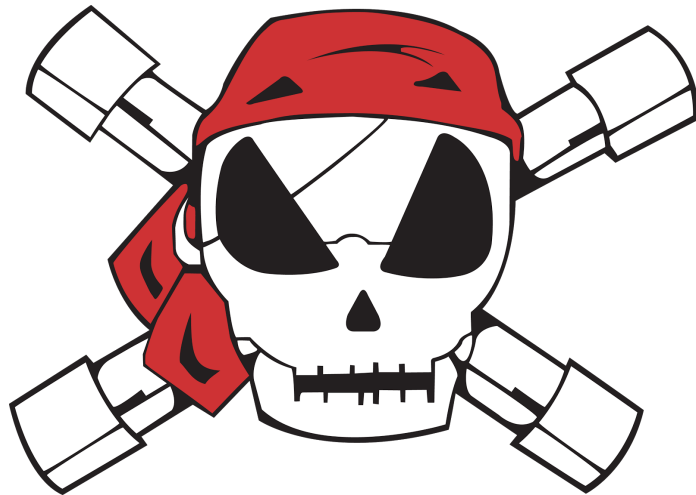


HOW TO START YOUR LOCAL FRC ALLIANCE

FROM TEAM 1058, THE PVC
PIRATES





WHY START A LOCAL ALLIANCE?

In 2014, the PVC Pirates created the FRC New Hampshire Alliance as a way to trade parts and ideas with local teams. For us, Facebook was the easiest means of communication with nearby teams, so we chose to start a Facebook page. Since then, it has grown to so much more. Now, through word of mouth, the page has spread throughout our neighboring states of New England with over 250 members. On average, there are about two to three posts per day on it. Anyone who needs a question answered will have a response within minutes from people in their area. Most often the response is “You need help with something? When’s your team’s next meeting, I can come by and help.” Not only has this page helped teams gain design ideas and programming help, but it has strengthened the bond between teams within New England FIRST.

WHAT IS THIS PAGE USED FOR?

- Finding parts that are either sold out or won’t arrive before they are needed
- Programming assistance
- Welding or machining help
- Local event discussion
- Connecting rookies to veteran support
- Announcements for upcoming FRC events
- Design discussion and comparison
- Finding match videos from recent competitions
- And overall general friendly discussion!

SEVEN SIMPLE STEPS

To start your own local FRC Facebook Alliance page, there are only seven simple steps!



STEP ONE: DECIDE A LOCATION FOR IT TO COVER

In order to make this page effective for trading parts and finding machining help, your alliance should be limited to members from teams within a small distance. So, if your team is located in a district or region that is fairly small, you may have no problem confining the Facebook page to that specific district/region. However, if you that is not the case for you, you may have to get creative with defining the region that your page will encapsulate!

STEP TWO: DETERMINE PAGE ADMINS

In order to keep this page well-run, you'll need committed and responsible members of your team/community to manage the page. Admins of the page will be in charge of monitoring and approving incoming members, ensuring that discussion is friendly and fair between people, and deleting any spam that may arise.

STEP THREE: CREATE THE PAGE!

Here are a few simple things that you will want to be cognizant of when creating the page:

- When choosing your name, you should label it as "FRC _____ Alliance", the blank being your location in order to keep consistency with other FRC alliances worldwide
- You will want it to be a "closed group" so admins can accept or deny members and also to avoid spam
- Then, update the description and make the group picture something relevant to FIRST and your region

STEP FOUR: SPREAD THE WORD TO LOCAL FRIENDS

So, you have a Facebook page, now you just need members! Talk to friends from local FRC teams and get the word out to others!



STEP FIVE: GIVE OUT INFORMATION AT EVENTS

Have an upcoming competition? That will be the perfect time to spread the word! Create a simple pamphlet with basic information of what the alliance is and how students/mentors can access the page. You can go around the pits and talk to other teams at the competition in order to create a face-to-face connection to make your discussion more memorable.

STEP SIX: POST ABOUT IT ON CHIEF DELPHI

Put a simple post on Chief Delphi to educate teams within your area about the page. When we posted about our alliance page on Chief Delphi, we gained over thirty members within a day!

STEP SEVEN: WATCH THE PAGE GROW!

If you continue to monitor the page, help other teams, and spread the word of your page to other teams, especially rookie teams, you will have amazing results! Appreciate what you have done, because you have now created an amazing resource for many people!

THE PVC PIRATES ARE HERE TO HELP!

If you would like to partner with us to spread this to your region, please let us know! Through managing this page for over three years now, we have encountered and solved many issues with managing our page, dealing with spam, etc. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at frcteam1058@gmail.com!