

Woodie Flowers Conference 2026 — Full Schedule

Generated July 16, 2026

SATURDAY	ROOM A (Rm 027)	ROOM B (Rm 020)	ROOM C (Rm 122)
7:30	Registration / Breakfast / Networking		
9:00	KEYNOTE — Press Play: The Moment That Changes Everything Kyle Hughes (WFA)		
10:00	You Can Do Hard Things: The True Story of the CocoNuts and our... FRC Christine Sapio (WFA)	I am Not an Engineer Just a ____, How Could I Build a Competitive... FRC/FTC Ben Shoemaker	Zero to State Champs: Starting a Successful FTC Team FTC Leonard Nieman
11:00	Funding the Future: Creative and Sustainable Ways to Support a... FRC/FTC Glenn Lee (WFA)	Barriers and Bridges – A Strategic Approach to Having a Real Impact FRC/FTC Isriah Keila	I'm all Ears! Ready to Listen & Learn: Hear what FIRST has... FRC/FTC Kate Sample
12:00	Lunch / Networking		
1:00	Modern Rapid Manufacturing for Educational Robotics FRC Jakob Wittry	Separate Teams, Stronger Together: Empowering Girls in FRC FRC Jesse Frost (WFFA) & Matt Wendland (WFFA)	FTC Leagues: Boosting Community and Engineering Iteration FTC Marka Eberle
2:00	Embracing the Kaizen, How Continuous Improvement Can... FRC/FTC Leon Pryor (WFFA)	Reactive Programming in FRC: Triggers as State FRC Greg Billetdeaux (WFFA)	Ballin' On A Budget: Cheap Thrills, Ugly Hacks, and Stealing Wins FRC/FTC Billfred Leverette
3:00	Robonauts Core Values & Expectations FRC Lucien Junkin (WFA)	So You Want To Host An Event FRC/FTC Nicki Bonczyk (WFFA)	Optimizing 3D Printed Robot Parts for Performance and Durability FRC/FTC John Peterson (WFFA)
4:00	Why Constraints Are an Engineer's Best Friend FRC/FTC Daniel Frank (WFFA) & Faridodin (Fred) Lajvardi (W...	What Is Your Robot Thinking: Getting Started With Robot Feedback and... FRC Antonio Pittiglio	The Other Side of the Judging Table FRC/FTC Taylor Liberge (WFFA)
5:00	Insights on Mentorship: Q&A with Championship Woodie Flowers... FRC/FTC Woodie Flowers Award Recipients (WFA)	Small Town, Big Impact: FRC Outreach in Rural Communities FRC Melissa Kramer	Building a Sustainable Mentor Base through Higher Education... FRC Jonathan Lazatin & Brendan O'Toole

SUNDAY	ROOM A (Rm 027)	ROOM B (Rm 020)	ROOM C (Rm 122)
7:30	Registration / Breakfast / Networking		
9:00	KEYNOTE — Improbable to Unstoppable : Faridodin (Fred) Lajvardi (WFA) FRC/FTC		
10:00	Life with Woodie FRC/FTC Kyle Hughes (WFA)	The Name Game or: It's All Part of the Plan FRC Ryan Gibson	The Next Gear: Middle School Innovators in Robotics FTC Amy Doyle
11:00	Respond, Don't React: Communication Tools for Coach... FRC/FTC Adrienne Emerson (WFFA) & Allison Kneisler	"Crowdsourcing" FRC Community Core Values: Identifying and... FRC Yoji Shimizu	Beyond the Limits of Team Leadership: Creating Leadership... FRC/FTC Renee Becker Blau & Abby Esmeier
12:00	Lunch / Networking		
1:00	What Your Students Want You to Understand FRC/FTC Eric Stokely (WFA)	FRC Workspace Readiness Optimization FRC Ben Martin (WFFA)	A Developmental Approach to Teaching Programming in FTC FTC Brad Thompson
2:00	Preserving FIRST Culture and Ethics FRC/FTC Andy Baker (WFA) & Kyle Hughes	From Judging to Awards: Strategies and Best Practices FRC Jane Peterson (WFFA)	Control Systems for Everyone: Opening Robotics to Every... FRC/FTC Erik Skiles
3:00	One Team Became Three: The Sibling Program Playbook — Structure,... FRC Norman Morgan (WFA)	What Building a Rookie Team From Nothing Taught Me About What FR... FRC Drew Currie (WFFA)	Being Kenough - Success at Any Level FRC/FTC Danny Blau
4:00	State High School Associations: State Championships and Coaches Assoc. FRC Mark Lawrence (WFA) & Matt Wendland (WFFA)	Keep the Magic Smoke Inside the Wires: Tips and Tricks for Reliable... FRC Edwin Yazbec	Psychological Safety: Why Students Feeling Seen is... FRC/FTC Raye Smith
5:00	Making the Call: Data, Decisions, and Team Culture in the Heat of Play FRC Allen Gregory (WFA)	Circle Culture: Creating Connection at Competition #1 FRC Calvin Nellum	Struggles and Successes of Operating a Community-Based... FRC/FTC Jimmy Nichols (WFFA) & Jeff Morgan