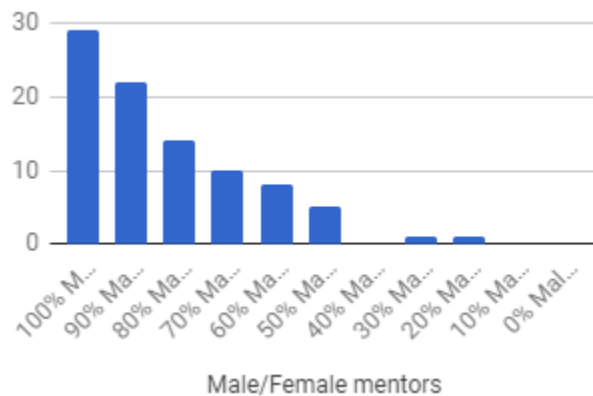
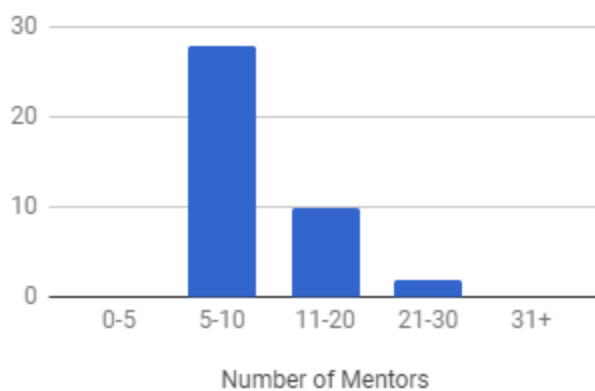
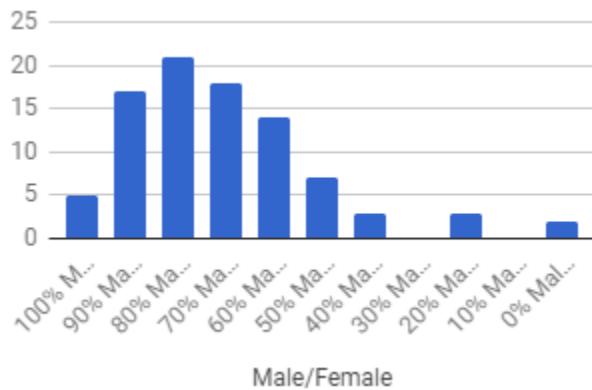
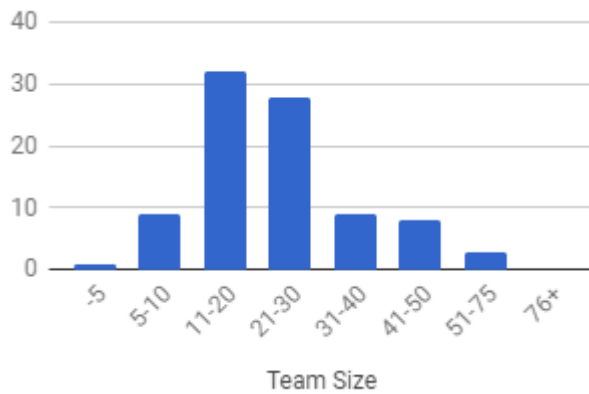


