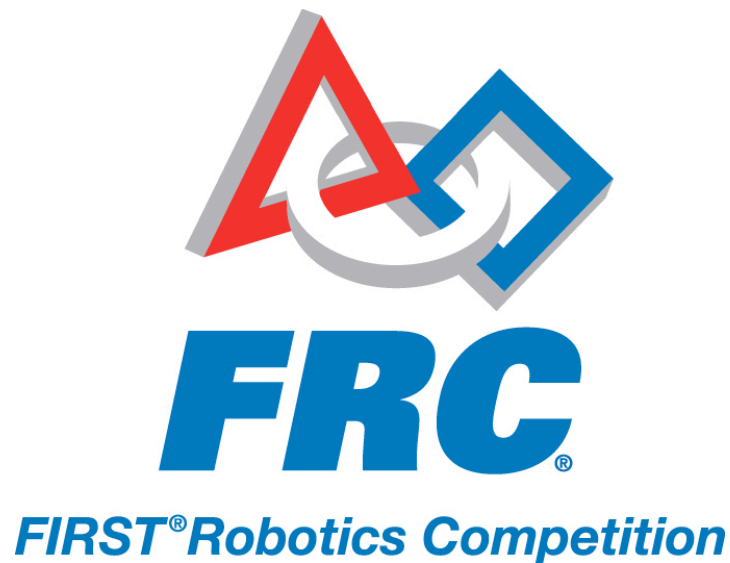


Rock City Robots
FIRST[®] Robotics Competition
Team #4849



Team Handbook

2015 Season

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Rock City Robots Team (RCR) *FIRST*® Robotics Competition (FRC) Team Member Handbook

ABOUT Rock City Robots

The Rock City Robots (FRC) Team from Little Rock, Arkansas, is part of the Rock City Robots teams organization, operating within the framework of the *FIRST*® Robotics Competition, a worldwide robotics competition for high-school students. The ultimate goal of FRC is to engage youth in discovering the excitement and rewards of science, technology, and engineering. The students and families of Rock City Robots are interested in *FIRST*® (For Inspiration and Recognition in Science and Technology) robotics, and STEM educational opportunities and experiences for students.

History - Rock City Robots began in 2008 as a *FIRST*® LEGO League team. In 2012, Rock City Robots competed as the Rock City Robots *FIRST*® Tech Challenge (FTC) Team #5994. 2013 was the rookie season for the Rock City Robots to compete as an FRC team, which is the highest level of robotics competition in *FIRST*®.

Rock City Robots Philosophy

We believe that a high quality Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education is important, and that kids with an interest these areas should have an opportunity to explore and excel in these interests, as well as participate in activities that encourage learning in these topics. We seek to bring different levels of robotics competition within the reach of homeschooling students in the Little Rock, Arkansas area.

Rock City Robots FRC Team Goals:

- To compete in the *FIRST*® robotics program as a well-rounded and competent team that can serve as an example and inspiration to other *FIRST*® teams.
- Students develop skills in engineering, machining, computer aided drafting, business management, computer programming, advertising and promotion, computer animation, logic, and time management.
- Students will learn what careers are about and set goals for future education paths.
- Students improve and maintain high grades and are encouraged toward college attendance
- Students learn to communicate confidently with serious professionals.
- Working on a team coupled with learning leadership and organizational skills is important. Team involvement gives students the opportunity to form peer relationships with top professionals in their field of work.
- Students will demonstrate that hard work and achieving excellence are really what “fun” is all about.
- Students learn to commit to a process and see it through to completion.
- The team works to inspire younger students by mentoring FLL and FTC teams.
- Students and mentors promote gracious professionalism, high integrity, strong work ethics, and social consciousness as life-long qualities in all areas of life: not only on our robotics team, but also in school work, extracurricular activities, jobs, and hobbies.
- We spread the message of *FIRST*®.

ABOUT FIRST®

Our team participates in *FIRST*® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), an international non-profit organization that aspires to transform culture, making science, math, engineering, and technology as cool for today's kids as sports and music. *FIRST*® was founded in 1989 by engineer/inventor Dean Kamen.

The *FIRST*® Robotics Competition is an exciting, nationwide competition for pre-college students that involves solving engineering design problems in an intense and competitive way. The program reaches thousands of students from around the country and the world. Each team is comprised of professional mentors and pre-college aged students. Teams compete for a series of awards honoring accomplishments in several categories, including engineering, robot design excellence, competitive game play, sportsmanship, and high-impact partnerships between schools, businesses, and communities.

The program effectively engages students from various backgrounds, instilling new ideas and concepts in more experienced students, while helping to inspire, motivate, and encourage learning basic principles and skills among students with less experience. Through their *FIRST*® involvement, students also learn about important, life-long team skills such as planning, research, collaboration, mentorship, and teamwork. The *FIRST*® program provides pre-college students an opportunity to participate on a team, whether or not they have any athletic ability. Students participating on the team learn the value of teamwork and problem solving skills.

