

Robotics Team Ultraviolet Seeks Mentors

Who This Is For

This message is for all WPS teachers and staff, including principals, office staff, librarians, coaches, school nurses, food services, IT support, etc.

Who We Are

We are the Wellesley High School Robotics Team, [Team Ultraviolet](#)! This is our 4th year and we have 30+ members, ranging from 9th grade to 12th grade. We build a robot every spring and enter the [FIRST Robotics Competition](#) as FRC#8567. Last December we were invited to the Massachusetts State House to demonstrate our robot and speak to legislators about the impact of robotics funding from bills H.577 and S.360.

What We Are Looking For

We are looking for adults who would like to volunteer as mentors for our team. Both non-technical and technical help is greatly appreciated! Mentors help us either by monitoring build sessions to ensure safety, or guiding us technically in the area of science, technology, engineering, design, math, business and presentation. Currently our mentors are parents, teachers, engineers from tech companies in the surrounding area, and WHS alumni. Robot building takes a considerable amount of manpower. Last year it took us 250+hrs to build a robot that qualified for the New England district final. Therefore we are always looking for more mentors to join us.

Why You May Be Interested

As a robotics team mentor, you can work with passionate, creative, and hardworking high school students. You get an insider look of how a robot is built from start to finish. You get exposure to cool technologies, such as CAD (computer aided design), robot parts fabrication on CNC machines, and robot vision implementation through JavaScript. If you are interested in STEM, or you have kids/grandkids who are into STEM, you are likely to be very interested in seeing how students learn from hands-on engineering practice. If you are a STEAM teacher, you will want to see how your students apply classroom knowledge to robotics.

How Does It Work

We run robot build sessions on weekday late afternoons and evenings, and Saturday afternoons from January to March. Mentors sign up to monitor the build sessions as much or as little as you want. You can help in two ways:

1. Session Monitors -- You need no technical experience. Your role is primarily for the safety of the students, as we need adults present at all times.
2. Technical Mentors -- You also monitor sessions, but you have a technical background that aligns with our tech teams: Software, Mechanical, and Electrical, CAD, design, business and construction. The mentor role is called such because adult mentors adopt a mindset that they are there to learn with the students, explicitly not to be an expert and tell them what to do or to do the work for them. Instead, mentors help students learn by doing, and provide guidance and support that reinforces their curiosity.

If you are interested in more details on being a mentor, please feel free to contact me at sharonxsun@hotmail.com. I will be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Sharon Sun
Mentor Coordinator
Wellesley Robotics Team - FRC Team Ultraviolet #8567
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