



FIRST Robotics Team #34 Handbook

The Rockets

Limestone County Career Technical Center

505 East Sanderfer Road Athens, AL

For Online Information, Go To:

www.team34rockets.com

www.firstinspires.org

Welcome!

Congratulations on becoming a member of the Limestone Career Technical Center's FIRST Robotics Team #34 – *The Rockets*. We believe that you will find your experiences very rewarding and enjoyable. This guide is intended to give you an understanding of the program and your responsibilities as a student team member. In the following pages, you will find information relating to the history, rules, guidelines, organization at events, travel and many other aspects of our team.

Please review all the information very carefully. If you have any other questions or concerns that this guide has not covered, do not hesitate to ask a mentor. For current schedules or information, contact Monica Hobson or check the calendar on our website at www.team34rockets.com.

Qualifications to be a Team member are important to ensure the goals and objectives of the team will be accomplished with quality and efficiency.

What makes a good team member?

The list below is some of the attributes, characteristics and school related requirements that are reviewed for student to travel and continue school participation in the team.

Grade Point Average of “2.0/C” or better is required to be selected as a member of the robotics team. Additionally, team members must maintain a grade of “2.0/C” in each grading period and semester to continue to be an active team member. During the course of the competition season, team activities absorb many valuable hours of team members free and study time. A strong ethic in study habits and a history of achievement in the classroom is essential to maintaining and improving a team member's academic progress. *A failing semester grade in any class AND/OR excessive school absences will cause a student to disqualify from traveling or even participating with the team. This will be determined at least 2 weeks prior to traveling to any event.*

Demonstrations of Positive Learning Habits are related to study skills, classroom assignments, grades, accountability, and classroom / school involvement. A team member's current grades, personality, and achievements are powerful statements about his or her learning habits and responsibility.

Good Attendance, Punctuality, and Dependability are indicators of a team member's commitment to their education and future. A team member needs to be available and ready to participate as much as possible. When asked to participate, establishing a record of dependability and punctuality is essential to team organization and efficiency. Difficult choices with scheduling conflicts as well as time management must be demonstrated at regular intervals (ex. Band, Sports, Employment, etc...)

Consistent Demonstration of Good Judgment and Positive Behavior: Each team member is an ambassador of our school as well as a representative of the Limestone County School System. Team members need to be role models for other students to emulate and respect. Solid behavior choices should be demonstrated at all times, in and out of school activities, competition, at our sponsors' facilities, and on social media platforms.

Ability to commit to a Project: Starting a project and following it through to the end is critical to team performance. Team members need to dedicate themselves to not get side-tracked or discouraged. A large commitment of time to Team Events is necessary for success as a Team Member.

Ability to Work both Independently and as a Team Member: Being able to be a team player by doing what is needed for the team is an asset to all. Following directions unsupervised in a large group is a key necessity for success. However, working independently with little or no direction when needed shows dedication and willingness to learn.

Interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, Robotics and Related Fields: The team member needs to have a genuine interest and an overall goal related to these fields of study. Activities, classes and career choices demonstrate this.

Demonstration of Honesty and Integrity is looked upon as important attributes of a quality person. Demonstration of these attributes may be found in your teacher recommendation and daily activities. Mentors also check potential team members' personal social media accounts (Instagram, Facebook, etc....).

Time to Spend on Activities: This activity requires many hours of a team member's time. Careful planning and scheduling may be required to stay actively involved. In some cases, choices as to other activities may need to be made. Other activities may be included in your achievements, but time management is necessary.

Selection Process

Preliminary Selection Process

Selecting a team is a very difficult task for the mentors. Typically, there are many team applicants including team members from the previous year that also must informally reapply. Being a member on the team the previous year is no guarantee of a place the next year.

The process starts with the Screening Application and Teacher Recommendations. Applications are available to ALL students who meet the criteria. Advertisement and recruiting for the team is done via the announcements, teachers, word of mouth, and postings in the school.

All screening applications are reviewed for missing or inaccurate information. The applicant is contacted as needed to provide the data that is missing. A review is conducted of the team member's records in the office (data on absences, tardies, behavior, and grades). This is approximately a two-week process.