Not all of the team members must have an interest in engineering. There are many opportunities for students to learn about science, computer programming, web-site design, marketing, budgeting, public relations, and many other areas that will be helpful to them in the future. Team members learn how to brainstorm ideas, communicate their ideas, compromise, set goals, and meet deadlines.

BENEFITS OF TEAM MEMBERSHIP

- **SCHOLARSHIPS** - over \$16 million in college scholarships are available to *FIRST*® students.
- **TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES** - our team competes in at least two Regional FRC Competitions and has the chance to earn a place at *FIRST*® World Championship in St. Louis, Missouri.
- **EXPERIENCE** - many corporations across the nation are recognizing the standard of excellence that develops in students who participate in *FIRST*® and want to hire *FIRST*® alumni.
- **NEW SKILLS** - students have the opportunity to explore careers in business, visual arts, science, and technology. The Rock City Robots Team emphasizes high quality training opportunities in CAD design, programming, building and design, public speaking, photography and media skills, desktop publishing, and marketing.
- **TEAM BUILDING skills and LEADERSHIP ROLES, and Volunteer Opportunities.**
- **FUN** meeting and networking with students and experts in a variety of fields.

A TYPICAL SEASON

The FRC “season” officially begins on the first Saturday of January. The team will travel to the Arkansas Regional kick-off event (2014 location will be Searcy, Arkansas) to meet the other Arkansas FRC teams, learn about the robot challenge requirements, and receive the kit of parts for the season. From the date of kick-off until the “bag-n-tag” date, teams have roughly six weeks to design, build, and program a robot to perform that season’s challenge.

Teams in Arkansas currently compete in Regional Tournaments of their choice, as well as the Arkansas Regional, held in March at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas. The exact number and dates of the Regionals that the Rock City Robots team will attend will be announced as soon as these are confirmed, usually sometime before the six-week robot build season. Award-winning teams have the opportunity to travel to the *FIRST*® World Festival, currently held in St. Louis, Missouri in April each year.

During robot building season, the robot build team will meet at least two to three times a week, sometimes more, depending on what needs to happen to meet the team timetable. Team meetings will usually take place on weekday afternoons and evenings, most Saturdays, and occasional Sunday afternoons. Our meetings will typically last 3-4 hours. Additional build sessions may also be needed, scheduled as necessary. Specific meeting days and times will be finalized sometime before the kick-off date. There will occasionally be take-home work to complete between meetings (i.e. journal entries, programming, team spirit projects, research projects, etc.). Meeting schedules and activity plans will be communicated through e-mail and handouts.

In the off-season, (May through December), the team may meet periodically for special team training programs, fundraisers, and skill workshops. We are often asked to hold robotics workshops and demonstrations year-round for all levels of *FIRST*® robotics. Team member and mentor recruiting, acquisition of sponsors, and community outreach is the central focus of activity during the off-season, and team members are expected to become actively involved in these activities.

We will also travel to at least one off-season competition event, like the Ozark Mountain Brawl in Springdale, Arkansas in the Fall.

JOINING THE ROCK CITY ROBOTS TEAM

Interested high school students must complete an application and be interviewed by Rock City Robots leadership. Interview meeting date and time will be communicated to each applicant on an individual basis.

Upon admission to the team, each student member must complete the official online *FIRST*® Student Team Information Members System (STIMS) membership application and submit a Consent and Release form to the *FIRST*® organization. The web address to do this is: **<https://my.usfirst.org/stims/site.lasso>**. Parents will have an opportunity to create their own account in this system, and they must verify the information that the student provides. Students are required to complete this process in order to participate in *FIRST*® Kick-off events, tournaments, or attend the World Championship.

There is an **annual participation fee of \$150 per member**, which is used to help pay for robot parts, team registration, competition fees, and other expenses. This fee is due with the team application, and is non-refundable after 30 days. This fee covers the student expenses related to team membership as listed below:

- team T-shirts for competitions
- team publications and photocopies
- safety glasses

These expenses **ARE NOT** included in the participation fee:

- travel expenses which will be incurred going to and from competitions
- (Please note: The Arkansas Regional FRC tournament in Searcy and other Regional Tournaments we attend are 3-day events. All team members must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian to the tournament.)**
- meals during robotics competition and/or robotics demonstration events
 - safety gloves, which must be worn by members of the pit crew and drive team.

