

KC Robotics Team

FIRST FRC Team 1553/FTC Team 208

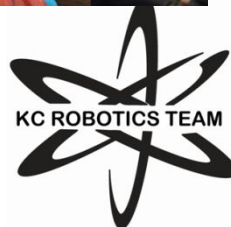
Student/Parent/Guardian Meeting

September 3, 2019



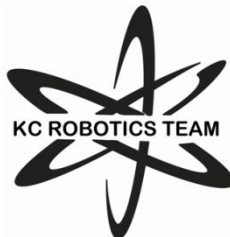
# Welcome!

- Returning team members
- Possible new team members
- Mentors
- Parents



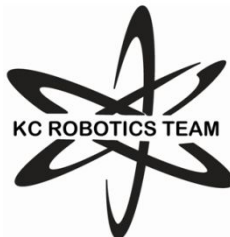
# Agenda

- Introductions
- Mission
- Team Handbook
- FIRST Robotics
- Policies
- Involvement
- Communications
- Meeting Dates and Times
- Safety
- Registration
- Financial
- Fundraisers
- Competitions
- Photos / Videos
- Classwork / Assignments
- Refreshments
- Non-Profit
- Mentors
- Documents/Application
- Questions



# Introductions

- **Mentors**
  
- **Team Captains**
  - FIRST Tech Challenge
    - Jenna
  - FIRST Robotics Competition
    - Nick



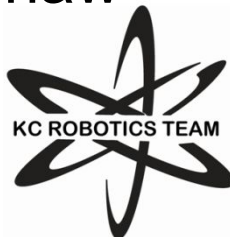
# Mission

Inspire Kershaw County students in 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades to become leaders through participation in mentor based FIRST<sup>®</sup> 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.

The team works to fulfill its mission through participation in two FIRST robotics programs.

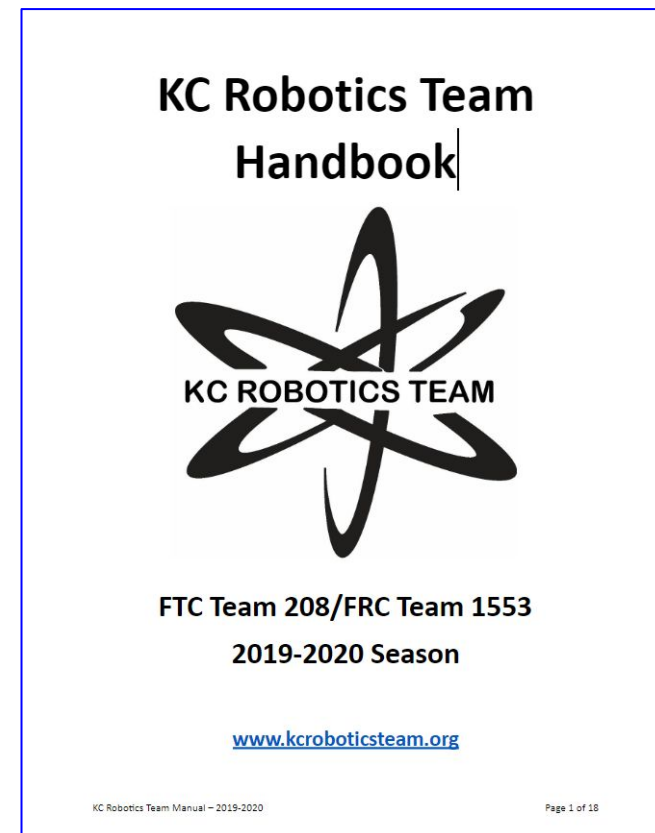
FIRST = For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology

Open to any student living in or attending school in Kershaw County (public, private, home).



# Team Handbook

- The team has a handbook that provides detailed information concerning the team, team policies, and team activities.
- It includes information we are discussing tonight and additional items.
- It has been updated for this season.
- It is available through the Documents page of the team website.