Final Selection Process

Finalists from the preliminary selection process are interviewed and rated upon the interview and application process. The education mentors review qualifications of all applicants and hope to build a team that will accomplish the team goals.

Difficult decisions are often made to reduce the quantity to a target team size. The final selection will be the best effort at making a team that will represent our team's corporate sponsors and the Limestone Career Technical Center in the FIRST robotics competition(s).

Students selected for the team will be notified of acceptance during the school day. They will be given a team member handbook and other team materials at the annual Kick-Off and Parent Orientation (this meeting is REQUIRED). Students not selected will be notified and encouraged to re-apply next year.

“Boot Camp” Training Week / Parent Orientation

All team members will attend our 5-day Training Week to get started on the FIRST experience. This takes place after the team is chosen (usually the Tue-Sat after Memorial Day weekend) and will introduce new team members to all facets of the Rocket Robotics Team. Please sit down with your parents and read the Rocket Robotics Handbook that will be given out at this orientation. At this orientation, you will be asked to sign the attendance policy, behavior contract, and team member contract. One parent/guardian is encouraged to attend the parent orientation meeting that will take place the first night of Boot Camp Week..

F.I.R.S.T.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is an organization that focuses on **inspiring** team members about math and science. Team 34 competes in the FRC (First Robotics Competition) level of F.I.R.S.T.

FIRST designs accessible, innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology, and engineering. FIRST sponsors a nationwide robotics competition, where many high school team members and adults get very excited about technology and compete within a challenging and fun atmosphere. The FIRST Robotics Competition challenges teams of team members and their mentors to solve a common problem in a six-week timeframe using a standard "kit of parts" and a common set of rules. Teams build robots from the parts and enter them in competitions designed by FIRST.

Gracious Professionalism

Gracious professionalism is the only acceptable behavior for all team members. As a team member, each team member and adult represents our corporate sponsors and Limestone County Career Technical Center. Whether one is involved in events with the local community or at other events, one's behavior is representative of their own team as well as the FIRST organization. All team members will be gracious, helpful, supportive, and will demonstrate sportsmanship in victory and defeat. Team members will display the objectives of the FIRST program, and this role must be taken seriously.

Gracious Professionalism includes:

- Respect for the feelings, opinions, and lifestyles of other team members
- Respect for tools and equipment
- Best behavior at all times
- Good sportsmanship
- A positive attitude
- A clean vocabulary
- Friendly and polite to all persons

All of this includes your personal social media accounts!

Rockets Robotics Partnership

Active members of the Rockets Robotics Team may include:

- Limestone Career Technical Center students and teachers
- Industry leaders / employees
- Parents of LCTC / Rockets team members
- Community leaders as needed

The partners on this team provide the following:

- Team members & sponsoring teachers
- Engineer mentoring
- Hosting of workshops
- Hosting of Robotics Workspace
- Public Affairs and Fundraising support

Team Goals:

- Inspire team members about technology, math, science, and engineering
- Prepare team members for leadership roles
- Promote the ideals of FIRST
- Increase community and state awareness of science and technology education
- Introduce team members to positive role models
- Preparing for tomorrow's technology through today's education

Rewards for being a Rocket

More important than receiving awards, team members are receiving inspiration. Many Rockets alumni are pursuing science and engineering majors at prominent universities, and several have entered technical careers in the workforce. This is proof that FIRST is inspiring and that being a Rocket is rewarding. The Rockets have made a name for themselves and are a leader in the FIRST community while receiving numerous awards as well as respect from our peers.

There are MANY scholarships available for FIRST Team members. Check out

<https://www.firstinspires.org/scholarships>

- The experiences to which the Rockets are exposed open doors for jobs or internships within valley-wide corporations and other high-tech companies.
- The team-building skills, positive role models, leadership training, and technical training will be an asset to the team members as they face the challenges of life that are to come.
- Many corporations across the nation are participating in FIRST and want to hire FIRST team members. Being on a FIRST team will expose team members to these corporations and help teach the skills that these companies desire.

