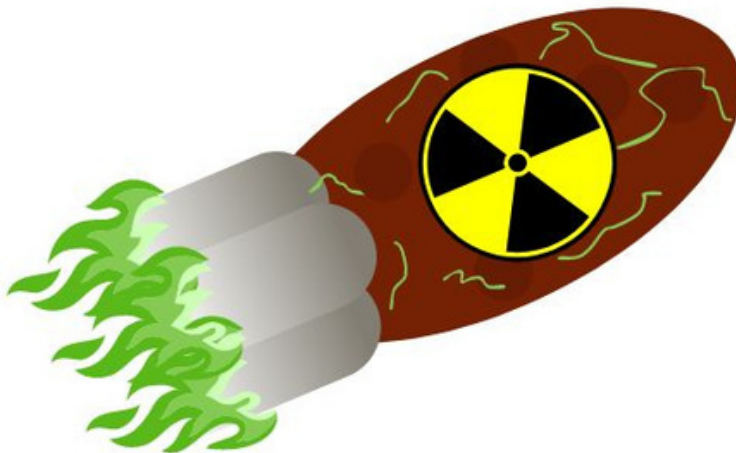


Reboot Robotics



Nuclear Space Potatoes TEAM # 25655

N.S.P



FIRST Tech Challenge
2026-2027
Team Handbook

Nuclear Space Potatoes

FTC Team #25655

Team Handbook

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About The Handbook

This handbook is designed to provide team members and their families with a clear understanding of what it means to be part of the team. It outlines our mission, expectations, season structure, and the core values of FIRST. Whether you're new or returning, this guide will serve as a valuable resource throughout the season, ensuring everyone is informed, prepared, and aligned with the goals of the team.

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Welcome

We're thrilled to welcome both returning and new members as we begin our third year of learning, challenge, and innovation. Over the past two seasons, our team has grown in skill, confidence, and unity—and this year, we're ready to take things even further as we continue to design, build, and compete with purpose.

Reboot Robotics is a faith-based nonprofit dedicated to empowering homeschooled youth in southwest Missouri through hands-on robotics education. Rooted in Christian values, our mission is to provide a supportive environment where students can explore the exciting world of robotics while developing critical thinking, creativity, and teamwork skills. We aim to inspire innovation and growth while operating on a strong biblical foundation and serving families in Polk, St. Clair, Cedar, Hickory, Henry, and neighboring counties.

FIRST Tech Challenge may not involve running laps or scoring touchdowns, but make no mistake—this is a sport for the mind. Through brainstorming, planning, building, coding, and presenting, our team members face challenges that are as intense and rewarding as any traditional sport. Every meeting is practice. Every challenge is a chance to grow. Every competition is a celebration of what we've learned—together.

This Team Handbook is your guide to the Nuclear Space Potatoes experience—a field guide filled with everything you need to know as we continue this adventure together.

As we launch into our third season, we're excited to build on what we've learned, strengthen our skills, and continue to glorify God through excellence, perseverance, and integrity.

Here's to another season of discovery, teamwork, and purpose-driven innovation. Go Nuclear Space Potatoes!

With enthusiasm,
The Reboot Robotics Team

Contact Information:
info@rebootrobotics.org

Lead Coach:
Nicole Neeld
nicole@rebootrobotics.org
317-372-0711

About FIRST and FTC

About FIRST

FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1989 by inventor Dean Kamen to inspire young people to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Working alongside MIT professor Woodie Flowers, Kamen created a program that combined the excitement of sports with the challenge of real-world engineering. FIRST isn't just about robots—it's about teamwork, innovation, and personal growth. Students learn valuable skills like critical thinking, communication, and project management, all in a fun and supportive environment. FIRST rewards not just technical excellence, but also Gracious Professionalism®, teamwork, and perseverance.

Today, FIRST has grown into a global movement reaching hundreds of thousands of students each year through age-appropriate programs:

- FIRST LEGO League (FLL) – PreK to Grade 8
- FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) – Grades 7–12
- FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) – Grades 9–12

To learn more, visit firstinspires.org.