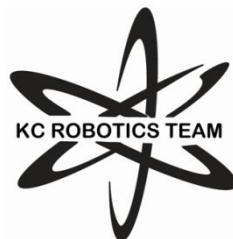




# FIRST Robotics

FIRST was founded in 1989 by Dean Kamen. Their mission is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=60&v=WIK7S7-Kx70](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=60&v=WIK7S7-Kx70)



# FIRST Robotics

We participate in two FIRST programs:

- FIRST Tech Challenge<sup>®</sup> (FTC)
- FIRST Robotics Competition<sup>®</sup> (FRC)

## What is FIRST Tech Challenge?

It's way more than building robots. *FIRST* Tech Challenge teams (up to 15 team members, grades 7-12) are challenged to design, build, program, and operate robots to compete in a head-to-head challenge in an alliance format.

[READ MORE >](#)



## What is FIRST Robotics Competition?

Combining the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. We call *FIRST* Robotics Competition the ultimate Sport for the Mind. High-school student participants call it "the hardest fun you'll ever have."

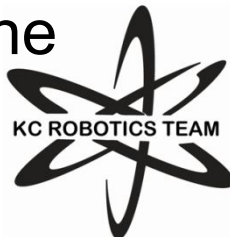
[READ MORE >](#)





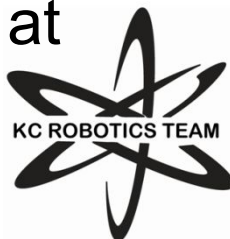
# FIRST Robotics

- FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC)
  - Students in 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades
  - (For us: Middle School Students)
- FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC)
  - Students in 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades
  - (For us: High School Students)
- Each program has a new challenge each year.
- Learn more about these programs at our website or at the FIRST website: [www.firstinspires.org](http://www.firstinspires.org)



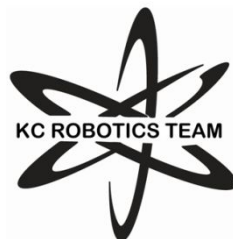
# Policies

- Follow Kershaw County School District (KCSD) policies, FIRST, and KC Robotics Team rules.
- Breaking a rule or policy, not participating, or having a failing grade could mean removal from the team.
  - Grades to be checked periodically.
- Mentors are all background checked and register as volunteers with KCSD.
  - KCSD employees do not have to register as volunteers.
- We limit the number of students on the team to 30 students. This is to ensure we have a proper student/mentor ratio at our meetings and events. We may have to limit further depending on mentoro availability.



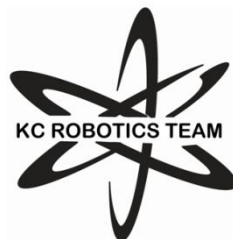
# Involvement

- We have many ways students can be involved with the team.
- Many of those opportunities do not involve the actual building of the robot.
- Examples:
  - Awards, communication, drive team, electrical, marketing, mechanical, photos/videos, programming, team mascot
- All students are expected to be active participants in team activities and not just using the team activities as social time.



# Communication

- Email is the primary communication to team members.
- Team email address is [kcroboticsteam@gmail.com](mailto:kcroboticsteam@gmail.com).
- Each student and at least one parent/guardian of each student is expected to have an email account and provide that email address to the team so those addresses can be added to the team email list.
- Students are expected to regularly check that email address for team related communications.



# Communication

- The team also uses the Remind app to send quick updates.
- You can find the Remind app in your favorite app store and at [www.remind.com](http://www.remind.com).

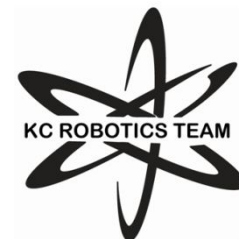


- You can sign yourself up to our group. Search for @kcrob.



# Communication

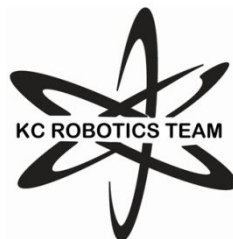
- The team has its own website: [www.kcroboticsteam.org](http://www.kcroboticsteam.org)
- The team calendar is available at that website.
- The calendar is a Google based calendar. That calendar is a public calendar. Search for KC Robotics Team.
- The team has Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts.
  - Search for KC Robotics Team and Like/Follow us.
- During the season our social media group sends regular team updates to these accounts.





## Meeting Dates and Times

- Team meetings in the Fall will be on Tuesdays and most Thursdays from 4pm to 6pm. That day and time works for most everyone.
- The team calendar will show all meeting dates.
- Meetings are held in the robotics room unless otherwise stated.
- Starting in January team meetings will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays (4pm to 6pm) and Saturdays (8am to noon).
- We understand every student will not be able to attend every meeting. But regular participation is expected.