TEAM MEMBER ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES

- Student members must comply with attendance, behavior, and grade maintenance requirements to remain part of the Rock City Robots Team.
- Every team member family will be required to obtain one corporate or individual sponsor for the team, organize one team fundraiser each season, or participate in most fund raising efforts. Team members must participate in the majority of fundraiser events that are organized by fellow team members.
- Team members will choose an area of team responsibility, and be actively involved in their sub-team role. Simply showing up at a meeting and “hanging out” and watching the others work is not being actively involved! Students may be a part of more than one of these sub-teams, if needed, and as approved by team Director and/or Mentors/Coaches. Below are the sub-teams:

Robot Build Team - SolidWorks CAD Design Team - Pit Crew - Quality Control - Tools Management

The robot builders make decisions about the building of the robot, and work to achieve consensus among team members on the mechanical design of the robot using guidelines developed by the team. Builders make related engineering notebook entries for robot design and construction. The SolidWorks CAD Team, the Pit Crew, Quality Control, and Tools Management are sub-teams within the Build Team. SolidWorks CAD Design team members are those responsible for keeping the robot design up to date using SolidWorks. The Pit Crew are those team members who work in the Pits, and are essential for making repairs, adjustments, and keeping the robot in working order during a tournament. Quality Control team members are those who will ensure that all wires and critical components of the robot are secure and in compliance with Challenge guidelines and requirements. The Tools Management person is someone who will be responsible for organizing a system for maintaining hardware and tools management, to ensure that all equipment is well cared for and properly stored and inventoried.

Robot Bumpers Build Team

Robots competing in FIRST tournaments must have bumpers that are constructed according to strict regulations. This team of students will be responsible for reading the bumper construction rules, designing bumpers to fit our robot that function according to those rules, and then constructing them. They will also insure that the bumpers are easily installed and removed for quick bumper color changes, in the event that we have two sets (one blue, one red) of bumpers for the tournament.

Scouting and Alliance Selection Team

This team is very active during a tournament, scouting out other teams, watching robots, taking notes on individual robot performance, and keeping up with strengths and weaknesses of those teams. The Scouting Team information will form strategy during tournament matches, which is extremely important. Scouting information will be indispensable during tournament play and when the Rock City Robots Team is choosing alliance partners during the elimination rounds, or if another team chooses our team for their alliance partner.

Prior to a tournament, the scout team will develop the scouting forms needed for the tournament, used during match scouting, pit scouting, and pre-tournament scouting.

Programming Team

This team develops the code for the autonomous and teleoperated functions of the robot. Mentors teach the C++ or Java programming language during the off-season to newcomers and works on the actual programming of the robot during the build season. This team is also involved in associated electrical wiring of the robot, including sensor integration. Close cooperation with the Build Crew is essential during build season, and both groups gain excellent experience managing the interdependencies between hardware and software.

Safety Captain and Safety Team

This position is required by FIRST for all FRC teams. The Safety Captain, in coordination with an adult mentor, will help establish safety rules and plans to enforce them.

Responsibilities include organizing and delivering a safety seminar at the beginning of the season, acquiring all safety items necessary for the pits during tournaments, downloading and printing the current year safety manual, including safety (MSDS) information about batteries and other hazardous material used in robot construction, and also anything hazardous that might be present in the pits. The Safety Captain will also ensure that sufficient safety glasses are available and worn by adults and youth at relevant times during practices and competitions, and that clothing and behavior is appropriate with respect to safety of team members and others. Download the FIRST Safety Manual from the [us.first.org](http://www.usfirst.org/sites/default/files/uploadedFiles/Robotics_Programs/FRC/Resources/2013_FRC_TeamSafetyManual.pdf) website. The 2013 edition can be found here: http://www.usfirst.org/sites/default/files/uploadedFiles/Robotics_Programs/FRC/Resources/2013_FRC_TeamSafetyManual.pdf

Other team members may be involved in assisting the Safety Captain in fulfilling this responsibility as part of a larger Safety Team.

Marketing and Fundraising Manager

This team member, in coordination with adult mentors, is responsible for helping coordinating fundraising efforts, assisting with community outreach opportunities, and maintaining team finance records. The Marketing and Fundraising Manager will also ensure that the team “look” is effective, neat and well presented, and will also help develop and maintain sponsorship and team information packets, and will help with writing team website blog entries.

Photojournalism – Video Management

This team member helps document, via video and photography, the team year, and helps with updates for the team website and newsletters. The complete build process should be chronicled with photos and video, as well as tournament activities, fundraisers, community service activities, and off-season events. The photos and video will also be used in public relations projects and publications, as well as with news media. These students are responsible for producing team video award submissions and other media used on the Rock City Robots website.

Team Spirit

These members will help create things such as team cheers, pins, banners, signs, and competition trading items for fun and PR, as well as anything that will help develop the team’s identity with respect to encouraging spirited support and fun at meetings and events. Cheering in the stands, holding up spirit posters, acting as the team mascot, and other spirit activities are other activities that these team members will be involved in.

Robot Drive Team – The Drive Team consists of two robot operators and a human player. Students interested in becoming drivers must practice as much as possible to develop their skills. Depending upon the size of the team and the number of interested students, there could be a back-up crew.

The drive team is required to stay with the robot a majority of the time at the competitions. They will also arrive early and stay late to practice at the competitions. This group must communicate well with all other groups, especially with the Scouting Team and the Pit Crew, and be able to discuss strategy with drive teams from other

teams at tournaments.

Team members wishing to be a part of the drive team must be calm individuals who are not prone to emotional outbursts and able to handle tense situations during the heat of a competitive match.

