

James Japhet

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SUMMARY

Robotics student at SCAD (Class of 2030) with six seasons of FIRST Robotics experience across FRC and FTC, including three Inspire Awards and a FIRST World Championship appearance. Designs, builds, and programs robotic systems using CAD, 3D printing, and mechatronics, and open-sources projects through Big Guy Enterprises.

EDUCATION

Savannah College of Art and Design · Bachelor of Design, Robotics Technology · June 2026 – June 2030

Cornerstone Christian Schools · San Antonio, TX · 2022 – 2026

EXPERIENCE

Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Big Guy Enterprises · Jan 2024 – Present

- Lead design, robotics, and mechatronics projects, including antweight combat robots, a robotic arm, a prosthetic finger, a filament recycler, and a robotics simulator game
- Open-source CAD, bills of materials, and code on GitHub and Printables, with documentation for each project

Mechanical Design Engineer, Microchips & Queso FTC Robotics Team (#23350) · May 2025 – Jun 2026

- Designed a servo-driven belted turret and a tilt mechanism (six iterations), plus drivetrain pod, battery, and control-system mounts for FIRST Tech Challenge DECODE robots
- Won Inspire Award 1st (League Tournament) and 2nd (Regional Championship), served as Winning Alliance Captain, and competed at the FIRST World Championship

FIRST Robotics Mentor, FTC Sister Teams (3 teams) · Aug 2025 – Mar 2026

- Taught CAD, electronics, and technical skills to students in grades 6–12

Robotics Engineer and Team Lead, FTC #22370 The Covenant · Aug 2024 – May 2025

- Led a three-person team through CAD, 3D printing, programming, driving, and documentation for Into the Deep
- Built a low-cost 3D printed robot with Java control, RoadRunner paths, and odometry; earned 3rd Place Inspire Award at the FiT Central Semi-Area

Build and Programming Member, FRC #9444 · 2024 – 2026

- Built and programmed competition robots, including the Java teleop base for the Rebuilt robot, and restored a broken-down chassis into a rideable robot
- Earned the Rookie Inspiration Award (2024) and Rising All-Star Award (2025)

Robotics Engineer, FTC #20739 Pixelated · Dec 2023 – Jun 2024

- Served as CAD engineer, 3D printer operator, and robot builder for CENTERSTAGE; won the Control Award and a semifinals win as alliance partner

PROJECTS

6th Finger Prosthetic · Open source

- Designed an affordable prosthetic finger; version 1 was built by more than 80 makers, and version 2 adds a flex sensor, Arduino Nano, and servo that mirror the wearer's finger

The Filacycler · Aug – Dec 2025

- Built a desktop recycler on a salvaged Ender 3 V2 that turns shredded PLA and PETG into 1.75 mm filament, using custom miter gears, a modified hotend, and Marlin firmware with custom G-code

Project P.I.G. · Open source

- Designed a budget-friendly 4-DoF modular robotic arm in Onshape and published the CAD, parts list, and controller code

JOAT Robotics · Combat robotics team

- Run a combat robotics team that competes with the antweight David Spade; designed Flapjack, a PLAntweight, and Proud Mary, an antweight big wheel

Megamind · Oct 2026

- Built a Python/FastAPI tool that reads GitHub and Notion projects and drafts LinkedIn and X posts, with a Postgres database on Neon

SKILLS

- **Design and CAD:** Fusion 360, Onshape
- **Fabrication:** 3D printing (Bambu Studio certified), CNC, laser cutting
- **Programming and electronics:** Java, Python, Arduino, Marlin/G-code, motors, servos, sensors
- **Other:** technical documentation, project management, robot control, AI

HONORS

FIRST Tech Challenge Inspire Award (3x) · FIRST World Championship · Winning Alliance Captain · Control Award · Rookie Inspiration Award · Rising All-Star Award

COMMUNITY SERVICE

45.5 verified volunteer hours · 2022 – 2025: San Antonio Food Bank (17 hrs, Community Kitchen at Haven for Hope, warehouse, garden), Cornerstone Christian Schools (20 hrs, science lab upkeep, mentoring, furniture assembly), Makers of the Future robotics camp (5 hrs), Winter Wonderland Community Event (3.5 hrs)