

# Our Broadband Story: Kettle Falls Robotics

We want to support this  
award-winning team.



The Kettle Falls *FIRST* Robotics Team

#4980, The Canine Crusaders, was formed in 2014 under the guidance of teacher Naomi Edwards.

*FIRST* has a special meaning to the team... *For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology* and they live up to that name! The team has grown in numbers and experience every year and have twice competed in the World Championships. Not bad for a rural, remote high school team.

Approximately 230 students are enrolled at Kettle Falls High School in January of 2018. The 2018 Canine Crusader robotics team had 25 students – more than 10% of the student roster! Girls make up almost half of the team.

There are two distinct and connected challenges for this team. The Kettle Falls School District is nearly 400 square miles. Kettle Falls High School is the only high school in the district and many students travel **more than an hour each way to school**.

This program requires a lot of learning that just isn't available in the classroom – **and mostly available online**. Learning about CAD, electronics, mechanical design, programming, communications, and so many more topics require a lot of internet time.

- The only free public wifi (including the library) is within the one square mile of the Kettle Falls city limits.
- Many students only have internet access at school and if they ride the bus, the schedules preclude much time before/after school.
- Many families share a mobile data plan as their only internet access away from school.
- Satellite internet is sometimes the only option, but high installation costs, high monthly costs, and monthly bandwidth caps make it impractical/unaffordable for many families.

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Stevens County / Spokane Tribe



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