About FIRST Tech Challenge

FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) is a competitive STEM program for students in grades 7–12 that combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. In FTC, teams design, build, and program mid-sized robots to compete in head-to-head alliance-style matches on a themed game field.

Each season challenges students to:

- Apply advanced engineering and programming concepts
- Develop strategic thinking and problem-solving skills
- Collaborate in a team-based environment
- Innovate and iterate under real-world constraints
- Compete with professionalism, respect, and integrity

Teams are also judged on their Engineering Portfolio, community outreach, innovation, and how well they embody the FIRST Core Values: Discovery, Innovation, Impact, Inclusion, Teamwork, and Fun.

FTC prepares students not just for competition—but for college, careers, and life. It's more than robots—it's about learning to lead, fail forward, and pursue excellence with purpose.

FIRST Code of Conduct for Program Activities

The FIRST mission is to inspire a generation of science and technology leaders who are both gracious and professional. This FIRST Code of Conduct lists some of the basic behaviors mentors, coaches, volunteers, team members, affiliate partners, contractors, staff, and other participants should adhere to while participating in FIRST activities.

- Exhibit Gracious Professionalism® at all times. Gracious Professionalism is a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. With Gracious Professionalism, fierce competition and mutual gain are not separate notions.
- Ensure the safety of all participants in FIRST activities.
- Not engage in any form of bullying, harassment, use of profane or insulting language, or any actual or threatened violence.
- Adhere to all FIRST Youth Protection Program (YPP) policies.
- Report any unsafe behavior to event or local FIRST leadership.

Persons who do not comply with this Code of Conduct may be barred from participating in FIRST activities.

FIRST Core Values

We express the FIRST philosophies of Gracious Professionalism and Coopertition through our Core Values:

- Discovery: We explore new skills and ideas.
- Innovation: We use creativity and persistence to solve problems.
- Impact: We apply what we learn to improve our world.
- Inclusion: We respect each other and embrace our differences.
- Teamwork: We are stronger when we work together.
- Fun: We enjoy and celebrate what we do!

About Reboot Robotics

Reboot Robotics is a faith-based homeschool robotics organization that empowers students to explore STEM through hands-on learning, guided mentorship, and Christ-centered values. Founded with the belief that robotics can be both deeply educational and deeply fun, Reboot Robotics exists to help students grow not only in technical skill, but also in confidence, character, and community.

We view robotics as a tool for glorifying God through creativity, teamwork, and perseverance—preparing students to be thoughtful innovators and leaders both in and beyond the world of technology.

Through programs like FIRST Tech Challenge, we aim to inspire students to engage deeply with science and engineering while upholding values rooted in faith, integrity, and excellence.

To learn more, visit rebootrobotics.org.

Reboot Robotics

Statement of Faith

Reboot Robotics exists to glorify God through competitive robotics. Our policies and expectations for students and families are based on Christian principles.

Therefore:

- We believe there is only one true God who eternally exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- We believe Jesus Christ is fully God and fully human, that He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, and willingly gave His life on the cross as an atonement for our sins.
- We believe in Jesus Christ's resurrection and ascension.
- We believe in the sanctity of marriage and that it is between one man and one woman.
- We believe God created each of us in His image as male or female and that we are perfectly created and loved by God.

As part of our team culture, **practices and competitions may include prayer**, led by coaches, mentors, or student volunteers.

Our Key Verse: Romans 12

Living Sacrifices to God

12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Serve God with Spiritual Gifts

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Behave Like a Christian

9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Reboot Robotics is a 501(c)(3)

Reboot Robotics is recognized as a nonprofit under IRS Section 501(c)(3).

Contributions to our program are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

EIN: 99-3794115

Established: 2024

Website: www.rebootrobotics.org

Email: info@rebootrobotics.org

Reboot Robotics

Code of Honor

As a Christian team we strive to honor God through competitive robotics; therefore as a **Robotics team** we believe:

- Behave in a manner that is honoring to God.
- All teams, mentors, coaches, referees, judges, and volunteers deserve to be treated with respect and kindness.
- Our behavior on and off the field cannot be separated and should reflect our beliefs.
- Doing our best is the only option.