Along with team members getting inspired, engineers and teachers are having fun while sharpening their design, teaching, and leadership skills. This group of mentors works closely together and learns from each other. Parents are inspired by team member progress and working with their children in a common goal in this time of family value disintegration.

Team Members: Rocket team members have many ways to be involved in the team activities. Team members can be involved in design, leadership, marketing, publications, public relations, fabrication, and CAD, scouting, and animation projects as they develop their skills and have fun. Your Team Profile will indicate your preferences as to the areas of work you would like to be involved with in competition and what team positions you would like to hold.

Sub Teams: The Rocket Robotics Team is made of several sub teams to get the FIRST projects completed. There are subteams to fit every student interest. By dividing into specialized groups, team members are able to focus on specific aspects of the projects. The sub-teams will be: Build Team (Design, Electrical, Mechanical, Programming, and Base), Multimedia/Animation Team, Chairman's Award/Presentation Team, Finance/Budgeting, Safety, Scouting/Strategy, Marketing/Imagery Team, and Drive Team.

Education Mentors (Teacher sponsors)

The teacher/sponsors for the Rocket Robotics FIRST Team are a group of dedicated professionals who are taking on the responsibility of providing you with the best enriching educational experience in education today. Many of their efforts are behind the scenes pre- and post-season. Many hours of planning are required to coordinate all the team activities.

The education mentors are also classroom teachers with full classroom responsibilities in addition to the FIRST Team activities. Much of the work required is done before and after school. Often the scope of this project requires evening and weekend meetings and organization.

When traveling they are considered your "parents" looking out for your welfare and safekeeping. They take seriously the confidence your parents have placed with them. Their decisions are always aimed at what is best for the team member first and the team second. Please be aware that decisions regarding team rules and procedures are based upon experience, school and board policies, and corporate sponsor input. You are expected to honor any request made by a mentor.

If you have any concerns with the activities of a mentor or their behavior toward you or others, please talk to the team leader first. If the situation is not resolved, the next step is to talk to the principal of the building.

Industry Mentors

We have some of the brightest and most dedicated engineers in America today on our team. These professionals, in their daily careers, are responsible for many of the innovations you see on today's best transportation. These dedicated team members spend many hours of their free time on this project and as mentors to our team members. Their expertise allows the dreams and ideas of the team members to be transformed into reality. Take the time to communicate and get to know these very talented people. Ask them about their families and do not hesitate to ask advice. They are valuable resources for tutoring while we are traveling.

We are fortunate to currently have employees/retirees/small business owners from various local companies as our industry mentors.

Parents / Parent Volunteers

Parents of team members are encouraged to help in any way they can to assist the team as mentors, working with the team members after work hours and on weekends. The efforts of these volunteers must be team member-focused and within the spirit of FIRST.

Parents are an integral part of our team and are very important to our continued success. Parents are also a key factor in the motivation and dedication of their team member. Supporting their son/daughter in all aspects of their team involvement is the key to them getting the most out of the program.

Parents have the following responsibilities:

- Parents are encouraged to participate in team activities whenever possible.
- To provide timely transportation for the team member. Making sure that they are at the required events on time and ready to participate. We will not delay transportation.
- Upon return from an event, parents are expected to provide transportation at the designated time. Late transportation causes an inconvenience to all involved.
- Parents are expected to assist their team member in all fundraising activities.
- Parents are expected to attend mandatory meetings.
- Parents are expected to provide accurate and up-to-date medical information
- Parents are also expected to provide spending money when we are at events or competitions.

****We will need parent volunteers to coordinate the Saturday lunches during build season****

College Level Student Assistants

Former Robotics Team members who have demonstrated mature long-term commitment and are continuing that commitment to Team 34 will be allowed to volunteer to assist the industry and education mentors at their discretion. It is imperative that these students are able to separate themselves from the high school student status and can become a “bridge for the generation gap” to the veteran adult mentors. These mentors will be interviewed, evaluated, and monitored on a case-by-case basis. Evaluation and discussion of student mentors will take place at the end of each season.

