

# KC Robotics Team – Student/Parent/Guardian Meeting

September 3, 2019

## Team Handbook

The team has handbook that includes the information we are discussing tonight plus additional information. That handbook is available on the team website.

## Mission

The mission of the KC Robotics Team is to inspire Kershaw County students in 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades to become leaders through participation in mentor based FIRST® robotics programs that build science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, and communication and leadership abilities.

## FIRST® Robotics

FIRST means “For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology.” We are participating in two FIRST robotics programs: FIRST Robotics Competition® (FRC – big robot) and FIRST Tech Challenge® (FTC – small robot). We are FRC team 1553 and FTC team 208. Get more information about FIRST at [www.firstinspires.org](http://www.firstinspires.org). FTC is for students in the 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades. FRC is for students in the 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Any student living in or attending school in Kershaw County is eligible.

## Policies

We follow policies set forth by the Kershaw County School district and FIRST. Breaking a KCS D policy, a Team policy or rule, or having a failing grade in a class can result in loss of team membership. We may have to limit the size of the team based on the availability of mentors. Mentors are all background checked and register as volunteers with KCS D. The team has certain rules that will be reviewed with the students. The rules provide basic safety practices and behavioral practices that we expect from all students. If a student does not follow the team rules/policies, disciplinary action will be taken as outlined in the team handbook.

## Involvement

Many ways for students to be part of the team: awards, communication, drive team, electrical, mechanical, photography/video, and programming.

## Communications

Emails are the primary method of communication to team members. The Team email is [kcroboticsteam@gmail.com](mailto:kcroboticsteam@gmail.com). Each student is expected to have an email account they check regularly for Team related emails. Each student is expected to have at least one parent/guardian on the team email list. We use the Remind app for quick communications. Search for @kcrob.

Team Website – [www.kcroboticsteam.org](http://www.kcroboticsteam.org)

Calendar – There is a team calendar (Gmail based) on the team website. You can add the team calendar to your calendar. Search for the KC Robotics Team calendar. All Team entries start with “Robot”.

Social Media – We have a Facebook page and are on Twitter. Search for KC Robotics Team.

### Meeting Days/Times/Location

Team meetings for this Fall will be held on Tuesdays and most Thursdays from 4pm to 6pm. The team calendar will show all team meeting dates. Meetings held in robotics room unless otherwise stated. Starting in January team meetings will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4pm to 6pm and Saturdays from 8am to noon. We understand that every student cannot attend every meeting. We do expect for each student to participate as much as possible in Team activities. Missing too many Team activities can be reason for removal from the Team.

### Registration

Each student needs to complete Member Information form and Get to Know Me form. These are online forms. Each student will have to register with FIRST. Instructions will be sent on how to complete each of these forms and the FIRST registration.

### Financial

There is a team fee students participating on the team. The fee is \$100 for middle school students and \$150 for high school students. Team fee is payable by October 1. The team will have some fundraisers throughout the year. We typically have a spaghetti dinner and sell chocolate. Students are expected to pay their own competition related travel expenses. This includes their meals, fuel for vehicles, and portion of a hotel room for overnight trips. Costs about events will be shared well in advance of those events. TEAM costs for the FRC program are typically around \$8,000. Costs for the FTC program are typically around \$2,000. These costs do not include travel related expenses. Middle school students can expect to have one overnight trip for one night. High school students can expect to have one overnight trip for three nights.

### Supporters

We welcome individual and business financial support of the team. As part of our fundraising, students will be asked to contact a certain number of businesses and request financial support.

### Competitions

The FTC robot league meet competitions and tournament will be on Saturdays starting in October (one per month). the end of February 14 and 15 in Gaffney SC. This will be an overnight trip. The FRC robot competition will be February 26 through 29 in Myrtle Beach. This will be an overnight trip from Wednesday through Saturday. We also have one off-season event this Fall at Dreher High School on Saturday October 26.

### Photos/Videos

We plan to take pictures and videos of the team throughout the year. A photo consent form must be completed for each student and signed by the parent/guardian for that student.

### Classwork/Assignments

Students are responsible for all classroom assignments they may miss due to robot team activities. Students may not have any failing grades.

### Refreshments

Students are ALWAYS hungry. We welcome parents/guardians providing snacks for the team to share.

### Non-Profit

The KC Robotics Team is a non-profit organization and is registered as a public charity in South Carolina.