TRUCK TOWN THUNDER

Upcoming Dates:

March 31 - April 2
Howell District

April 13 - 16 Michigan State Championships at Deltaplex, Grand Rapids

April 26 - May 1
FIRST Championships in St. Louis, MO

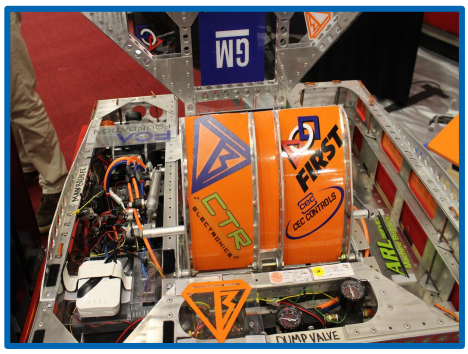
2016 Spring Update

T3 and Girl Scouts

For three years now, Truck Town Thunder has been partnering with the Girl Scouts to bring *FIRST* to girls in Southeast Michigan. The Girl Scouts are one of the fastest growing groups involved in bringing *FIRST* to youth in all communities. Truck Town Thunder girls spend time at Girl Scout events promoting *FIRST* as well as present at the beginning of their season to parents on how to administer a team. For additional information or to notify interest in forming a GSSEM *FIRST* team, please contact Sara Sanders by email at ssanders@gssem.org. To learn more about the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan visit their website.

Tippecanoe District Event

From March 11th to the 13th, Truck Town Thunder was in West Lafayette, Indiana attending the Tippecanoe District Event. There T3 came across a variety of different teams, including 2 other Michigan teams and various Indiana teams. It was a great way to start the competition season and gave new students an insight to competitions before going to a Michigan District. The team had a wonderful time competing with all the teams and would like to thank Indiana *FIRST* for the opportunity to compete in an out-of-state match.



Build Season Review

Build Season kicked off in January with students hard at work drafting, preparing, and creating. The programming subteam painstakingly wrote code to guide the robot's movement, while the manipulator and electrical sub-teams toiled to perfect the infrastructure, mobility, and efficiency of the robot. The managerial subteams of safety and awards put long hours into crafting new documents and doctrines for the team and for the community. The media subteam renovated and grew the team's website, adding a new array of proud partners. The media and the awards team worked hard at the end of the build season to perfect the chairman's presentation and awards. Overall, this year's build season was great success.

Lansing District Event

From March 25th to 26th Truck Town Thunder came to Mason, Michigan competing in the Lansing District Event. Here, the team was one of the oldest at the event. Surrounded by many rookie teams, Truck Town Thunder hoped to have inspired some of the teams. Truck Town Thunder was the first pick for the seventh alliance, and after a tough fight by Truck Town, the team was ousted in the 3rd match of the quarterfinals. The biggest highlight though, was the moment Truck Town Thunder won the Chairman's award. The *FIRST* Chairman's award is considered the highest honor a team can achieve at a robotics event . By winning this prestigious award, the team is now qualified for the MIchigan State Championship. Go Truck!

Student Achievements

Truck Town Thunder would like to congratulate Levi Bischer for receiving the FIRST Dean's list award celebrating outstanding student leaders whose passion for and effectiveness at attaining *FIRST* ideals is exemplary. Levi will now go on to compete for this prestigious honor at the Michigan State Championships in April. The team would also like to congratulate Tyler Matteson on being awarded the Safety Star of the Day at both Lansing and Tippecanoe District events.

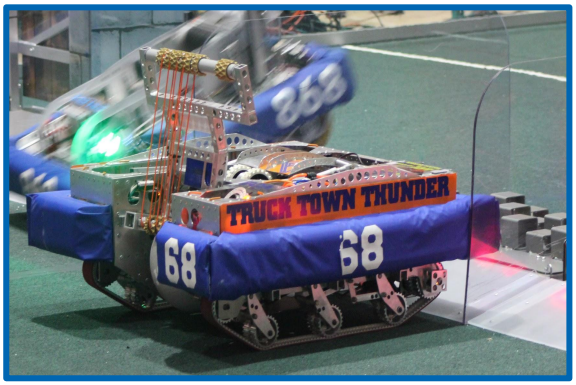
Pictured: Levi Bischer and his parents Paul and Lisa Bischer.

ARL's Visit at Lansing

Truck Town really appreciated giving a VIP treatment to one of their partners, ARL, at the Lansing District event. An alumni, Jacob Bischer, and current team member, Samantha Baril, gave ARL a tour and a briefing of how a robotics competition is ran. We were able to share the story of Truck Town Thunder and the message of *FIRST* while exhibiting just how great this program is. ARL was able to walk around the pits and watch our matches from front row seating, directly in front of the field in an exclusive VIP seating area, usually reserved for judges. The team would like to invite any partners interested in learning more about their program to attend any event (listed on the front page) or even stop in the shop to see the team's progress. And again thank you to all of our partners who have donated time and resources to T3.

2016 Robot

For Truck Town Thunder's nineteenth robot build, they created a robot that is very versatile. From the innovative design of the way that game pieces are taken into the robot to the creative design that the robot's shooter uses that majestically launches game pieces into a goal. For the first time in 11 years, Truck Town Thunder is using tracks to move their robot. One of the most interesting features on their competition robot is the use of gas spring suspension on their tank treads.



Student Voice

Sophomore Olivia Wright expressed how it affected her life: "Robotics is truly a different type of program. I've never been involved in something that I feel so appreciated for all of my work and it's amazing to see a program that is connected like a family. I was honestly afraid to join the robotics team because I thought you had to be smart or good with electrical things, but it is much more than that.Joining robotics was one of the best decisions of my life, and I have gained so much from the program."