Fundraising and Financial Obligations

Money is needed to participate in the projects the Rockets are involved in. In the past, Corporate Sponsorship covered registration fees, tools, computers, supplies, and other items necessary for the team. The team has been fortunate to have had these generous sponsors. However, this year our funding has been drastically cut. We will be relying HEAVILY on fundraising and donations to fund the previously mentioned expenses as well as other areas such as travel to regional and the National Competition, team trinkets, student meals, team member and mentor awards. Each team member must be instrumental in raising a **minimum of \$400** (*might increase depending on overall team business/corporate sponsorship*) in order to fund his or her share of the travel expenses.

Fund Raising Activities

Team 34 Getaway Giveaway (organized by parents and boosters)--each student will be asked to sell a designated number of tickets.

BBQ Fundraiser – each student will sell boston butts, pulled pork, bbq chickens and/or bbq plates.

Business & Industry donations - each student should solicit monetary donations in business sponsorship to be used as a tax write-off and advertisement. Donation letters to make requests will be available.

Possible Other Fund Raising Options:

Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night
Raffle items
KidsQue BBQ Cook Off
Chicken Stew
Fun Run / 5K / 10K

The team mentors are always open to suggestions of ways to earn money for the team. Please contact an education mentor with ideas or opportunities to raise money for the team.

If parents have an objection to their student participating in any fundraising activity they are asked to speak to an education mentor for an alternate method of replacing this revenue for this student. ALL students must either fundraise, write a personal check and/or a combination of both.

All travel and team expenses (with the exception of some meals) will be taken care of for each student if they participate in the fundraising activities available to them. However, this **does not guarantee** the team member will be allowed travel to any event. At this date, if a team member is not as active as they should be, they will be notified to increase their level of involvement and/or be placed on team participation probation.

Any team member who is “questionable” (due to lack of commitment to team projects, grades, behavior, attitude, or attendance) will be notified if they have not been approved to travel with the team. If not, they are still welcome to be on the Team after a Mentoring meeting.

The fundraising money, personal family contributions and/or business donations are given collectively to the team and not to the individual; therefore, all funds collected in the Rockets Robotics name will be non-refundable.

The following is a description of team expenditures.

- FIRST Competition entry fees
- Robot parts, materials, raw materials, metalworking tools, and fasteners
- Playing field costs
- Team uniforms (as required) and marketing items
- Regional and Final Competition participation fees
- Travel costs of team members and mentors to Events – (transportation and lodging)
- Vehicles (truck and trailer)
- Miscellaneous items (postage, paper, flyers, trinkets, buttons, etc...)

GRADES ARE A PRIORITY

All team members are expected to maintain all their grades and class work during the entire time he or she is on the Team. According to the team member contract and school board policy each team member must maintain an average of a “2.0/C” or better in order for that team member to be eligible for team travel. Team members should put their grades before any team needs. Our high standards and expectations are one of our team’s strengths.

Team members **will not** travel with the team if they do not meet this grade requirement. There will be NO exceptions to this requirement.

If you are having difficulty with a particular class, it is important that this be brought to the attention of the education mentors. We will strive to provide assistance in coursework as required, making sure you are maintaining your grades. Assistance is also available from your counselor and of course, from the teacher of the class you are taking. Contact Ms. Hobson for assistance.

Scheduled Work Sessions/Meetings

This activity requires many hours of a team member's free time. Careful planning and scheduling may be required to stay actively involved. In some cases, choices as to other activities may need to be made.

During the "Build Season" (from Kickoff until Competition) team members will be meeting at these times:

Monday: 4-8 PM

Tuesday: 4-8 PM

Thursday: 4-8 PM

Saturday: 8:00AM-4:00PM

The first Saturday in January begins build season. On this day we will meet at UAH.

The first week of the 6-week build we will meet every evening and Saturday for strategy decision.

There will also be circumstances where meetings will need to be scheduled on "off" nights or need to start earlier and end later. We will give you plenty of notice so that you can make arrangements.

During the "Off-Season" (Summer), team members will be meeting at various times. Each SubTeam will set their own schedules. We are very lenient on meeting attendance during the summer because we encourage summer vacation with families and camps with other organizations.

During the Fall, team members will be meeting the 2nd Tuesday and the last Saturday of each month. There may be exceptions during the holiday seasons. Summer and Fall is when you should make your other activities a priority (band, cheering, sports, etc...). We will then expect you to make Robotics a priority during Build Season (January-April).

