

Science and Technology Hero Cards

What are Science and Technology Hero Cards: These Science and Technology Hero Cards (abbreviated “Hero Cards” from on out) are based on baseball cards, only they honor science and technology heroes- scientists, inventors, robotics mentors- instead of honoring baseball players.

When to make Science and Technology Hero Cards: BEFORE BUILD SEASON! This is something the team can do before the build season, so you can have time to build the robot, work on chairman’s, and complete Dean’s homework during the build season. Having a Hero Card committee meet once a week to discuss and work on Hero Cards is a good idea.

How to DESIGN Hero Cards:

Step 1: To design a hero card, you need some information on your “hero,” including full name, birth date, death date (if applicable), picture, a clever quote by them or something they always say, 3-5 accomplishments, and 1-2 fun facts, typically. There is a form with this information on the server: Robotics → Documents → FIRST Trading Cards → Science and Technology Hero Cards Form. Print multiple copies of these, fill in the names of the “heroes,” and then hand them out to people on the team to fill out. Or have them fill it out on the server and “save as” (not save) the hero’s name in the Hero Cards folder. We have about 54 heroes already, the last half of which were never even handed out at competitions.

Step 2: Open up the template for the front of hero cards, which is a Photoshop file. “Save as” (not save) “[first name of hero] [last name of hero] front” in the “complete fronts” folder in the FIRST Trading Cards folder.

Step 3: Fill in the new information for the hero. Save!

Step 4: Repeat steps 2 and 3 for each hero.

Step 5: Open up the template for the back of hero cards. “Save as” (not save) [first name of hero] [last name of hero] back” in the “complete backs” folder in the FIRST Trading Cards folder.

Step 6: Fill in the new information for the hero. Save!

Step 7: Repeat steps 5 and 6 for each hero.

Step 8: Open up the template for 9 a pages, which is an InDesign file.

Step 9: Before you insert the information for the heroes, SAVE AS “[first name] [last name]” in the 9 a pages folder.

Step 10: With the 9 a page file open, click on one of front pictures (there are 9), go to File→Place→file of the hero front.

Step 11: Repeat until all 9 are replaced with the new hero’s front page.

Step 12: The backs should be on the second page of the 9 a page file. (The first page is the front of the card, the second page is the back, when printed by “long-edge

binding” (see step 3 on “How to PRINT Hero Cards).) Repeat step 10, except with the backs.

Step 13: Repeat until all 9 are replaced with the new hero’s back page.

Step 14: Save! Save, save, save constantly so your work will be saved if the computer unexpectedly shuts down or freezes.

How to PRINT Hero Cards:

Step 1: Log onto one of the front two computers in Craft’s room; they are the only ones that print to the back room and in color. (This is also a good excuse to sit in the comfortable chairs :] hehe.)

Step 2: Open the InDesign file you wish to print. You will be printing the file with 9 copies on a page.

Step 3: Go to File→Print. Adjust Print Preset to [Custom]. Adjust Printer to 172.20.3.227 (or the printer that prints to the back room printer, the big one). Copies: 1 (to test, so if there is a mistake, we won’t make multiple mistakes). Collate: yes (check it- this is for multiple printing, but you might as well get into the habit :) What it means is: if you are printing, say, 2 copies, and you want the first page on the front and the second page on the back, then you hit collated. If you want the first page on the front and back, then you do not. We want collated!). Pages- check “all.” Now hit the Printer button on the bottom of the box. Another box will pop-up saying “Warning: If the desired print setting is available... conflicts.” Just hit “OK.” Make sure all the settings (printer, copies, collated, etc.) are correct. Now click the drop-down option that is usually set to “Layout.” Change it to “Paper Feed.” Make sure to print “All pages from: STACK BYPASS.” Now change “Paper Feed” to “Printer Features.” Change “Feature Sets” to “Finishing.” 2-Sided Printing; Long Edge Binding. Paper Output: Auto. Sorter Mode: Off. Stapler Mode: None. Booklet: Off. DO NOT HIT PRINT JUST YET.

