

# Welcome to Helena Robotics!

## Teacher Coaches

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Helena Robotics is a school club that encourages students to develop skills in computer science and mechanical engineering. Our teams participate in the FIRST Robotics competitions. We focus on the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC), which includes students from grades 7-12 from the Helena area.

Following a sports model, FIRST Tech Challenge teams design, build, program, and operate robots of their own design to play a floor game in an alliance format. Teams also document their entire process in an Engineering Notebook. Engineering Notebooks are digital documents shared with the coaches for supervision and presented to judges at tournaments. Guided by adult Coaches and Mentors, students develop STEM skills and practice engineering principles, while realizing the value of hard work, innovation, and sharing ideas. Participants have access to tens of millions of dollars in college scholarships.

## Robotics Season

Season kick-off is in early September when the season's game is announced. The design and build season runs from September to January. Tournament season varies by region and can begin as early as October and continues through April. State and Regional Tournaments advance teams to Super-Regional Championship Tournaments, and winners earn spots at *FIRST* Championship at the end of April. Official tournament dates will be released near the start of the season.

## Time Commitment

Being an active team member is a significant time commitment. There are MANDATORY meetings from 1:00-4:00 pm every Sunday of the season. However, as tournaments draw near it is common for our members to spend several additional hours per week after school working on their robots and programs. There is an attendance policy in place for Sunday meetings. **Students are allowed 3 excused absences and 0 unexcused absences throughout the season. Subsequent absences result in “benching” at any tournaments following the 4<sup>th</sup> excused or 1<sup>st</sup> unexcused absence.** In order to have an absence excused, the student or student’s parent must contact the coaches or head mentor PRIOR to the start of the Sunday meeting at 1:00 pm. Special circumstances regarding absences may be taken into consideration on a case by case basis. Optional lunch meetings will be held one weekday in Room 202.

Students are also required to complete at least 10 club service hours per season. These hours can include things like helping with concessions, staying after meetings for thorough cleanup, working at our robotics camps, etc. However, the hours do have to be approved by the mentors in order to count. Failure to complete service hours will result in “benching” at tournaments.

## Student Fee

The fee for team membership is **\$100** per student per season. This fee is non-refundable. This fee helps toward paying for the cost of team registration, materials, travel, and social activities (pizza parties, video game nights, et cetera). If this fee causes financial hardship, please contact the coaches for assistance.

## Safety and Conduct Guidelines

Students are required to wear appropriate personal protective equipment while working on the robots. This includes but may not be limited to: safety glasses, ear plugs, and closed toed shoes. Students must use materials and tools appropriately and safely. Students are not permitted to work in the school without supervision from one of the coaches or another district employee. Repeated violations of any safety guidelines will result in disciplinary action which may include “benching” at tournaments or termination from the club. *Helena School District and its employees and FIRST Robotics volunteer coaches and mentors hold no liability for injuries sustained during robotics practice, meetings, or meets.*

Students will be held to high standards in terms of personal conduct. Offensive speech and/or actions will not be tolerated. Students are expected to be respectful of school and club property; this includes cleaning and maintaining the space and materials. Students will also behave respectfully toward the coaches and mentors at all times.

## Academic Rigor

Students are expected to maintain passing grades in all core classes. Students that are failing core classes may be subject to “benching” or suspension from the club. Special circumstances may be taken into consideration on a case-by-case basis.

**I have read and agree to the terms of the time commitment, student fee, safety and conduct guidelines.**

Parent Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please rank your interests from 1-3, 1 being most interested. Please recognize that you may not get to

\_\_\_\_ Planning/Designing

\_\_\_\_ Building

\_\_\_\_ Programming/coding

\_\_\_\_ CAD Modeling

\_\_\_\_ Organization and documentation in Engineering Notebook

\_\_\_\_ Community Outreach

**Contact Information**

Parent Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like my phone number to be added to the Robotics Club Remind! text message reminder system

Student Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like my phone number to be added to the Robotics Club Remind! text message reminder system

**Emergency Contact Information**

Primary Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Does your child have any medical condition(s) that you would like the coaches to be aware of (allergies, specific nutritional needs, seizure disorders, required medications, etc.)?

**Please return your completed forms by Friday, September 14 to be considered for team membership.**



FOR INSPIRATION AND RECOGNITION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (FIRST®)

CONSENT AND RELEASE AGREEMENT

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

If Participant is under 18 years of age, Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

The Participant identified above ("Participant") desires to participate (as a team member, coach, mentor, judge, or in some other manner) in the FIRST® Robotics Competition, FIRST® Tech Challenge, FIRST® LEGO® League, FIRST® LEGO® League Jr., or another FIRST program (the "Programs"). As a condition of allowing Participant to participate in a Program, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology ("FIRST®") ("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 FIRST 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 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 FIRST and (except as expressly provided below) all FIRST 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 FIRST or negligence of any FIRST director, officer, employee, volunteer, or agent (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 FIRST or any FIRST director, officer, employee, volunteer, or agent 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, and other recordings and the use thereof (i) as part of a record of the Programs and (ii) to promote FIRST and the 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.

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

Printed name of person signing

Date