Drive-team candidates must attend try-out sessions and pass multiple oral and written rules tests each season.

The final drive team members will be appointed by the Drive Team Coach and/or other Rock City Robots Leadership team members before the we attend the first tournament each season.

Website Content Manager

This team member will receive blog articles from the other team members in charge of writing the team blog as well as related media items, and get them to the website manager.

Chairman's Award Team

Members of this team work to gather team information, plan, and write the oral presentation for the Chairman's Award judges at tournaments. These students should be comfortable speaking in public, and are good at public relations and sharing the team story with others who are not familiar with *FIRST*[®]. This team will work closely with the Photojournalism-Video team to produce the Chairman's Award video.

Engineering Notebook Team

Keeping an up-to-date record of the robot build process is important. The Engineering Notebook Team will be responsible for summarizing all team activities at the conclusion of each meeting, documenting them with photographs, and making the required entries into the Engineering Notebook using the standard format at every team meeting. This includes documenting team community outreach events and fundraising activities.

Social and Hospitality Team

These members will help plan team meals during the build season, and social events at the conclusion of the competition season, during the off-season, and before the January kick-off date. Field Trips, robot demonstration opportunities, etc. is another area that these team members will be in charge of arranging.

BUILD SEASON – January Through Mid-February

Team Meetings

Team meetings will be held at Rock City Robots team headquarters at least three to four times a week as well as weekends, starting after the January kick-off. Additional meeting dates and times may be added as necessary prior to competitions. **Build season meeting attendance is mandatory – Attendance will be taken.** If you are unable to attend a meeting or you are going to be running late, please advise teammates and the coach as soon as possible. Failing to do so could result in team membership being declined in future seasons.

Some team meetings might be scheduled away from RCR Team headquarters (with a local college professor, with another FRC team in their shop, or other “field trip” opportunities). These meetings are also important. Failing to attend these meetings affects your attendance record. In the case of an unavoidable conflict, please discuss these absences with the coach in advance.

From time to time, a particular sub-team might need an extra meeting to finish a particular project by a deadline. These will be announced to students involved on those individual sub-teams as the need arises, and will take their schedules into account when they are planned.

Expectations at Meetings

Gracious Professionalism and Respect are expected at all times, for each other, for adult coaches and mentors, and for anyone with whom you’re working, anywhere, at any time. Do not use profane language in written, gestured, or verbal form, whether face-to-face, in emails, or in other social media.

Sign-in and Sign-out when you arrive and leave from each meeting. There will be a designated page in a specific place for you to do this each meeting.

Be an Active Participant – If there doesn’t seem to be enough for you to do, work with other teammates; take the initiative when you see something that you can do; don’t wait to be asked to help. Students should not spend time during meetings listening to personal music, playing any kind of computer or video game on any device, or spend excessive time on the phone. You will only get out of the team what you put into the team.

There will be times when team members will be asked to give oral presentations to the team about various subjects (design ideas, tool safety rules, etc.) These presentations are required.

Be Informed – All members should be thoroughly familiar with rules of the competition, team goals, arrive ready to work at meetings, and understand individual and group tasks.

Be Reliable - members are expected to be on time, prepared to work, have a positive attitude, assist newer members, and be responsive to mentors and other adult volunteers.

Computers, iPads, Phones, etc. – for team related work only. No games (internet, flash drive, offline, etc.) are allowed. Meetings are for work only. Phones can remain on so that students will still be able to be reached by a parent.

Communicate – Ask questions if you need help or don't understand something. Communicate clearly, often and openly with each other, the team director, your coach, and mentors.

If there is a problem situation, please inform the adult mentors BEFORE you leave the team meeting. Do not allow a situation to continue for days and weeks without discussing your concerns.

Be Responsible – Be conscientious about the use and maintenance of equipment, parts and tools. Put things where they belong so they can be easily located when needed. Clean up after yourself, and help others do the same.

Be Safe – Use tools correctly, wear protective eyewear and closed-toe shoes. Pull back long hair. Wear gloves or facemasks when necessary.

Wear Appropriate Clothing – Please arrive at team meetings appropriately dressed (shirt, pants, closed-toe shoes). Attire will be neat, clean, and attractive. Clothing will be appropriately sized and correctly worn, and will not disrupt the activities of the Rock City Robots team. Do not wear pajamas, or clothing that exposes undergarments. Shirts will be modest, extending long enough in the back when bending over to cover the waist, and without low-cut necklines or bare midriffs. No spaghetti straps, halter or tube tops may be worn. Long hair must be managed and dangling jewelry should not be worn to avoid getting caught in machinery, which might result in injury.

Expectations at Competitions and Other Events

Be A Gracious Professional at all times. Help your teammates and other teams if you are able.

Be Positive - Team members are expected to participate at all times in a positive and helpful manner, whatever the competition outcome or trend.