As **Students**, because of our beliefs we will:

- Compete fiercely within the rules of the game, spirit of fair play, and have fun.
- Be present for all matches, even if our robot is not functional.
- Never lie about the status or ability of our robot.
- Handle disagreements and disputes in a civil manner.
- Compete with a student-designed and student-built robot.
- Always be willing to learn.
- Contribute to the team.
- Practice safety with all tools and machines.
- Be a team player and work cooperatively.

As **Mentors and Parents**, because of our beliefs we will:

- Set an example of integrity in all we do.
- Develop character and integrity in our students.
- Encourage and expect students to do their best at all times.
- Guide, teach, facilitate, and encourage but never dictate.
- Allow the students to make decisions and direct the course of the team.
- Provide hands-on assistance only when it cannot be provided by another team member.

This Code of Honor is not just what we will do; it is the **core of what Reboot Robotics represents**. We will consistently uphold this code, regardless of the behavior of others. It will be enforced through the strength of our character, and we ask that you hold Reboot Robotics students, mentors, and parents accountable to its tenets.

Team Overview

The Nuclear Space Potatoes is Reboot Robotics' FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) team, entering its third competitive season in 2026–2027. **While FTC is open to students in grades 7–12, Reboot Robotics reserves participation for high school students (with occasional exceptions for mature 7th–8th graders who have completed at least one full season on our FLL team).** This decision reflects the advanced level of critical thinking, problem-solving, and technical skill required for the program. Our goal is to ensure students are well-prepared for the demands of the challenge and positioned to contribute meaningfully to the team's success.

The team consists of homeschooled high school students (typically ages 14–18, grades 9–12) who work together to design, build, and program a metal-frame competition robot, develop an engineering portfolio, and engage in real-world innovation through hands-on collaboration.

Participation in the FTC team is **by invitation only**. Reboot Robotics requires students to complete at least one season in FIRST LEGO League (FLL) before being considered. If a student is new to Reboot Robotics and is already beyond the age eligibility for FLL, they may still apply by submitting an application and completing an interview. If the coaches and team choose to move forward, the student begins with a **six-week trial period**, allowing both the student and Reboot Robotics to ensure the team is a good mutual fit before final placement is confirmed.

To maintain a focused learning environment and provide strong mentorship, the team is intentionally kept smaller—no more than 10 to 12 students, even though FIRST allows up to 15. If interest exceeds capacity, Reboot Robotics may consider forming additional FTC teams.

As we enter our third season, the focus is on building upon past growth—strengthening teamwork, advancing STEM skills, growing in faith, and continuing to push the boundaries of innovation. Through engineering, coding, and competition, students will grow as thinkers, collaborators, and leaders while upholding the FIRST Core Values of Discovery, Innovation, Impact, Inclusion, Teamwork, and Fun.

While coaches and volunteers guide and support the team, family involvement remains vital. For more information on how families contribute to the team's success, please refer to the **Parent/Guardian Expectations** section of this handbook.

Team Structure and Roles

Each Reboot Robotics FTC team will consist of **no more than 12 high school students** and will be supported by **2 adult coaches**, with additional mentors or volunteers as needed. Due to the complexity of FIRST Tech Challenge, students are expected to take on **specialized roles** while also maintaining a collaborative mindset, participating in all aspects of the team, and showing a willingness to learn outside their comfort zone.

Student Roles

Each student will take on one or more specialized roles and is expected to participate in all aspects of the team's work. Roles may rotate and often overlap to promote a collaborative, well-rounded experience.