# Meeting Dates and Times

## Camden Students

- Usually there are several students that come from Camden.
- It's suggested students consider carpooling to make it easier for parents / guardians.

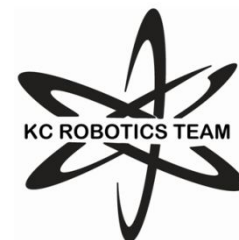
## Lugoff-Elgin Middle School Students

- We will have to work with Lugoff-Elgin Middle School students on where they are to go from the end of school until the start of our meeting.



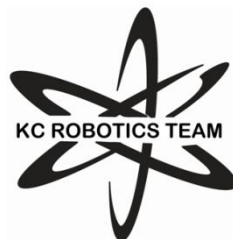
# Safety

- Safety of our team members is very important.
- We use tools and equipment that can cause serious injury.
- Students are not allowed to use tools unless the student knows how to use the tools properly.
- Students have to follow our team rules.
- Team rules are posted in the team room and are available online in the Documents portion of our website.



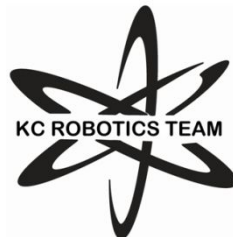
# Team Registration

- A Student Application Form form is required for each student.
- A link to the form is on the Documents page of the team website.
- Complete that form as soon as possible.
- Each student will be required to register with FIRST.
  - Information will be shared later on how to do this.
  - A parent/guardian will need to register first.
  - Students will register once the parent/guardian has registered.



# Team Size

- ◆ FIRST Tech Challenge
  - 15 student limit per FIRST
- ◆ FIRST Robotics Competition
  - 15 student limit per our capabilities
    - Mentors, meeting space, budget, etc.
- ◆ Waitlist



# Financial

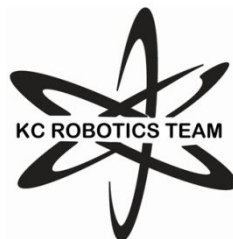
- There is a team fee for students.
  - \$100 for middle school students
  - \$150 for high school students
- Team fees are due by October 1.
- Team fees include team shirts
  - One shirt for middle school students
  - Two shirts for high school students
- Checks are to be made out to KC Robotics Team.
- Turn in check or cash at a team meeting.





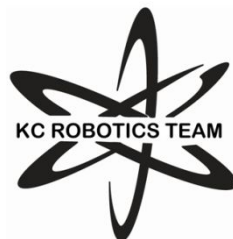
# Financial

- Students pay for their own robot competition travel expenses. This includes their meals, fuel for vehicles, plane tickets (if needed) and lodging expenses (if needed).
- Costs about events will be shared well in advance of those events.



# Financial

- Team costs for the FTC program are approximately \$2,000.
  - \$1,000 in registration fees
  - \$1,000 in parts and miscellaneous items
- Team costs for the FRC program are approximately \$8,000.
  - \$5,000 in registration fees
  - \$3,000 in parts and miscellaneous items
- These are TEAM costs are for the South Carolina Competitions.



# Financial

## FIRST Tech Challenge (Middle School)

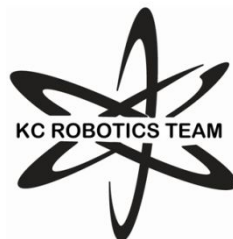
- Four Saturday league matches (food costs)
- One League Tournament
  - Possible overnight trip depending on location
  - Food costs
- One South Carolina Championship
  - One overnight stay (Gaffney SC)
  - Food costs



# Financial

## FIRST Robotics Competition (High School)

- One Saturday competition
- One South Carolina Championship
  - Myrtle Beach SC
  - Wednesday through Saturday (3 nights hotel plus food costs)



# Fundraising

- The team will have some fundraisers throughout the year. Last year we did a spaghetti dinner and sold chocolate. We have not decided what we will do this year.
- Our team is a charitable organization in the AmazonSmile program. You can select the KC Robotics Team as your AmazonSmile charitable organization and provide contributions to our team all year long.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-0862428>



# Supporters

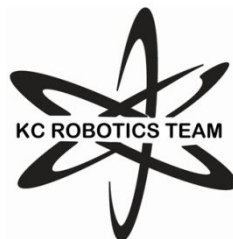
- We welcome financial support from individuals and businesses in our community.
- We write and usually receive some grant money each year.
- We will be contacting local businesses and asking them for support.