Step 4: Go to the back room. Make sure the Stack Bypass tray is open (its on the right side of the printer). Find some 8.5” by 11” glossy paper to use. Place it on the Stack Bypass tray, with the long edge touching the edge of the printer’s side. Options should pop-up on the printer screen. Inch-size: LTR→Next. Paper type: Heavy 1→ OK. Paper select: LTR→ Done.

Step 5: Now hit Print on both pop-up boxes.

Step 6: If there was a mistake, check all the settings (printer, collated, long-edge binding, 2-sided printing, stack bypass, etc) and fix whatever the mistake was. If you can’t figure it out after awhile, then ask someone to help you. Remember, you are not alone! ☺

Step 7: If it printed correctly, then yay! ☺ Commend yourself on a job well done!

Step 8: Go to File→Print, again. All the settings should be saved if you did not turn off the computer, although you might have to re-adjust the setting on the actual printer. Just change the number of copies to fit your need. Remember that you are printing 9 on a page.

Step 9: When printing many copies, you are more prone to experiencing the dreadful paper jam. Although annoying, paper jams happen. All you need to do is follow the

instructions on the printer screen to remove the paper causing the jam. You will get used to this. If it is possible to salvage the paper, save it.

Step 10: HOORAY!!! YOU HAVE SUCCESSFULLY PRINTED HERO CARDS!

How to CUT Hero Cards:

Note: Okay, so you should already know how to cut paper, so this section will mainly be tips for faster cutting and how to cut it to make it look nice.

Option 1: Use the slicer in the photo room (235) or in Mr. Robertson's room (232), with the teacher's permission, of course ☺. Get as many slicers as you can, get enough team members to help you (one on each of the slicers). Make sure to give these guys breaks, because after 30 minutes of slicing, it becomes tedious.

Option 2: Use scissors. Gather all the scissors you can, gather as many people as you can, find a place to sit down, and cut! Put on a movie to watch or some music to listen to while you do.

Tip 1: When asking for people's help, be nice! Sounding dictatorial will discourage people from helping out. You cannot do this alone, so it is important to stay on people's good side!

Tip 2: Some sides of some of the hero cards have a thicker black border than other sides do. Trim the edges to make the border even on all sides WITHOUT CUTTING INTO THE MAIN PARTS OF THE CARDS!

How to DISTRIBUTE Hero Cards:

Note: Soooooo... Distributing. This part of the Hero Cards proved to be the most difficult part. As I am about to explain, there are many problems with the distribution of these amazing cards.

If you hand them out at competitions like buttons, then everyone will want one of each hero, and your supplies will quickly diminish, no matter how many you make. Maybe have some to display in the pit, but don't hand them out.

One of the earlier ideas for distribution was to hand out a set of 30 cards of one different hero to each of the 30 teams at the competition and have the teams trade each other to collect and compile a full set, like trading cards. This did not work ☹. One team ended up throwing their set away ☹. It was very sad, as you can tell from my frowning faces.

One good distribution method is to give them out to the judges. Nothing wrong with smooching, eh? They are the main people that need to see them to win awards. This way you won't have to print massive amounts of cards.

Another good way to use Hero Cards is to make Hero Cards with a team mentor's picture and information on it and give them to team mentors to show appreciation. Do this for our team mentors (to give at the annual, end-of-the-year team banquet) and for other teams' mentors. Get the other team mentors' information by emailing the teams a bulk message asking them if they would like to participate in our appreciation of mentors. Include the form they fill out if they are interested. You can find the teams that are attending each competition and most team's email addresses on the FIRST website, in the section that lists the competitions. When you email them, introduce yourself, tell them about the Science and Technology Hero Cards, and make sure to be clear about what we are asking them to do and what we are offering to do. Remember, you are representing Team 399! Please be courteous and professional. Locating all the teams' emails can be tedious. Make sure to split this task among a group of people, giving them each a number of team numbers to research. Have them save their research results somewhere on the server (or on one flash drive) with information such as team #, location of competition, and team email or lack thereof. Not everyone will email you back, but those who do will be very grateful for their cards, and might even write you a nice email to include in our chairman's binder! ☺