- Team Captain – Manages team workflow, communication, and task delegation; acts as a liaison between students and coaches. May rotate or be shared.
- Mechanical Engineer / Builder – Designs and builds the robot's structural and mechanical systems using metal framing and FTC components.
- Programmer – Writes and tests Blocks or Java code for autonomous and driver-controlled modes.
- CAD Designer – Uses 3D modeling software to digitally prototype robot parts before fabrication.
- Electronics Lead – Manages wiring, sensors, control hubs, and overall power system configuration.
- Driver – Controls the robot during matches, requiring strong coordination and communication.
- Drive Coach – Provides real-time strategy and feedback to the driver during matches, ensuring team tactics are executed.
- Strategy Lead – Interprets game rules, analyzes scoring opportunities, and scouts opposing teams to shape match strategy.
- Scouter – Observes other teams during matches to collect data on robot performance, strategies, and alliance potential.
- Notebook/Portfolio Manager – Maintains the Engineering Portfolio with clear documentation of the team's design process, coding, testing, and decisions.
- Marketing & Fundraising – Leads branding, fundraising, and community outreach to promote the team and support financial needs.

Most students will collaborate across multiple areas as needed, and all members are expected to engage in team meetings, brainstorming sessions, testing, and competition preparation.

Coaches, Mentors, & Volunteers

Coaches, mentors, and volunteers are present to guide and equip students—not to take over their work. Their responsibilities include:

- Asking questions that promote problem-solving and critical thinking
- Teaching and mentoring in specific skill areas
- Facilitating collaboration, communication, and conflict resolution
- Encouraging professionalism and upholding the values of FIRST and Reboot Robotics
- Ensuring safety and a productive learning environment

Season Overview

Participating in FTC is a dynamic, **year-round** journey filled with engineering challenges, innovation, and teamwork. Like any sport or competitive team, FTC requires a strong time commitment that enables students to contribute meaningfully, grow through hands-on experience, and work toward shared goals.

Season Rhythm & Timeline

Unlike seasonal programs, FTC runs year-round with key phases:

Post/Pre-Season (May–August, or following the conclusion of official competition events if non-advancement)

- Lighter, mostly optional meetings (may not be weekly)
- Evaluate the previous season and set goals for the year
- Focus on skill-building, team bonding, and specialized training
- Participate in off-season projects and scrimmages
- Engage in outreach events, workshops, and fundraising

Season Kickoff (September)

- Official game reveal and kickoff events

Build and Programming Phase (September–December, with Meets starting in November)

- Begin strategy sessions and planning
- Design, prototype, build, and program the competition robot
- Develop and maintain the engineering portfolio with documented progress
- Practice drive team roles and coordinate competition readiness

Qualifier Events and Tournaments (Typically January–April)

- Compete in local qualifier events
- If qualified, advance to Super Qualifier, Regional, and possibly FIRST Championship events
- Continuously iterate on robot performance and documentation between events

Other Events

Throughout the year, students may also have the opportunity to participate in:

- **Community Outreach** – Engage with the public at STEM events and demonstrations as part of our mission to inspire and serve
- **Fundraising Activities** – Assist with events that support team sustainability and develop real-world communication skills
- **End-of-Season Celebration** – A fun team gathering to celebrate achievements and recognize each student's contributions

While many of these are highlighted in the season timeline, this section serves as a reminder that these events help enrich the team experience and are encouraged when student availability allows.

Time Commitment

Weekly Schedule

FTC is a year-round program that requires consistent participation and increased time investment as the season progresses. The Nuclear Space Potatoes meet **once per week on Mondays from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM**, beginning with the first meeting of the season on July 20, 2026. Meeting schedules may vary during the post/pre-season.

Additional time or meetings may occasionally be scheduled during critical phases, such as:

- Extended build and coding sessions
- Drive team practice
- Tournament preparation

Work Outside Meetings

Students are also expected to contribute outside of meetings by:

- Completing assigned homework
 - **Including required and essential reading of the Competition Manual**
- Researching and developing ideas
- Explore and learn from other teams' robots, matches, and strategies, and study the game rules to inspire ideas and build understanding outside of meetings
- Practicing specialized skills (e.g., coding, driving, CAD)
- Assisting with engineering portfolio documentation
- Supporting marketing, fundraising, and outreach efforts

This deeper commitment reflects the level of challenge in FTC and helps ensure meaningful growth in STEM skills and team collaboration.