Show Spirit – Support your team by cheering and sign waving. Cheer other teams, too. Cheering doesn't mean screaming at the top of your lungs all the time and dancing around like a crazy person. True cheering is genuinely enjoying the event and celebrating the excitement of the competition. Spirit leaders will keep the team organized and focused during the competition. The team will not be cheering 100% of the time; however, when we are cheering, all team members are expected to stand and cheer. Sitting in the stands looking bored, playing video games, texting, surfing the net, carrying on personal conversations while others are cheering is not good for the team image. Team members will clap and support other teams that are winning awards during the awards ceremony. For teams that win top honors, it is appropriate to stand and show respect for what they have accomplished.

Look Good – Wear your team shirt, clean solid color pants or jeans, and closed-toe shoes. Sport a neat, clean appearance; no baggy pants, no loose items of clothing, for safety reasons as much as appearance. Do not modify the team shirt or wear it in a manner not approved by the coaches and adult mentors.

Be Safe – Wear safety glasses where required; Look where you're going at all times and pay attention to what you're doing. Students with long hair, pull it back in a ponytail or with a headband.

Be Engaged – Do not wear a personal music device while in uniform or at an event. Do not read books, play cards, play games on your phone/iPod/digital device.

Show Mature Behavior – Rowdy and unruly behavior can injure someone and/or embarrass your fellow teammates. Use good judgment in your activities at meetings and at tournaments. Don't put us into the position of having to apologize for your behavior to other teammates or other FRC teams at competitions.

Be Where You Are Supposed To Be – Do not go anywhere alone. Do not wander off and explore areas other than where the competition is taking place. Under no circumstances are team members allowed to be in hotel rooms of members from other teams.

Safety

1. Team members will act in a safe manner AT ALL TIMES. This includes during any team- related activity while traveling to team events, and during competitions.
2. Team members will be respectful of the Safety Captain(s) and adhere to any reasonable requests made by the Safety Captain(s) and Safety Team members.
3. Team members will be expected to participate in a safety seminar and pass a Safety Quiz. Power tools or equipment may only be used under the supervision of an adult mentor.
4. Team members will be expected to wear safety glasses at work sites and in the pit area at all competitions. In addition, team members may be asked to wear gloves, facemasks, and ear protection during certain tasks.
5. Horseplay will not be tolerated at any time.
6. All work areas will be cleaned up at the end of every day including sweeping the floors and work surfaces, putting away tools and materials, and throwing away trash.
7. Students will not socialize or linger in the workshop once the designated task(s) are completed.
8. Team members will not directly or indirectly give out team member personal information or negative and derogatory comments about themselves or other team members while using any form of online/Internet communications or media. This includes all social media (Twitter, Facebook, et al), Team 4849, other *FIRST* teams or other *FIRST*-sponsored Forums, wikis or any Internet/Web/ mobile device (smartphones, cellphones). As Team 4849 members, students' communications through any media are representative of the team and should not negatively reflect on the team and should at all times reflect the tenets of *FIRST* and "Gracious Professionalism."

Examples of What Not to Do:

Facebook picture of a RCR Team member: "This guy on the Rock City Robots team needs a date! Call him at 555-555-5555 – He's desperate!"

Twitter post: "Rock City Robots team meeting at Larry's Pizza on Main Street, tonight at 6pm. Come see me!"

This is OK:

Facebook picture of a drive chassis with students in the background: "Hey, it moves! It took us a while to figure this out. Rock City Robots team is awesome!"

Twitter post: "At a Rock City Robots team meeting. Four days until bag-n-tag!"

Family Involvement: Parents Can Get Involved

We need parental support, and parents volunteering to work with the students are expected to adhere to the same behavioral guidelines set forth for the students. Opportunities for parent participation are listed below:

Transportation and Tournament Lodging

You can be most supportive by making arrangements for your son/daughter to have a ride to and from team events. During the build season in January and February, we might work on the robot every meeting, and occasionally on the weekends. Please communicate with other parents or the team coach if your student needs a ride or if you are available to help someone else with a ride.

During competition season (March – May) we plan to attend at least two (2) Regional Events, such as the Arkansas Regional Tournament in Searcy, Arkansas, and another tournament, which will be announced in January. These are three-day events. Each team family is expected to pay their own transportation and/or lodging expenses. If you are able to help find group discounts for these arrangements, this is an important area that we need assistance in.

Engineering and Programming Expertise

Do you know how to program using C++, use CAD software, use machinery, weld, or anything related to building this robot? Do you know anyone who does? We welcome your help.

Food

Team meetings can run long and sometimes right through meal times. One way that parents can help is to take turns bringing food to the meetings. We need a parent volunteer to coordinate food and contact other parents to schedule their involvement.

Meals during tournaments can get expensive, so we need parents to coordinate simple sandwiches, chips, drinks, and a dessert item during these three-day events. These parents will need to bring the food to the venue, set-up the lunch items, keep all food items clean and safe to eat during the three-day tournaments, and clean up daily. At times, we order pizza or other meal options from a local restaurant. Meeting the delivery person, or picking up the order would be another way parents can help.

