

What is a FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) team?

A FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) team is a group of high school students, mentors, and volunteers who collaborate to design, build, and compete with a robot in an annual robotics competition organized by FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology).

Who can participate on our FRC team?

Our team is open to all PMHS students in grades 8-12 from various backgrounds and of any skill level. Teams are encouraged to foster diversity and inclusion, welcoming students with an interest in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics).

Do I need prior experience in robotics or engineering to join an FRC team?

No prior experience is necessary. FRC teams like ours have members with a wide range of skills and backgrounds. Industry professionals volunteering as mentors and experienced team members provide training and guidance to new students.

How much does it cost to participate on an FRC team?

Participation is completely free for all team members. Travel to competition may come with some expenses, but we fundraise as a team to offset these costs. It is the goal of team leadership that cost is never a barrier to student participation at competition. If you are in need of financial assistance for a specific travel cost, please contact Mr. E.

What is the time commitment for participating on an FRC team?

The time commitment can vary significantly depending on the level of involvement. During Preseason, which spans from September through December, students should expect to attend 2 meetings on a weekly basis. During Build Season, which takes place over 6 consecutive weeks from January to mid-February, students should expect to meet twice a week and most Saturdays. If your student attends competitions, they may miss days of school and travel overnight. Travel to competition is a school field trip, recorded as an excused absence.

What are the benefits of participating on an FRC team?

Participating on an FRC team offers numerous benefits, including:

- Developing STEM skills and knowledge.
- Gaining hands-on experience in engineering and robotics.
- Building problem-solving and teamwork skills.
- Access to college and career opportunities through connections with mentors and sponsors.
- Building a strong sense of community and friendship with team members.
- The chance to compete at regional, national, and even international levels.

What is the annual FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) season like?

Each year, FRC teams are given a new game challenge and a set of rules. Teams have six weeks to design, build, and program a robot to compete in this challenge. The competition involves two alliances of three teams each competing against one another in a large arena where they complete game-specific tasks.

What roles can your student take on within an FRC team?

FRC teams have a variety of roles, including robot design and construction, programming, strategy development, marketing, outreach, and leadership. Your students can choose a role that matches their interests and skills.

Can FRC participation lead to scholarships or college opportunities?

Yes, many colleges and universities offer scholarships to FRC team members. FIRST has partnerships with many institutions that provide financial incentives to students who have participated in their programs, including over \$80 million in scholarships.

Participating in a FIRST Robotics Competition team can be a transformative experience that not only deepens our students' understanding of STEM but also fosters valuable life skills and connections. It's an exciting and rewarding journey for students interested in robotics and technology.

www.firstinspires.org

Videos about FRC:

[*About FIRST Robotics Competition \(3:34\)*](#)

[*FIRST Robotics Competition Is... \(3:35\)*](#)

[*Roboleague Documentary \(49:35\)*](#)