Attendance & Commitment

Consistent attendance is essential. FTC teams are small and highly collaborative, and each member's regular presence directly impacts the team's overall progress and success.

Students are expected to attend **at least 80% of scheduled meetings**. This ensures all members stay engaged, informed, and prepared for competition.

We understand that family and academic obligations may arise. However, we ask families to carefully consider this time commitment before applying. Every student's presence matters—for their own development and for the success of the entire team.

Competition Overview

The **FTC competition is a thrilling and challenging experience** where teams put their engineering, programming, and collaboration skills to the test. Students will showcase their custom-built robot and demonstrate their ability to work as a unified team through both judged evaluations and performance-based events.

FTC competitions include several key elements:

- **Robot Matches** – Teams compete in 2v2 alliance matches, earning points by completing tasks during both autonomous and driver-controlled periods.
- **Judging Sessions** – Teams present their Engineering Portfolio and share highlights of their design, coding, outreach, and teamwork. Judges assess innovation, strategy, and professionalism.
- **Team Interviews** – Judges may ask follow-up questions about technical decisions and how the team demonstrates FIRST Core Values like Gracious Professionalism.
- **Awards & Advancement** – Teams can earn awards for excellence in design, innovation, outreach, and more. Advancement is based on both match performance and judged awards.

Competition Season Progression:

- **League Meets** – Smaller, informal events focused on match play only. These provide valuable experience, and a team's top 10 match scores along with ranking points determine their league ranking.
- **Qualifier Tournament** – The team's primary judged competition, where they compete for awards and a chance to advance.
- **Super Qualifiers / Regionals / Championship** – For teams who qualify beyond the initial level.

Expectations for Competition Day:

Team members are expected to:

- Arrive on time and stay with the team throughout the event
- Bring all required materials (robot, tools, batteries, portfolio, safety glasses, etc.)
- Participate fully in all parts of the competition
- Represent Reboot Robotics with professionalism and integrity
- Wear team apparel and follow all safety rules (e.g., closed-toe shoes, hair tied back, safety glasses)
- Encourage and support teammates and other teams with Gracious Professionalism

Team Behavior and Expectations

Being part of an FTC team is not just about building robots—it's about building character, collaboration, and a culture of respect. The Nuclear Space Potatoes are committed to working together in a way that reflects both the values of FIRST and the mission of Reboot Robotics. The guidelines below are designed to ensure a safe, positive, and productive environment for all.

All team members are expected to:

- **Show respect to coaches, volunteers, teammates, and competitors** at all times. This includes listening attentively, following directions, and responding with kindness and consideration.
- **Demonstrate Gracious Professionalism®**, especially during challenges or disagreements, by maintaining a positive and respectful attitude.
- **Actively engage in all meetings, discussions, and competitions** by contributing ideas, helping with tasks, and supporting team goals.
 - Students who do not participate will receive **one warning**; if engagement does not improve, they will be **asked to leave the meeting**, and repeated instances could lead to **possible removal from the team**.
- **Conduct themselves responsibly**—horseplay, roughhousing, or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself at all times.
- **Respect all tools, equipment, and materials** by using them appropriately, keeping workspaces organized, and cleaning up after each session. Report any damage to a coach immediately; students may be responsible for replacement if the situation warrants it.
- **Bring only necessary items** to meetings and competitions. Cell phones and personal electronics are not permitted during team activities unless needed for parent contact or team-related photos/videos.
- **Use respectful language and behavior** at all times. Inappropriate or foul language will not be tolerated in any team setting. Slang should also be avoided, as not everyone may understand its meaning and it can create confusion or discomfort.
- **Report accidents or broken items** to a coach or mentor immediately—don't wait for someone else to find them.
- **Follow all safety guidelines**, including wearing closed-toed shoes, tying back long hair, and using safety goggles when necessary.