Supervision

Parents are welcome to assist in the supervision of the youth members at all RCR team functions which include, but are not limited to, team meetings, fundraisers, team parties, and while at tournaments. It is very common for parents to be present during meetings, helping with feeding the team, listening to strategy discussions and having input, planning scheduled events, etc.

Fund Raising and Sponsors

At least one parent will need to assist the students in fundraising activities, and contacting sponsors. This position will involve contacting corporations and businesses to discuss fundraising and/or sponsorship options and presenting these options to the students and fellow parents. Because each student is required to obtain one sponsor per year, or to organize one fundraiser per year, this parent volunteer will be a valuable asset to the team.

Sponsors do not have to donate cash. Gift certificates to buy building supplies, meals, machinery and equipment, deals with tournament lodging, paper and printer ink, photography printing, and other related items are also gladly accepted.

Tournament Scouting

Parents are welcome and very necessary in the area of scouting the robot performance of other teams during tournaments. This information is vitally important to the drive team. This will involve you sitting in the stands watching robot matches (usually on Fridays during the tournament) while filling out special scouting forms that will be provided to you. You will be trained how to complete this task, and it is not difficult. The performance of the drive-team during a match very much depends on the scout team.

And Last But Not Least....

You don't need to know a wrench from a screwdriver to assist the team. If you can yell (a skill students assure us their parents have mastered), you have all the skills needed to be a parent team member. We need lots of cheering for our team at the competitions. Just by being present at a competition you are showing your support for your son/daughter. At the awards ceremony, every successful team has one thing in common – numerous adult team members.

Wear a team t-shirt and cheer for the Rock City Robots at the tournaments. It is a perfect way to get involved! Team member shirts are paid for by the application fee, but parents and siblings will have the opportunity to purchase their own team t-shirts sometime during the build season, usually for around \$10 each.

We want to know what will encourage you to get involved. Do you need more information or a specific job to do? We need your support, so please talk with a parent already involved to obtain more information.

Rock City Robots - FRC Team

2015 Application

Student Name(s):

Student Birthday(s): Month and year only

Current School Grade: 7 8 9 10 11 12

T-Shirt size(s): Don't forget shirts for parents and siblings! Team member shirts are free, family shirts are available for around \$12.95. Prices will be determined when shirts are ordered from the printing company.

Adult S, M, L, XL

Parents Names:

Mailing Address:

Do either parent have skills that might help this team? Engineering, Programming, CAD, Marketing, etc.

Participation Fee: \$150 per student cash/check#

Make checks out to Annelle King

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

Cell Phone:

Email address:

Date:

Participation Fee is due with the application. Non-refundable after 30 days..

*The above information will be used **only** to contact parents about team activities, and for age verification. None of this information will be shared with anyone outside the leadership of the Rock City Robots FRC Team.*

1. HEALTH or MEDICAL CONDITIONS, ALLERGIES of which we should be aware (*this has **nothing** to do with acceptance, but helps us keep team members safe and helps us plan activities!*)

2. What aspects of the team are you interested in? Check all that apply. This does not lock you into a work area. We are just interested in learning more about you.

Experience is not necessary; all students are offered guidance and training.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Programming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Website Design |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photography/Video | <input type="checkbox"/> Animation Video |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Arts/Desktop Publishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking/Presentations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drafting Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Spirit Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity / Fundraising/ Sponsors | <input type="checkbox"/> Pit Crew |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Robot Drive Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safety Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Plan Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robot and Tournament Match Scout Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Team Historian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other? _____ | |

3. Do you have any programming, building, writing or other educational, special interest or hobby experience that you feel would be helpful to the team? If so, please identify and tell us the extent of your experience. (Ex. C++, CAD design, MS Word, Dreamweaver, photography or photo editing, shop classes, hobby electronics, animation software, graphic design, etc.)

4. Are you involved in other organizations, extra-curricular activities or sports? If "YES", please list them:

5. Are you able to attend:

- meetings during the school day? Y/N If so, what days/times?
- afternoon and evening meetings? List days/times
- Saturday meetings, during build season?
- Sunday afternoon or evening meetings, on occasion, during build season?

6. Are you able to travel to competitions?

APPLICANT ESSAY QUESTIONS

*****Completion of these questions is required*****

To be considered for membership in the Rock City Robots Tech Team, please answer the questions below, taking time to consider your answers carefully. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions, but through your responses, we hope to learn more about applicants and their interest to assist in future program planning. If an excess of applicants exist, the response to these essay questions may be used in a selection process.

10. Why do you want to join the Rock City Robots FRC Team?

11. What do you expect to gain from this experience?

12. What qualities/experiences do you bring to the Rock City Robots Team that you feel will make you a significant contributor to our team?

ROCK CITY ROBOTS TEAM CODE OF CONDUCT

Gracious Professionalism and FRC Rock City Robots Team

Your signature is required below, and indicates that you have read and agree to abide by our Code of Conduct and our statement of Gracious Professionalism, which is integral to our success as a team and as individuals.