Attendance and Punctuality

Team members must make every effort to attend and participate in team functions unless excused by either a parent/mentor agreement or a mentor. Team members participating in school-sponsored activities may be excused from attendance on a limited per case basis. A team member may also be excused from an activity by a mentor upon written request of the parent or guardian on a limited per case basis.

Attendance and punctuality are indicators of a team member's commitment to their education and future. A team member needs to be available and ready to participate as much as possible. When asked to participate, establishing a record of dependability and punctuality is essential to team organization and efficiency.

Attendance is taken at all activities. All team members are expected to be on time and stay the required amount of time.

All team members are encouraged to participate in all activities including community service projects and outreach that many team members find rewarding. If attending a voluntary activity, the team member will log attendance and time spent on the activity.

Students are also expected to exhibit good school attendance. Any student with excessive school absences or tardies (including excused) will not be allowed to travel due to the missed instructional time from class.

SEE ATTACHED ATTENDANCE POLICY

Shirts

Our shirts are an important part of our image and thus must be maintained with dignity and care. Currently we have two versions of our team shirt: a red tshirt and a red polo. The quantity of each will be decided upon at the start of the season. The use of each and when they will be worn will be determined by the mentors and told to you as soon as possible. It is important not to cover or alter the shirt in any way. If you find it necessary to wear a sweater or jacket, wear one under your Rocket Robotics shirt. Be proud of who you are and show off your team shirt. Additional shirts will be available for purchase by parents as stock allows. Team 34 Pullovers, long-sleeve team tshirts, and flight jackets will be available for optional purchase. This is part of your team uniform.

The care and cleaning of the shirts is the team members' responsibility. The shirts should be washed inside out in warm to cold water. Drying should be limited to hanging or drying on the low setting. Please use NO bleach or harsh detergents on any of the shirts. Team members will be allowed to keep one shirt and turn 2 shirts back in.

Team members are not allowed to trade their shirts. Team members will be supplied with trinkets and giveaways to trade as souvenirs. Trading of trinkets and giveaways is an exciting part of the competitions and events.

Health

Each Team member or adult traveling with the team must have a complete, accurate, and up-to-date permission form on record prior to travel dates.

Team members taking any medication while we are traveling need to have the list of these medications on file with the education mentors. In the event you become ill on a trip, transportation home will be at the parents' expense using first-available transportation.

It is suggested that all team members take precautions when being exposed to the sun for any length of time (sunscreen is highly encouraged). Drinking of plenty of water during our trips is important for the health and energy of our team members. One gallon of water per day is recommended whether you are in the sun or not. Drinking of soda and other sugar based drinks does not replace the need for 1 gallon of water per day. Take a bath/shower everyday.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU DO NOT TRAVEL IF YOU ARE ILL

Travel

Traveling as a team is very exciting and rewarding and is often the highlight of a team member's memories as a Rocket. A great deal of planning and organization is required to coordinate all the associated activities. A strong effort is made to make the travel to be an educational / cultural experience as well as the basic competition. Safety is always a major concern. Mentors will do all they can to keep you safe and healthy.

When you travel, you are required to get all class work, assignments, and readings before you leave. Please allow teachers several days to get these assignments ready for you. Getting these assignments is your responsibility. Upon your return to school, all the assignments are due and must be turned in to the teacher.

When we travel, there might be designated study times for team members. Team members should bring all required text and materials on the trip. Often team members store their class materials in their travel bag for convenience and availability.

It is very important to pack efficiently. That means to bring only the clothes and items that are necessary and required. Remember team members must carry their own luggage. Luggage must be identified with your name and address on a sturdy tag attached to the handle. Do not remove any pillows or blankets from your hotel rooms. You are not allowed to make any charges to your room. If charges are found on your room, you will be responsible for these charges before you can depart. You may ask the travel coordinator permission to purchase a movie, internet or a game, but you must have cash at the time to pay for the charges before you will be allowed the purchase.