- **Uphold Reboot Robotics' Zero-Tolerance policies:**
 - **No drug or substance use:** Any possession or use of drugs, alcohol, or controlled substances is strictly prohibited during all team activities. Any student found in violations of this policy will be immediately removed from the team.
 - **No harassment or bullying:** Harassment of any kind, including sexual harassment, verbal, physical, or digital is strictly prohibited. Any student found engaging in harassment will face disciplinary action, which may include removal from the team, depending on the severity of the incident.
- **Represent Reboot Robotics and the Nuclear Space Potatoes well** at all times, especially in public settings. Team members are ambassadors of our organization and our shared values.
- **Wear appropriate clothing**—team apparel is required during competitions, and clothing during team activities must not include inappropriate language or images and must provide appropriate coverage.

We believe that a respectful, encouraging, and Christ-centered environment helps everyone grow—not just in STEM, but in leadership, responsibility, and faith.

Disciplinary Policy

At Reboot Robotics, we believe in creating a respectful, Christ-centered environment where students can grow in both technical skill and character. Team expectations are designed to ensure safety, teamwork, and a positive experience for everyone. When a student struggles to meet these expectations, we use a **tiered consequence system** to support learning and accountability while maintaining team integrity.

The following outlines the process for addressing repeated or serious misconduct:

1. **First Warning (Verbal)**

- The student will receive a verbal warning from a coach.
- The behavior will be discussed directly and respectfully to encourage reflection and improvement.
- No formal documentation or parent contact is required unless the issue is serious.

2. **Second Warning (Parent Notification)**

- If the behavior continues, a second warning will be issued.
- The student's parent/guardian will be notified and informed of the concern.
- This will include a brief summary of the behavior, steps already taken, and expectations moving forward.

3. **Third Incident (Activity Removal + Suspension from Next Meeting)**

- The student will be removed from the current activity and will not be permitted to attend the next scheduled team meeting or event.
- If there are **three instances of removal** over the course of the season, a parent/guardian meeting will be scheduled to determine whether continuing on the team is appropriate.
- This meeting may result in **permanent removal from the team** if robotics is no longer deemed a good fit for the student.

Note: In cases of serious misconduct—such as harassment, unsafe behavior, or violation of zero-tolerance policies—steps may be skipped, and removal may be immediate. Additionally, active participation in meetings and competitions is handled differently: students receive one warning for non-engagement, will be asked to leave a meeting if it continues, and repeated instances could result in possible removal from the team.

All disciplinary actions are handled with grace and fairness, with the goal of encouraging personal growth, responsibility, and reconciliation when possible. However, the safety, integrity, unity, and productivity of the team must always come first.

Parent/Guardian Expectations

Reboot Robotics is an organization for homeschoolers that relies on strong family involvement to make our programs successful. Parent and guardian support is not only encouraged—it is essential to the success of each student and the team as a whole.

As a parent or guardian of a Nuclear Space Potatoe, you are expected to:

- **Commit to consistent student attendance** by ensuring your child is on time, prepared, and present for all scheduled meetings, events, and competitions.
- **Read and stay informed** about team communications, including emails, group updates, and this handbook, so you are aware of deadlines, expectations, and events.
- **Support team activities** by volunteering during the season as needed. This may include helping during practices, assisting with event coordination, or serving as a chaperone during competitions. Based on team size, **parents may also be asked to volunteer at regular meetings on a rotating basis** to ensure proper supervision and support.
- **Provide transportation for your student** to and from all meetings, practices, and competitions. Travel is the sole responsibility of each family and will not be provided by Reboot Robotics or the team.
- **Be available for communication** if your student needs to be picked up early or if concerns arise during a meeting or event.
- **Reinforce team values at home**, such as respect, teamwork, responsibility, and commitment. These values help create a unified experience between team time and home life.
- **Communicate proactively** with coaches if your student will be absent or is experiencing any challenges that may affect participation. If you have questions, concerns, or complaints, please bring them **directly to the coaches** in a respectful and timely manner. We value transparency and kindness, and believe issues should be addressed openly—not through behind-the-scenes drama or gossip.

