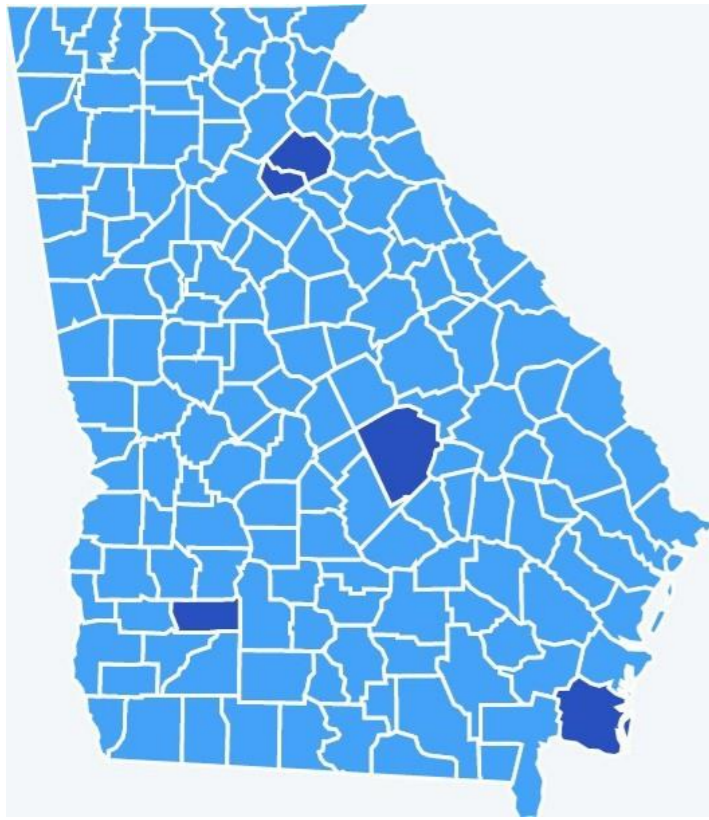


# Georgia **FIRST** Robotics

## Virtual Mentoring Program

*A pilot initiative to bring dedicated mentors to FRC teams in rural and marginalized communities in Georgia.*



- Locations of potential match teams.

**OUR PROBLEM:** As in many aspects of their lives, our FRC teams in geographically rural areas face unique obstacles. A primary limitation is access to dedicated engineering and business mentors, which is a key staple to the success of any team and individual long-term success of student participants. Within the *FIRST* community, students with mentors are: **4 times** more likely to take advanced classes (college level) classes in high-school, **90%** more likely to attend college, **seven times** more likely to choose a STEM major and **300%** more likely to become mentors themselves.

*In other words, "FIRST is more than robots. The robots are a vehicle for students to learn important life skills. They leave, even after their first season, with a vision, with confidence, and with a sense that they can create their own future." Dean Kamen, Founder of FIRST.*

**OUR SOLUTION:** You. We want to connect experienced professionals to marginalized teams in the PCH District, creating a virtual-distance mentoring relationship. With an internet connection, as little as an hour a week, and the desire to share your skills with eager students, you can help a team, **your team**, reach a new level of success.

### HOW MENTORS HELP

*FIRST* mentors are the critical link in helping students learn and apply skills in a hands-on environment. Teams always need help with:

#### Engineering/Technical

- Programming
- Electrical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Design/ CAD
- Machining
- Fabrication

#### Business/Operations

- Marketing & Branding
- Public Relations
- Business Planning
- Financial Management
- Fundraising
- Awards Preparation

### HOW TO SIGN-UP & WHAT TO EXPECT



Contact Connie Haynes ([chanyes@gafirst.org](mailto:chanyes@gafirst.org)) to sign-up, and send a resume or short summary of the skills you would be willing to help develop in your mentees.



Register, complete profile, and authorize background check at *FIRST*'s volunteer management site: [https://my.firstinspires.org/FIRSTPortal/Login/VIMS\\_Login.aspx](https://my.firstinspires.org/FIRSTPortal/Login/VIMS_Login.aspx). Teams and mentors will be matched in Fall 2017.



Work with your team to determine a schedule for your online interactions and preferred platforms (Google Hangouts, Skype, Slack, etc.).



Establish your level of involvement. We recommend one hour per week in the off-season, and two hours each week during the build period and competition season. Be sure to let your team know if you are available via phone or email to assist between meetings.



If at all possible, try to attend a competition with your team! Your team will compete in two district qualifier events, and may move on to the State and/or World Championships.



Remember that this is a pilot program, so we welcome your feedback. Let us know your thoughts, troubles and recommendations for how we can improve along the way.