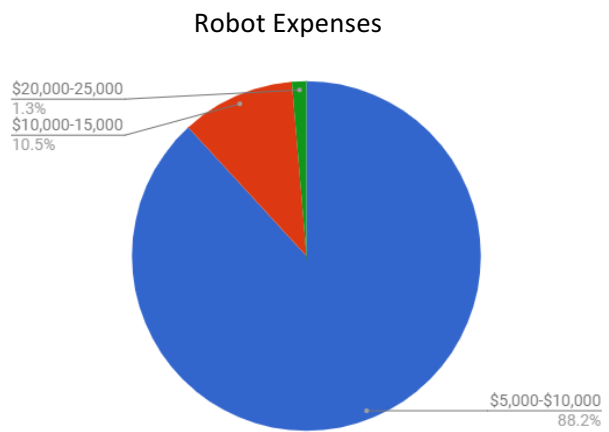
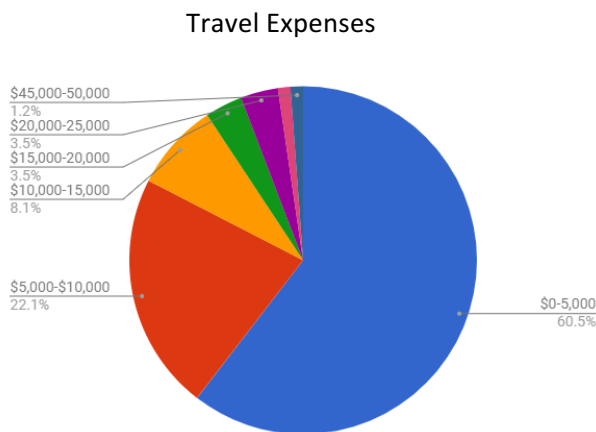
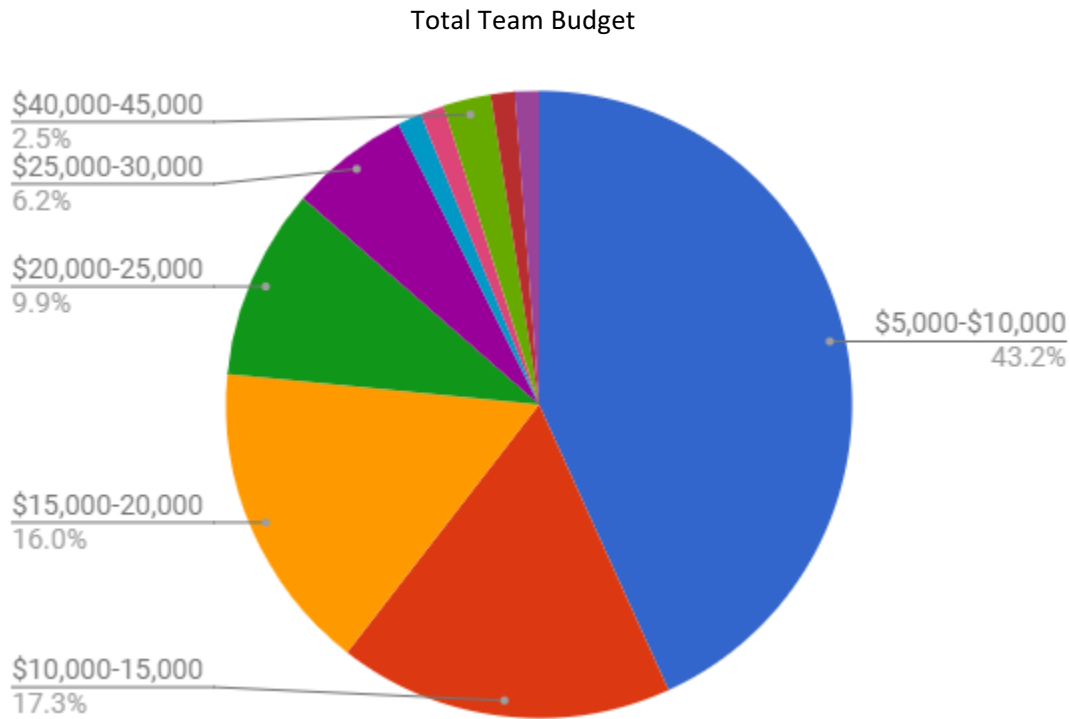
Following a community request, this is the first of what will be a periodic series of community reports put out by the Minnesota Regional Planning Committee (RPC). These reports are intended to provide some insight into the inner workings of the RPC, and are based on RPC meetings and activities. They are not full minutes of RPC meetings, as many items discussed may be preliminary and not yet suitable for public distribution. An example would be event dates and locations – these are often discussed within the RPC prior to signing contracts with event hosts, and should only be publicly disclosed by *FIRST*® once details are finalized.

This report will focus on a survey sent out to Minnesota Team Contacts at the conclusion of the 2017 season. A listing of the questions included in the survey can be found in the attached Appendix A. The intent of this survey was to better understand the makeup of the teams within Minnesota as well as the challenges that face them. Overall, there were 120 responses from 91 different teams (some teams responded multiple times).