We believe that robotics is most meaningful when it's a family experience. Your support helps your student grow—not just in STEM, but in confidence, accountability, and community.

We ask that parents model the same respectful and cooperative behavior expected of students. Reboot Robotics maintains a culture of unity, encouragement, and grace. **Ongoing gossip, divisiveness, or disruptive behavior from a parent or guardian—whether toward other families, coaches, or the program—will not be tolerated.** If such behavior arises and cannot be resolved through respectful conversation, it may result in the **removal of the student and family from the team.** Maintaining a positive, drama-free environment is essential to the well-being of **every** participant.

Communication and Contact Guidelines

Clear, respectful communication is essential to keeping our team organized, unified, and thriving. To ensure everyone stays informed and connected throughout the season, we ask both families and coaches to follow these communication guidelines:

Team Communication

- **Primary communication will happen via email.** Please be sure to check your email regularly and respond promptly when needed.
- **Reminders and last-minute updates will be sent via a team group text.**
- A **private Facebook group** will be used to share weekly updates and photos for families and friends to follow along with the team's progress.
- **A shared Google Calendar will be provided**, which will be updated throughout the season as meeting times, events, and competition dates are confirmed.

Contacting Coaches

- Parents and students are welcome to contact coaches directly via email or text for questions, concerns, or scheduling needs.
- **Please do not use team meetings or events for airing major concerns or grievances.** These discussions are best handled privately and respectfully. **If needed, a phone call or meeting can be scheduled** to address the issue thoughtfully and constructively.
- We encourage **open and honest communication** and value direct, Christlike conversation. If something is unclear or concerning, please talk to us early—**not through side conversations or group messaging.**

Student Communication

- Students should also practice good communication. If they're going to miss a meeting, need help, or have a question, they are encouraged to speak with a coach directly.
- As high school students, FTC team members are expected to develop professional communication habits. They should regularly check team communications—including email and the team text group—and respond to coaches, mentors, and teammates in a respectful and timely manner.
 - Coaches will primarily communicate with students via text and email through the team group, and parents will receive less direct communication at this level as students are responsible for keeping their families informed about team activities and updates.

We're here to support one another—and clear, kind communication is the foundation for a great team experience!

Health and Illness Policy

To protect the health of our students, families, and volunteers, we ask that students **stay home if they are feeling unwell**. This includes symptoms such as fever, persistent cough, vomiting, diarrhea, or other signs of illness.

- Please do **not** send your child to a meeting or event if they have had a fever within the last 24 hours or are actively showing symptoms of illness.
- Notify the coaches if your student will be absent due to illness.
- If a student begins to feel unwell during a meeting, a parent/guardian will be contacted and asked to pick them up promptly.

We understand that illnesses can arise unexpectedly. We appreciate your help in keeping our team healthy.

Fundraising

As a nonprofit, Reboot Robotics depends on the generosity and involvement of its families and community to help fund programs, materials, and opportunities for students. **Fundraising is a vital part of keeping our robotics program affordable and sustainable.**

We ask that all families actively support our fundraising efforts. This may include:

- Participating in scheduled fundraisers during the season
- Helping plan or organize fundraising events
- Reaching out to local businesses or community members for donations or sponsorships
- Sharing fundraising efforts with extended family and friends

Fundraisers will be organized throughout the season and year, and your involvement makes a significant difference. Every effort helps ensure that Reboot Robotics can continue to grow, serve more students, and expand what we offer in the future.

We appreciate your help in making this program possible—not only for your student, but for future families as well.

Team Fees

As a homeschool organization, Reboot Robotics is committed to providing a high-quality robotics experience while keeping costs accessible for families. To support this, each student is required to pay an **application fee** for the season.

