

Supporting Your Team in Their RECF Robotics Competition Journey

Parent & Guardian Bootcamp

This streamlined session provides parents and guardians with a concise but impactful introduction to the RECF Robotics Competition and how they can best support their student throughout the season.

10 Minutes | Welcome & Why This Matters

- Explain the purpose of the session and the importance of the partnership between families and the team.
- Emphasize that RECF Robotics Competition is a student-centered program where students lead the learning and decision-making process.

10 Minutes | RECF Robotics Competition Overview

- Provide an overview of the RECF Robotics Competition.
- Discuss the goals of the program and the skills students develop, including teamwork, engineering design, programming, communication, and problem-solving.
- Explain the competition pathway:
 - Local tournaments
 - State or Regional Championships
 - National Championships (where applicable)
 - RECF STEM World Championship
- Explain how a Tournament works and what spectators can expect during the competition.
- Review the structure of the competition season.
- Introduce the current season's game

10 Minutes | Team Commitment & Season Expectations

- Review the team's practice schedule and attendance expectations.
- Discuss tournament logistics, including travel expectations, long competition days, meal planning, and arrival times.
- Explain student responsibilities:
 - Engineering notebook
 - Robot design and construction
 - Programming deadlines
 - Competition preparation
- Review the team's communication methods:
 - Email
 - Remind
 - GroupMe
 - Other team communication platforms

- Discuss any team-specific expectations, important dates, and season logistics.

15 Minutes | How Parents Can Support

- Encourage students while allowing them to solve problems independently.
- Support the team without taking over the engineering or decision-making process.
- Help with transportation to practices and competitions.
- Assist with meals or snacks during long tournament days.
- Volunteer at competitions as:
 - Judges
 - Scorekeepers
 - Event hospitality volunteers
 - Other event support roles
- Participate in fundraising opportunities and team spirit activities.
- Review important parent resources:
 - *Important Behavior Guidelines for Adults*
 - *Your Kid Just Joined a Robotics Team. What Does That Mean?*
 - *How Can Parents Help?*
- Discuss team-specific expectations regarding transportation, tournament etiquette, fundraising, and parent involvement.

15 Minutes | Tournament Day Guide and Final Q&A

- Walk families through a typical tournament day from arrival to awards.
- Explain what students will be doing throughout the event:
 - Robot inspection
 - Practice matches
 - Qualification matches
 - Judging interviews
 - Alliance selection (if applicable)
 - Elimination matches
 - Awards ceremony
- Discuss what parents can expect during the event.
- Review appropriate tournament etiquette:
 - Avoid coaching students during matches.
 - Do not enter the team pit unless permitted.
 - Allow students to communicate with judges and event officials.
- Explain how judging, awards, and qualification for championship events work.
- Answer questions from families.

Key Takeaways

Parents are an essential part of a successful robotics season. By encouraging students, supporting team logistics, volunteering when possible, and allowing students to take ownership of the engineering process, families help create an environment where students can grow in confidence, resilience, leadership, and technical skills. Together, coaches, students, and families can build a positive, supportive, and rewarding RECF Robotics Competition experience.