The first section of questions was intended to identify the makeup of the teams responding. This included the number of team members and mentors, as well as their gender breakdown. Here we see a general bell shaped curve for the number of students, and an off-set bell shape for the gender breakdown. The number of mentors and gender breakdown for those mentors tells a very different story, though!



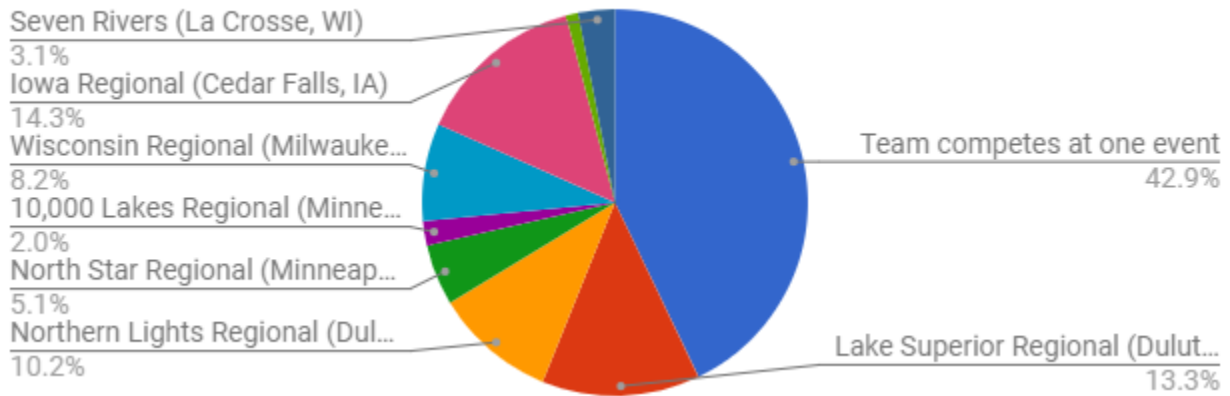
The next interesting question on the report asked about each team's annual budget, and where that money is spent.



This paints an interesting picture of a large number of teams that currently have small budgets and minimal travel expenses – they can attend an event locally without needing to pay for hotels and bussing services. These types of travel expenses contribute to teams ability to attend events!

Next, we look at where teams that attend multiple events get their second event.