Parents are welcome and encouraged to travel with us. Each parent will be required to make their own travel arrangements and pay their own expenses. The bus will first be filled with team members (students, mentors) any available seating after that is open to family of team members on a first come-first served basis. The cost of the seat on the bus will not be known until the bus has been confirmed. The team does not cover the cost of fuel and expenses if you decide to use your own transportation. Parents will be notified of the hotel we are staying in but reservations will your responsibility.

Team members will have to share a room. In most cases there will be 4 students to a room.

Team members are required to adhere to a dress code while at competitions. This will include the specified team uniform. No jeans with holes and no open-toed or open-heeled shoes will be allowed at the competition sites. No tank tops, inappropriate t-shirts (wording or graphics), or revealing shorts are allowed even during travel time.

We are a very close family when we travel and conflicts may arise as a result. Team members should refrain from rumors and negative comments about one another. If a problem arises with another team member, you are requested to speak to an education mentor immediately. Team members are not allowed to have physical conflicts with each other even in the form of horseplay. If a problem such as this arises, both team members may be disciplined as per school rules.

Inappropriate Behavior include but are not limited to running in hallways, pushing and shoving, name-calling (negative), vandalism, destructiveness, fighting, swearing, stealing, negative attitude and all other activities that reflect negatively on the team. Please be cautious about what you put on your personal social media as this still reflects on the team.

Handholding, hugging, kissing and other expressions of affection are prohibited at all times. The couple must also travel in a group at all times. Couples may not wander off or sit alone. In other words, they should not appear as a couple but as part of the team. Common sense should prevail at all times.

While out of town for competition events, team members of the opposite gender will be allowed to enter each other's room only if the door remains open at all times and the mentors have given you permission. Remember you must be courteous and respectful at all times.

Playing cards, games, electronics, books, and similar activities are not allowed at team meetings or the events. These activities may only be done during "Free Time" at the hotel or on the bus.

The team will have room checks at 11 PM each evening of the competition. This curfew will be moved to an earlier time if lack of rest shows at the competition. You cannot perform your best on little sleep. We will be surrounded by others in the hotel who are not part of the team. If an education mentor receives a complaint, you will be notified and the situation will be corrected immediately. If the coordinator has to return a second time, the individuals in the room will be removed

from the room and placed in other rooms. If there is a third complaint, the individuals in that room will be sent home at the parents' expense using the first-available transportation.

This team will not tolerate the prohibited use of alcohol, tobacco, or banned substances. No weapons of any kind are allowed.

Disciplinary Actions

If any problem arises with the behavior of a team member at the Tech School, their Home School, during travel to FIRST events or events/meetings/activities associated with the Rockets or School events and activities, the team member will be asked to explain the events and circumstances surrounding the situation with the Education Mentors and School Principal. Depending on the severity and seriousness of the behavior, the team member may be dropped from the team, put on probation with a plan of assistance, or given a verbal warning. In all cases, the situation is expected to be rectified in a timely manner to the satisfaction of the school and mentors. If it becomes necessary to send a team member home while on a trip, transportation home and all associated fees will be at the parents' expense using first available transportation. This includes behavior problems during school hours and after hours. Remember you are a representative of Rockets Robotics at all times.

At all times the Limestone County Board of Education student handbook will be followed along with the guidelines established in the Rockets Robotics Handbook.

SEE ATTACHED BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE CONTRACT

Competition Protocol

There are certain practices that we have found to be very successful and that have earned us many rewards and the respect of the FIRST community.

Cheering is more than yelling at the top of your lungs. True cheering is enjoying the event and celebrating the excitement of the moment. Organization is the key to this being a powerful tool. Your spirit leaders will give you direction and guidance for this activity. You are not expected to be cheering 100% of the time, however, when we are cheering, all team members are expected to stand and cheer to the best of their ability. Sitting in the stands with a look of boredom, texting/using cell, or sleeping while others are cheering is not good for the team image and is not permitted.

Award Ceremony: During the ceremony, we will applaud the teams that are winning awards, and will stand to show our respect for what they have accomplished.

Community Involvement

The Rockets keep active in the local community, as they host events, make demonstrations, and support other math and science-related programs for the area's team members.

