, Triple Helix is dedicated to the community in which we live. As such, the team engages in a community outreach program that has taken off. In 2009, the team offered its first robotics summer camp. The camp teaches students the fundamentals of robot design and programming using the popular LEGO Mindstorms NXT robotics kits. We also sponsor the *Mighty Mustangs FIRST LEGO League* team at B.C. Charles Elementary School. The team has raised funds for the Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters cancer unit by selling lemonade and collecting donations at a local Farm Fresh grocery store, and by competing in the annual Duck Tape Regatta in Norfolk, Virginia. In 2010, Triple Helix participated for the first time in the Relay for Life at Todd Stadium in Newport News. The team built a special robot that completed 100 laps (25 miles!) around the track to raise money for cancer research. Triple Helix is actively seeking additional opportunities to give back to our community. Should you have a community or charitable event that you feel would benefit from the participation of Triple Helix, please feel free to contact us using the information provided on our web site.