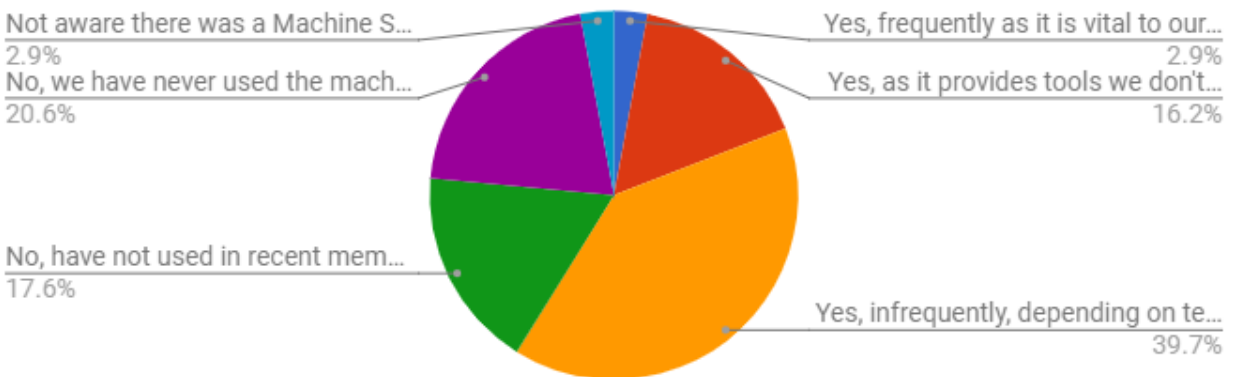
Second Regional



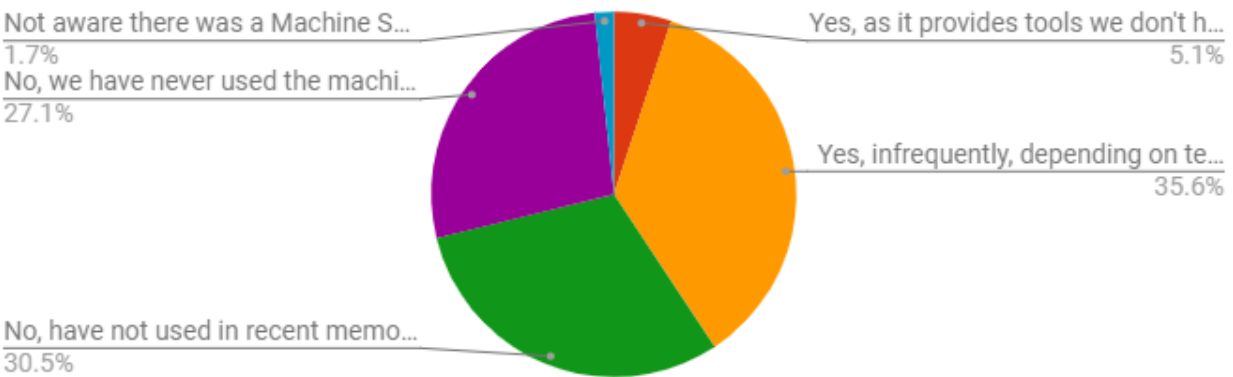
What's interesting here is the small chunk for the Minneapolis Regionals, highlighting how difficult it is to get into these regionals as a second event.

The final area we want to look at are the Machine Shops at events. The Machine Shop in Duluth is on-site, set up either in the Lake Superior or Northern Lights pit areas. In Minneapolis, the Machine Shop is off-site, requiring a shuttle or a short walk to get there.

Duluth Machine Shop



Minneapolis Machine Shop



This shows that the Duluth Machine Shop is better utilized by teams, which could be looked at as an opportunity to increase team satisfaction with those events.

This report is just a glimpse of the data the RPC collects each year in an attempt to understand the needs of teams and what drives their participation within the program. This lets us tailor our efforts over the following year to meet the needs and capabilities of our teams.

Did your team not participate in the survey? The link was sent out to the primary and secondary contacts each team listed in TIMS – log in and make sure those contacts are up to date!

Appendix A

This is a listing of the questions asked in the team survey.

1. E-mail address
2. Team Name
3. Team Number
4. First and Last name of person filling out survey
5. Email (that is checked daily) for person filling out survey
6. Number of Students
7. Percent breakdown of male/female students
8. Number of Mentors
9. Percent breakdown of male/female mentors
10. For teams that attend only ONE Regional, why does your team only attend one Regional event (mark all that apply)
11. For teams that attend ONE Regional, what changes would need to occur in order to attend two Regionals?
12. For ALL teams, are there policies that impact your team's participation in FIRST?
13. Would you like to see the Regional event timeline during Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday changed? If so, how?
14. What is your total annual team budget? (If greater than \$60,000, please specify)
15. What are your total annual travel costs? (If greater than \$60,000, please specify)
16. What are your total annual robot costs? (If greater than \$25,000, please specify)
17. Does your team build a second (practice) robot?
18. Why does/doesn't your team build a second (practice) robot?
19. Is your robot complete before attending your first event? If not, what is the main reason why it isn't complete?
20. After bag day, does your team continue working on robot subsystems that you carry into your first event?
21. Does your team attend a multi-team scrimmage before bag day?
22. Would you be open to a pre-event, cursory robot inspection via Skype, FaceTime, etc?
23. How many practice matches would you like on Thursday at a Regional event?
24. What event does your team consider its "home" Regional?
25. How far does your team travel to what you consider your "home" Regional? (Miles and hours/minutes)
26. If your team travels to a second Regional, which event does your team consider its "away" Regional (check all that apply)?
27. Does your team send a separate group for load-in and pit set up? If so, please describe
28. How many students do you typically take to your "home" Regional?
29. How many students do you typically take to your "away" Regional?
30. How do you typically transport students and equipment? Check all that apply.
31. Is there a mileage or geographic limit where your team is allowed to travel (Mileage limit, within city border, within state border etc.)?
32. Does your team provide volunteers at events?
33. What volunteer role(s) does your team fill?
34. Does your team typically use the machine shop in Duluth (Lake Superior/Northern Lights)?
35. Does your team typically use the machine shop in Minneapolis (North Star/10,000 Lakes)?
36. Do you know of a venue that would meet the minimum requirements as laid out in the Planning Guide?