Information and Communication

Communication is vital for a successful team. Our primary mode of communication will be through email, text, or group chats. It is the team member's responsibility to sign up or enroll in GroupMe or Remind. Parents may also participate. All team members are encouraged to monitor frequently and become active in team forums. It is suggested that you visit the website at least twice a week to stay current on activities and announcements. Please be careful about your comments and responses as they reflect upon our team. You will also need access to Google Drive and Google Calendar.

You may also check the team website (www.team34rockets.com) or our team social media for updated information.

Please provide your email address/cell number to the mentors for the database records. If you do not have Internet access at home to participate in e-mail or a personal e-mail account or a cell phone to be used for text messaging, please see Ms. Hobson ASAP to inform her of the best means to reach you.

Final Commitment

It is understood that our team members are very busy in many other school activities. These activities are encouraged and supported by our team. It is the responsibility of the team member to manage and balance all their activities and inform the sponsors of their commitments.

Sports teams and music departments provide different challenges and different stress upon your time. It is important to communicate with your mentors to work out the timing of your activities before you make a final decision. We understand this dilemma and encourage you to put a lot of thought and study into your decision before committing your valuable time and effort. Often these activities can be accommodated to the satisfaction of both activities. There are some instances however, where the timing cannot be resolved. In this case, you may have to choose which activity you will be doing. We want only the best for our team members at all times.

Rockets Contact Information

Rockets Robotics Team 34 Mentors

Education Mentors

Monica Hobson

Damon Faris

Industry Mentors

Chris Southard

Randall Simpson

TJ Wallace

Ashley Southard

Sarah Christopher

Gerald Ashmore

Travis Kelly

Contact Information:

Monica Hobson 256- 710-2941 monica.hobson@lcsk12.org

Rockets website www.team34rockets.com

FIRST website www.firstinspires.org

LCCTC website www.careertechnical.org

Limestone County Career Technical Center

505 East Sanderfer Road Athens, AL 35611 Phone: 256-233-6463 Fax: 256-233-6667

Rockets Robotics Attendance Policy

Attendance:

A total of 2 unexcused absences are allowed. On the 3rd unexcused absence, the team member will be subject to removal from the team. NO unexcused Saturday absences are allowed. All students are required to be at the full-team meetings on Saturday mornings during build season.

**An unexcused absence is defined as an absence where a mentor is NOT notified PRIOR to the absence that it will occur. Absences must be called in ahead of time to avoid being counted as excused.*

A total of 4 excused absences are allowed with the exception of Saturday meetings during build season –(only 1 excused Saturday absence is allowed). After the 4th excused absence, the team member will meet with the educator mentors to discuss options (travel, team status, etc...) .

**An excused absence is defined as an absence where proper notification is given before the absence occurs. A mentor should be notified of all absences.*

Tardies:

A team member is considered tardy when they attend the meeting or event but are NOT there at the scheduled start time. 3 Tardies = 1 Unexcused absence. After a total of 6 tardies (for the entire season), the team member will be subject to removal from the team.

If you are removed from the team due to missed meetings, no money will be refunded.

****NOTE: Education mentors may make exceptions to this policy; but only on an individual basis after discussion with the other education mentors. Exceptions may be, but are not limited to: death in the family, family emergency, natural disaster, etc.... In addition, your commitment to the team as well as your behavior and progress made while at meetings will be considered.**

ROCKETS TEAM 34 BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE CONTRACT

Make sure you have read the handbook thoroughly before signing this behavior contract.

Listed below are specific behavior guidelines that ALL Rocket members are to follow. They are not to take the place of all guidelines in the handbook but are to serve as a quick reference for students prior to each meeting, competition, or any event where you are representing the Rockets Robotics Team 34.

