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## **FRC Team 2530**

2525 Viola Road NE  
Rochester, MN 55906

# Participant Handbook

2016-2017 Season

## **OVERVIEW**

The FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) delivers the excitement of sport, and the rigors of science! Under strict rules, limited resources, and the guidance of volunteer mentors including engineers, teachers, business professionals, parents, alumni and more, teams of 25+ students have just six weeks to build and program robots to perform challenging tasks against a field of competitors. They must also raise funds, design a team "brand," hone teamwork skills, and perform community outreach. In addition to learning valuable STEM and life skills, participants are eligible to apply for \$25+ million in college scholarships. *Grades 9-12; ages 14-18*

- See more at: <http://www.firstinspires.org/#sthash.s3owngSO.dpuf>

## **GOALS**

1. Empower student leaders
2. Build a high quality Robot
3. Compose a winning Chairman's Award submission
4. Create an environment for students to learn life, leadership, and technical skills

## **LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION**

Team 2530 is a year-round organization. The beginning of our season is **September and continues through May**. We also continue work and engage in community events through the summer. The year is divided into "off" season work and "build" season work.

### **OFF SEASON/CLUB LEVEL**

For students who are interested in exploring FRC, they are encouraged to come to the "off" season meetings that are held once per week. This is the "Club" level of participation. At these meetings, students can explore how to use AutoDesk Inventor, write code in C++, solder, develop business plans and so much more. Students who have limited time to contribute should consider participating at this level.

### **BUILD SEASON/COMPETITION LEVEL**

For students who want to pursue the skills described above more deeply and build the competition robot, they are encouraged to become a part of the competition team that meets during "build" season. This is the "Competition" level of participation. Students who have been consistently present at off-season meetings AND express an

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interest in being on the Competition team AND demonstrate that they are able to satisfy the time commitment required will be considered for the team. This competition team will be limited to 30 students. “Build” season begins at the annual FRC Kickoff event, which is the **first Saturday in January** and continues until the **Regional competition**. This is typically a 10 week period of time. In addition to the weekly meetings explained above, “build” season participants must be able to commit a minimum of 8-12 hour per week, with build days held on **Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays**.

## LEADERSHIP

Students on Team 2530 are expected to demonstrate Gracious Professionalism™ in everything they do. Respect, responsibility, and follow through on projects are basic expectations for everyone on the team. Beyond that, additional expectations exist for students who wish to hold leadership positions.

### Team Captains

Two student Captains are selected during each season. The Captains are responsible for general **Project Management duties** throughout the season. Candidates for these positions submit an application and are selected by a board of Mentors. Prior Team 2530 experience is not necessarily a requirement to be considered for the role of Captain. This is a position not reserved for the “best” technician on our team, it is reserved for the most dedicated member of our team. A list of desired leadership attributes can be found below under “General Leadership Expectations.”

Students who are considering applying for Captain should understand that this level of leadership requires a significant time commitment and level of dedication to Team 2530. Students who are leaders of other organizations or who plan to be leaders of organizations (including but not limited to: STEM society, Science Olympiad, Science Fair, Winter Sports) will **not** be considered for this position.

### Sub-Team Leads

Student leads of Sub-Teams (Hardware, Software, Business, and Strategy/Drive) will be selected jointly by the Mentors and Team Captains. Candidates for these positions should demonstrate character traits of reliability, dedication, curiosity, and personal responsibility to follow through on tasks. Students who are leaders of other organizations or who plan to be leaders of organizations (including but not limited to: STEM society, Science Olympiad, Science Fair, Winter Sports) will **not** be considered for this position.

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## General Leadership Expectations

Leadership philosophies are plentiful. From education to business, you will never struggle to find books written about what makes a great leader. Generally, however, the themes of all those books tend to echo the same core traits and values.

A “really good” member of Team 2530 has really good technical skills and can build lots of neat things individually. A “great” member of Team 2530 shares their learning with others, looks to make sure that everyone is involved, and inspires others to do more and be more. A “great” member of Team 2530 will also be a “great” leader for it. So much of FIRST is *not* about the robot. It's about character.

A GREAT leader for Team 2530 has the...

- ➔ ability to delegate
- ➔ ability to come up with ideas and jobs for others to do (anybody ever look about how many people sit around and become disengaged?)
- ➔ ability to make quick decisions
- ➔ ability to say they were wrong quickly
- ➔ ability to motivate
- ➔ ability to build confidence in other team members
- ➔ work ethic to model for others
- ➔ an idea of what FIRST is all about
- ➔ no interest in personally building the robot (there are so many other things for a captain to do, they'll have no time for the actual robot).
- ➔ idea of what a deadline is
- ➔ social skills to talk to Mentors/judges/other teams/VIPs
- ➔ ability to say “Oh well! Nothing is ever perfect.” and relax at the end of the day
- ➔ ability to build a culture of continuous improvement

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## EVENTS

**Fall Pre-Season Event:** There are several opportunities to use our robot in scaled down competitions to introduce new students to the feel of a Regional event. Some events include the MRI Roseville event, the Minne-Mini Regional in Prior Lake, and training events hosted by 7RRC in LaCrosse, WI.

**Kickoff** This is an annual event hosted by Team 2530 on Kickoff Saturday, which is the **first Saturday in January**. This is the day when the entire FRC world learns about the new game. This is an all day event, and team members are expected to be present for the entire day.

**Week Zero** This event happens on the **weekend** before BAG DAY (the STOP work day) in **late February**. It is held in the La Crosse/Onalaska area. The purpose of this event is to give teams an opportunity to test their robot on a regulation sized game field with other robots. The amount of learning that happens during this weekend is immeasurable. Students are expected to come to both days of the event. Parents and families are encouraged to attend!

**The Regional Event(s)** This is the main event of our FRC season. Regionals are a **Thursday through Saturday event**. Typically, Team 2530 competed in the Wisconsin regional in Milwaukee. This is a Week Four event, meaning that it is a competition that happens on the fourth weekend after Bag Day, which is **mid to late March**.

**World Championships** Teams who are on a winning alliance of a Regional event or who win the Chairman's Award at a Regional event qualify for World Championships. Each season, our goal on Team 2530 is to qualify for Worlds. This event is held in **mid April**.

**MSHSL State Tournament** Eligibility for the State Robotics Tournament is calculated on specific criteria on a team's performance at its first Regional event. In other words, how Team 2530 performs in the Wisconsin Regional Event determines whether we qualify for the MN State Tournament. This event is a **one day event in early May**.

**NOTE: Any student who wishes to be considered for any leadership position MUST attend all competition events.**

## ADDITIONAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Team 2530 also participates in the following community events during the year: Ronald McDonald House visits, Boy Scout Robotics Merit Badge Workshop, Rochesterfest, Cascade Meadows Fix-It-Fair, and Junior FIRST Lego League at Riverside Elementary.

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**Please sign and return this page of the Handbook to any Team 2530 Mentors.**

I have fully read and understand the time commitments, responsibilities, and character expectations outlined in this handbook. I agree to uphold those expectations to the best of my ability. If I am not able to follow through on any commitment I make to Team 2530, I understand that I must communicate that to a Lead Mentor as soon as possible to develop a positive working solution to that problem.

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Student Signature

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Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date



**TEAM 2530: We build students who build robots.**