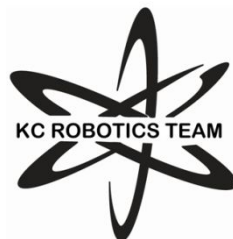
# Competitions

- The FIRST FTC robot competitions will be a league format.
  - Four leagues in South Carolina. We are part of the Capital Area league.
  - There are three league matches we can attend. Scoring from league matches provides ranking for league playoffs. These are after school or on a weekend.
  - Two leagues have a league competition. Top 12 teams from each league competition compete in South Carolina Championship.
  - Two teams advance from the South Carolina Championship to the World Championship in Houston TX.
  - Students are responsible for their own costs for hotel, food, and portions of travel expenses.



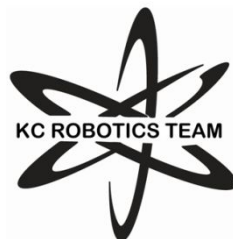
# Competitions

- The FIRST FRC robot competition will be February 26-29 at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center.
  - This will be an overnight trip from Wednesday through Saturday.
  - We will travel after school on Wednesday and return late on Saturday.
  - Students responsible for their own costs for hotel, food, and portions of travel expenses.
- We also have one off-season events at Dreher High School on Saturday October 26. This is a one day event.
  - We will use last year's robot for this competition.



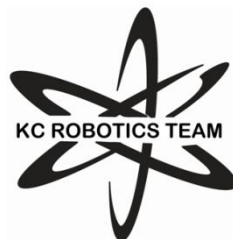
## Competitions - World Championships

- Both teams have the opportunity to participate in the FIRST World Championships that are held in Houston TX April 15-18, 2020
- Invitation to the Championships is based on performance at robot competitions or random drawing.
- Additional entry fees and travel costs are required



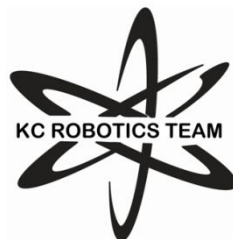
## Photos / Videos

- We plan to take pictures and videos of the team throughout the year and use those pictures and videos in our social media and news articles..
- A photo consent form must be completed for each student and signed by a parent/guardian of that student.
  - Complete that tonight if possible and turn in before you leave.



## Classwork / Assignments

- Students are responsible for all classroom assignments they may miss due to robot team activities.
- Students may not have any failing grades.
  - This may be checked periodically during the school year.
- Students can occasionally use some team meeting time to complete school work.



# Refreshments

- Students are *ALWAYS* hungry after school.
- Parents/guardians are welcome to provide snacks and drinks to share.
- Students may also bring items only for themselves.



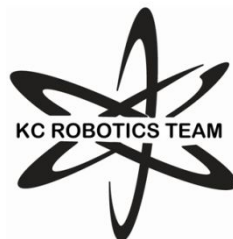
## Non-Profit

- The robotics team is a non-profit organization and is registered as a public charity in South Carolina.
- All donations to the team are tax deductible.
- We love cash but also can use services, materials, equipment, etc.



# Mentors

- The team could use some additional mentors.
- You don't need to be a technical expert – there are lots of non-technical items to be done.
- Let me know if you are interested in helping.





# Documents Page of Team Website

## Documents

[Edit](#)

Below are some of the documents that provide important information about our team.

[KC Robotics Team Handbook – 2019-2020](#)

[KC Robotics Team Rules – 2019-2020](#)

[KC Robotics Team Student-Parent Meeting – Presentation – 2019](#)

Below are links to team forms.

[KC Robotics Team Student Application Form – 2019-2020](#)



# Team Application - Complete ASAP

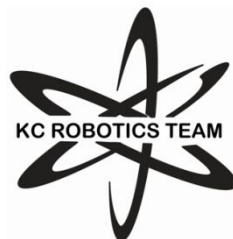
## KC Robotics Team Team Application 2019-2020

This form is used to collect information about student team members and their parents/guardians.

\* Required

### Student Information

All items with a star are required.



# Questions?

