

# Supporting Your Team in their VEX Robotics Journey

## Parent/Guardian Bootcamp

This session gives parents/guardians a thorough and impactful introduction to the VEX Robotics Competition and how they can best support their student throughout the season.

**Optional refreshments and a Q&A session can fill remaining time or allow for flexibility.**

### 1. Welcome & Overview (10 minutes)

- Introduction of coaches and volunteers
- Purpose of the Bootcamp: Partnership, understanding, and support
- Brief [video/highlight](#) reel from a VEX event

### 2. What is VEX Robotics? (20 minutes)

- Overview of the VEX Robotics Competition
  - Goals of the program
  - Competition structure: local, state, national, Worlds
- Explanation of a VEX match & season structure: [Audience Info for VEX Robotics Competitions](#)
- Showcase the current season's game ([VEX IQ](#) or [VEX V5](#) )

### 3. Anatomy of a VEX Robotics Team (20 minutes)

- Typical [team roles](#) (builder, programmer, driver, scout, notebooker, etc.)
- How students develop skills through robotics
- [Student-Centered Policy](#): what it means and why it matters
- How teams qualify for [events and championships](#)

### 4. Season Calendar & Commitment Expectations (20 minutes)

- Weekly practice schedule
- Tournament day logistics (long days, travel, lunch planning)
- Team deadlines: notebooks, engineering work, coding
- Communication tools (email, Remind, GroupMe, etc.)

Use this section to go over any team-specific logistics, expectations, and communication tools your families should be aware of.

## 5. How Parents/Guardians Can Support (20 minutes)

- Be a cheerleader, not a co-engineer: supporting without interfering or deciding
- Transport, snacks, pit support, travel planning
- [Volunteering](#): judging, scorekeeping, hospitality
- Fundraising and team spirit (shirts, banners, etc.)
- Additional resources:
  - [Important Behavior Guidelines for Adults](#)
  - [Your Kid Just Joined a Robotics Team. What Does That Mean?](#)
  - [How Can Parents Help?](#)

This is your chance to share any team-specific housekeeping info—think: practice/tournament etiquette, transportation plans, parent expectations, and fundraising information.

## 6. Understanding Tournament Day (25 minutes)

- Typical tournament schedule
- What students will be doing
- What parents can expect
- What NOT to do (e.g., coaching during matches, entering the pit)
- How judging, awards, and qualification work

Use the [Understanding Tournament Day](#) and VEX Tournaments 101 articles as your guides when explaining what families can expect at a VEX Robotics event.

## 7. Key Policies & Student Safety (10 minutes)

- [Code of Conduct](#)
- [REC Foundation's Student-Centered Policy](#)
- [Youth Protection Policy](#)

## 8. Q&A, Resource Table, and Sign-Ups (20–30 minutes)

- Open floor for questions
- Share resources:
  - Link to Game Manual
  - Event calendar
  - Volunteer sign-up form
  - Fundraiser and team merch info
- Optional table with hands-on robot demo or practice field