How to Plan a Demo

Why plan demos?

Demos are a great way to get the word out about your team to the community and also are a great recruitment tool. They get your message of FIRST to people that wouldn't normally hear about your team.

What are some good ideas for demos?

This is totally up to you! Our team often shows off our robot or does interactive experiments. Sometimes we let the crowd even drive the robot! Just be creative and you'll easily come up with a great idea.

Where are some good places to do demos?

The options are wide open! Some great places would be museums, festivals, Boy and Girl Scout meetings, and really anywhere in your community that you think you'd have an audience for the demo.

How do you get permission to set up a demo?

You have to contact the group or place a good while ahead of time so you get an open spot. You need to let them know what you'll do. Weather you'll be showing off your robot or doing a cool experiment so that they know what kind of space you'll need. The worst thing is not having enough room and being stuck with no room to do the demo and disappointing a crowd.

What to bring:

This will vary from demo to demo but below is what we've found are must haves…

Brochures- You need something to give to interested people that a quick overview FIRST, of your team, and the URL for your website.

Tri-Fold Board- This would have the similar information to the brochure with the addition of pictures of your team and of its outreach.

Batteries and Charger- Most of the demos we do involve a robot so this is always on the top of the check list, a robot without power isn't as cool has a robot with power.

Safety Barrier- If you're doing a robot demo you need a safety zone so that people don't get in the way of moving robots.

Camera- This is a great time to get pictures and video of your team's impact on your community. Pictures of little kids interacting with robots and team members are great for your website!

Volunteers! - You need the people to commit to do the demo! If you have everything else then you don't have the people to run it makes your team look bad. Make sure to remind people about it so they don't forget to show up.

Some Other Tips

If you put this all together you should do just fine, but below is a list of some other tips that you might want to use…

Get Other Teams Involved- get other teams to come to the demo and have them bring their robot too!

Try to do yearly demos in the same places- It is easier to have a bunch of places where you do demos every year then it is to try to get new places to do them all the time, but this doesn't mean don't stop looking for new demos to add to the ones you already do!

 Don't plan demos when you can't do them- During build season there is less time to do them, also make sure not to plan them during exam weeks and also definitely not the weekend of regionals or nationals.