1. Students are to follow ALL rules and guidelines in the Limestone County Student Handbook and Rocket Team 34 Handbook (including but not limited to: dress code, vulgar language, tobacco use, inappropriate touching, etc...)
2. Maintain the minimum GPA (minimum of 70 / C average to travel with team)
3. Any problems reported by any teachers (local school teachers, tech school teachers, gifted teacher) will result in possible suspension from the team
4. All teachers of the Robotics team members must verify that they are academically eligible to miss class to travel to competition (no excessive absences)
5. All students must check in at the beginning of each meeting
6. Students are not to leave meetings or any other event without being properly dismissed by mentor (for lunch, to go home, etc...)
7. All students must sit together as a team at all competitions
8. All team members should show team spirit...support for drivers, etc...
9. No team member should speak negatively about the team, teammates, or mentors unless done so in private with a Team 34 mentor (to be used for legitimate problems only)
10. Our Team T-Shirts and Polo is our uniform. Please keep it clean and presentable. To be worn for any required Team activities and fundraisers, or when representing the Team in any kind of Marketing and Image building promotions. All students must be properly uniformed at competitions...may not wear jackets, sweatshirts, etc... over team t-shirts or hoodies. Rocket t-shirt or hoodie must be visible at all times.
11. A mentor must know where a student is at ALL times while at meetings or at competitions.
12. Students should not be tardy to meetings or on day of departure for competitions. School doors will lock 15 minutes after meetings begin at Tech.
13. Students are allowed a certain number of tardies and absences (see attendance policy).
14. Students are to do any job that they are asked to do that will help the team
15. Students are to take part in team discussions
16. Students are to take part in **all** team activities and team fundraisers
17. Students are to input in building, drawing, etc...
18. Students are NOT to harass other team members
19. Students are NOT to be disrespectful to any mentor or other team member...there is a time and place for "appropriate sarcasm". If you aren't sure if it is the time or place, **KEEP IT TO YOURSELF**.
20. Only Rocket members (or parents/guardians of Rocket members) are allowed at team meetings and events. (No boyfriends, girlfriends, or "extras")
21. Students that drive to the meetings are to park their car and are not to leave or go "sit" in their cars until they are dismissed for the day. If you have to drive to school for Team business, make sure you get a LCCTC parking pass.

22. All students must clean up any mess that they create and should also help others clean up messes that others have created. You would appreciate the same treatment. **YOU MUST EAT PRIOR TO ATTENDING MEETINGS!** No food to be brought in except for Saturday lunches. This includes portables, labs, classrooms, etc....
23. Rockets should demonstrate “teamwork” at ALL times
24. Rockets should actually produce a product when given a task...don’t waste time.
25. Rockets should demonstrate enthusiastic attitude and genuine desire to be on the team at all times
26. Rockets should help to build team chemistry and help to promote positive character traits and respect.
27. Rockets should show responsibility and accountability for ALL actions.
28. Rockets are responsible for learning the game, the rules of the game, and the scoring method of the game.
29. Rockets should be aware of ALL deadlines (robot ship date, paperwork due date, money due dates, etc....)
30. Rockets should follow all instructions at all times and be attentive to the mentors. They know what they are doing!

**Students who are veterans (been with the team for 2 or more years) are expected to be Team Captains and be good role models for the rookie team members. These students should demonstrate noticeable improvement in performance and behavior. We build future Teams from the experience of the older members by passing their knowledge on to the younger members.

**Dress code for robot-building – (will be addressed at Safety Meeting) – no pants/jeans with holes and shirts must be tucked in. No unbuttoned shirts or long flowy sleeves. No flip-flops or open-toed shoes in shops! Students and mentors will be required to sit in on a Safety Training prior to going into any Career Technical Shop/Class.

**Maintain clean social media etiquette at all times!!

Any student who fails to adhere to these guidelines will be disciplined in a manner that is consistent with the offense. All mentors will have a “vote” in the punishment.

PLEASE NOTE: If a student is suspended from the team for discipline, he will not be allowed to travel to ANY event for that year and his/her money will not be refunded.

Rockets are expected to be role models to the entire community. If a student exhibits a discipline problem while a member of the Rockets Robotics Team 34, they will be on probation for the remainder of their time on the team...not just for that school year. This could also affect the chances of even making the Robotics team the following school year.

Rockets Team Member Contract

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read the Handbook, Behavior and Discipline Contract, and Attendance Policy describing the Rocket Robotics Team and FIRST Robotics and agree to abide by all policies.

TEAM MEMBER SIGNATURE _____ Date _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____ Phone # _____ Date _____