Gracious Professionalism (GP) is the embodiment of the *FIRST*® philosophy. It is how we should strive to act, whether we are being watched or not, and in a way that would make those we admire most proud. Gracious Professionalism demands that we treat others with kindness and respect, communicate with one another clearly and honestly, and resolve conflicts and misunderstandings immediately.

Gracious professionalism encourages us to learn and urges us to compete with heart and spirit, but requires that we treat one another with respect and kindness in the process. Gracious professionalism is part of pursuing a meaningful life. "GP" encourages high quality work, impeccable ethics, respect for yourself and others, and the ability to compete in a gracious manner. "GP" represents everything FIRST stands for and, commensurately, what the Rock City Robots Team stands for, as well.

Rock City Robots Team Code of Conduct

Team members will exemplify Gracious Professionalism by:

- Being respectful to one another, to other teams, coaches, mentors, parents and other adults, to team property, and to our meeting places, at all times.
- Refraining from disruptive behavior that affects your own team or others.
- Being helpful to one another and others whenever the opportunity arises.
- **Actively** participating in meetings, competitions, and events with a willing spirit of cooperation.
- Showing class and dignity, whether winning or losing.

Violating our Code of Conduct: The student's parents will be informed of the situation, and the team member will be expected to apologize to anyone involved and correct the behavior. Repeated violations, and/or misconduct during tournaments could result in the student not being able to continue being a member of the team.

STUDENT CONDUCT AGREEMENT

- I realize that no problem has only one solution, and that a successful team is one in which each team member cooperates by considering everyone's solution and ideas. I will listen to other team members and support and encourage them. I agree to cooperate on whatever solution the team chooses, even if it is not my first choice.

- On our team, the role of a mentor will be as an advisor to develop the skills of the students. Mentors will work alongside the students to fulfill all projects of the team. Mentors will also make suggestions and come up with their own solutions. Mentors will help identify the strength and weaknesses of the students' designs but encourage them to come up with their own solutions. Even though the team is student-directed, I will respect the word of the mentors. If needed, the mentors have the final say on any decision and I understand that they will have the team's future in mind, not just the current situation.

- I agree that my behavior at meetings and tournaments will be constructive and above reproach, and I will abide by FRC Core Values* at all times, especially "Gracious Professionalism".

- I agree that each team meeting is valuable and I will attend each meeting as best as I can. If a conflict arises, I will notify my coach in advance.

- I agree that I will arrive at team meetings appropriately dressed (shirt, pants, closed-toe shoes). My attire will be neat, clean, and attractive. My clothing will be appropriately sized and correctly worn, and will not disrupt the activities of the Rock City Robots team. I will not wear pajamas, or clothing that exposes undergarments. Shirts will be modest, extending long enough in the back when bending over to cover the waist, and without low-cut necklines or bare midriffs. No spaghetti straps, halter or tube tops may be worn. Long hair must be managed and dangling jewelry should not be worn to avoid getting caught in machinery, which might result in injury.

- I will be responsive and responsible in communications with the coach and with all other team members.

- I understand that my position on the team is a privilege and that if I am disruptive or disrespectful to others at meetings or tournaments, if I am not actively participating with the team, or if I violate any of the terms of this agreement, I may be asked to leave.

- I understand that I am expected to actively participate in team activities. I will not play video games, excessively snap-chat or text friends, or listen to music with headphones while at team meetings. Habitually doing these things could affect my standing on the team.

- I also understand that any assignment given to the team is a requirement. Failing to fulfill these assignments is not being an active member of the team, and puts my standing on the team in jeopardy.

- I will not drink alcohol, smoke, or use illegal drugs at any time because I know they are bad for me and will result in being removed from the robotics team.

I, hereby verify that the information and statements on this application are true, to the best of my understanding. I also pledge, if chosen as a FIRST team member, to meet all requirements of scholastic standing, fundraising, attendance and participation in order to remain a member in good standing.

I have read the above statement and will abide by Gracious Professionalism and the Rock City Team Code of Conduct:

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENT-GUARDIAN AGREEMENT

- I understand that on this team, the role of a mentor will be as an advisor to develop the skills of the students. Mentors will work alongside the students to fulfill all projects of the team. Mentors will also make suggestions and come up with their own solutions. Mentors will help identify the strength and weaknesses of the students' designs but encourage them to come up with their own solutions. Even though the team is student-directed, I will respect the word of the mentors. If needed, the mentors have the final say on any decision and I understand that they will have the team's future in mind, not just the current situation.
- I agree to make every effort to have my child attend every team meeting. If there is a conflict, either my child or I will notify the director as soon as possible. In the event of an unavoidable conflict, I will inform the director in advance. I understand that unexcused absences are taken into account in future team participation.
- I understand that my child has a commitment to his/her team.
- I realize that team mentors and leadership will be contributing a significant amount of time and effort to provide a rewarding experience for the team. I will be cooperative and as helpful as possible.
- I will choose one area of parental involvement to volunteer to help with the team.
- I understand that if there are any problems with my child at meetings or at tournaments, my child may be dismissed from the team but that I will be notified of problems as they arise.
- I understand that the team will attend Regional competitions, some of which might be out of state. I understand that I am responsible for travel expenses to any Regional competitions that my child attends with the team, and each student team member must have a parent or guardian attend the competition with them.
- I have read and understood all of the information contained in this information package.
- I give the Rock City Robots team permission to place photographs, video, or recordings of my child on team publications and/or the Rock City Robots website to promote and inform others about the organization, and the robotics teams in the Rock City Robots organization. I understand that it is possible for my child to be photographed by media personnel and/or photographers working with corporate sponsors, tournament organizers, and *FIRST*®, and my child could possibly be identified by name in these pictures and/or video.

