

## TEAM 5658 (Stormbotics) – Lessons Learned

The 2015 season, our rookie season, of FIRST robotics was a lot of fun and a little confusing, at times. Our first priority was building a robot that would be robust and durable, and I think we succeeded. The robot performed well and we finished the regional competition in the middle of the pack. We got started late so missed some of the opportunities that FIRST provides. So, some of the lessons learned are as follows:

1. **Get started earlier.** We started too late and missed opportunities.
2. **Work together as a team and departmentalize.** Create committees to do tasks.
3. **Do fundraising.** The costs can get high and some of the responsibility should be on our team.
4. **Keep the robot simple.** A simple robot that can perform well and be durable is preferred.
5. **Display good sportsmanship and professionalism and individuals and as a team.** We need to do things to encourage and maintain other teams to succeed and celebrate in their successes. These characteristics are at the heart of FIRST's ideals and are the reason we compete.
6. **Have fun!** Working hard at a goal and achieving that goal is fun. This is one of the greatest educational lessons that we can teach.

Our rookie season was a great learning experience. Our underclassman are already excited about starting the next season. We hope other rookie teams can learn from our successes and failures.