Parent Signature

Date

If mailing in the form, send the completed and signed application form, with the application fee to:

FRC Rock City Robots Team.

PO Box 242794, Little Rock, Arkansas 72223

Rock City Robots Team CONSENT AND RELEASE AGREEMENT

Participant Name: _____
If Participant is under 18 years of age, Parent/Guardian Name: _____
Participant Date of Birth if under 18 years of age [MM/DD/YYYY]: _____
Participant Address: _____
Participant Email (If Participant is under 18 years of age, Parent/Guardian Email): _____
Participant Team Number: 4849

The Participant identified above ("Participant") desires to participate (as a team member, coach, mentor, judge, or in some other manner) with the Rock City Robots team during the competition season of *FIRST*® Robotics Competition, *FIRST* Tech Challenge, *FIRST* LEGO® League, Junior *FIRST* LEGO League, or any other *FIRST* program (the "Programs"). As a condition of allowing Participant to participate in a Program, the Rock City Robots team, and the United States Foundation for Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology ("*FIRST*") requires that the Participant (by his or her Parent/Guardian if under 18 years of age) agree to the terms of this Consent and Release Agreement.

1. Participant (and the Parent/Guardian of a Participant under 18 years of age) understands that participation in the Program will expose Participant to risks of injury including, without limitation, injury from: building, lifting, and using electrical/mechanical robots and robot components; using tools; other participants; dancing and other associated activities. Participant (and the Parent/Guardian of a Participant under 18 years of age) understands that the Rock City Robots team does not select, employ, supervise or otherwise exercise authority or control over the coaches, mentors, and other participants in the Program. Participant, if 18 years of age or older, acknowledges and agrees that he/she is primarily responsible for his/her safety. The Parent/Guardian of a Participant under 18 years of age acknowledges and agrees that the Parent/Guardian is primarily responsible for the Participant's safety and that the Parent/Guardian will monitor, as appropriate considering the age of the Participant and other factors, the Participant's participation in the Program.

2. In consideration for the Rock City Robots team and *FIRST* allowing the Participant to participate in a Program, Participant (and the Parent/Guardian of a Participant under 18 years of age for and on behalf of the Participant and the Parent/Guardian) assumes all risk of such participation and hereby releases the Rock City Robots and (except as expressly provided below) all of the Rock City Robots Team directors, officers, employees, volunteers, and agents from any and all claims for any injury of any kind to the Participant (and the Parent/Guardian) or other damages that may occur as a result of the Participant's participation in the Program, including without limitation any injuries or other damages that may be caused by the negligence of the Rock City Robots or negligence of any of Rock City Robots team coaches, mentors, directors, officers, employees, volunteers, or agents (including without limitation negligently failing to adequately investigate or screen coaches, mentors, volunteers, etc.), and agrees not to file any lawsuit or otherwise make any claim against the Rock City Robots Team or any of the Rock City Robots' directors, officers, employees, volunteers, or agents for any such injury or other damages. The Participant (and the Parent/Guardian of a Participant under 18 years of age) does not hereby release any claims against any individual person who intentionally causes injury to the Participant.

3. Participant (and the Parent/Guardian of a Participant under 18 years of age) understands that photographs, videotapes, and other recordings will be made of participants in the Programs, including the Participant. Participant (and the Parent/Guardian of a Participant under 18 years of age) consents to those photographs, videotapes, possibly their name, and other recordings and the use thereof (i) as part of a record of the Program and (ii) to promote the Rock City Robots and the *FIRST* Programs.

Participant (and the Parent/Guardian of a Participant under 18 years of age) has read this document and understands that this Consent and Release Agreement includes a waiver of the right to make injury claims that is intended to be legally binding. By signing below, Participant (and the Parent/Guardian of a Participant under 18 years of age) agrees to this Consent and Release Agreement.

4. Participant (and the Parent/Guardian of a Participant under 18 years of age) understands that another separate Consent and Release agreement must be signed online through the *FIRST* STEMS website before he/she can participate in *FIRST* Events and Programs.

Signature (of Participant if 18 years of age or older or Parent/Guardian if Participant under 18)

Date _____
Printed name of person signing