Application Fee

- The **application fee for the 2026-2027 season is \$200 for the first student.**
- Each **additional student in the same family will be \$150.**
- This fee helps cover:
 - Team registration, fees, and expenses
 - Team t-shirt
 - Team equipment and supplies used throughout the season
- The application fee is **non-refundable.**
- Fees are due by the first meeting of the season on July 20, 2026, unless other arrangements are made in advance. **Payment plans can be arranged if needed**—please speak with a coach privately.

Additional Expenses

Families are responsible for:

- **Travel costs** to and from meetings, competitions, and events
- **Food and beverages** for their student at competitions or full-day events

We aim to keep costs low while offering a rich and engaging experience. If the application fee presents a financial hardship, please reach out to a coach privately. We want every student to have the opportunity to participate

Other Notes

Supporting All Participants

At Reboot Robotics, we desire to make robotics accessible and meaningful for all homeschoolers who are passionate about participating. While our volunteer coaches are not trained professionals in neurodivergent support or special education, we are committed to creating an inclusive and encouraging team environment.

If your student has specific learning needs, sensory sensitivities, or other support requirements, **we must be made aware at the time of application**. This allows us to plan appropriately and ensure that the season is a positive and productive experience for everyone.

We are happy to make reasonable accommodations where possible and will work closely with families to support student success. In some cases, we may request that a parent or guardian remain with their student during meetings to assist with needs that our volunteer team is not equipped to manage on their own.

Our goal is to support every student with grace, structure, and creativity—within the scope of what our program can realistically provide.

Volunteering with FIRST

In addition to supporting your student's involvement with Reboot Robotics, we encourage parents and guardians to consider volunteering directly with FIRST if time allows.

FIRST events and programs rely heavily on the support of volunteers to create a positive experience for all participants. Volunteering is a great way to become more involved in the robotics community, to serve alongside your student, and to support the values we are working to build.

There are many opportunities available, from judging and refereeing to event coordination and logistics. No technical experience is necessary—just a willingness to serve and learn!

If you are interested, information about volunteering will be shared throughout the season, or you can explore opportunities directly at www.firstinspires.org/volunteer.

Forms and Agreements

To ensure each student is prepared to participate and that all families understand the expectations of the team, the following forms are required. **Applications may be submitted beginning March 1, 2026, and must be submitted by June 30, 2026:**

Required Forms (submitted to Reboot Robotics)

- Student Application
- Student Questionnaire
- Handbook Acknowledgment & Agreement
- Photo, Video and Social Media Release Form

Submission Instructions

- The Student Application can be submitted through the contact form on our website at www.rebootrobotics.org/contact.

FIRST Dashboard Requirements

- Additional digital forms (including the **FIRST Consent & Release**) must be completed through the **FIRST dashboard**. A coach will guide families through the FIRST registration process during the first team meetings.

Important Notes

- **All Reboot Robotics forms must be submitted before a student may participate in any team meetings or events.**
- FIRST dashboard requirements should be completed as soon as instructed, with coach support available.
- Submitting an application does not guarantee placement on the team. Families will receive confirmation when the application is received. Students will be notified via email no later than July 13, 2026 (and possibly sooner) whether they have been accepted onto the team.

If you have questions about any form or need help completing them, please reach out. We're happy to walk you through the process.

Closing Statement

We're excited for another dynamic season with your student as part of the Nuclear Space Potatoes and the broader Reboot Robotics community. As we enter our third year in FIRST Tech Challenge, this handbook is designed to provide guidance, clarity, and shared expectations so we can move forward together with purpose and unity.

This season will challenge us with new opportunities for learning—from advanced design and coding to strategic thinking and teamwork. Through it all, our goal remains the same: to grow in character, capability, and collaboration, honoring God in everything we do.

Thank you for entrusting us with your student's robotics journey and for partnering with us to create something meaningful. We look forward to a season filled with innovation, growth, perseverance, and impact—for His glory.

Let's build boldly—together.

Reboot Robotics Student Application

FTC 2026-2027 Season

Student Information:

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Grade (2026–2027 school year): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Student Phone Number (if applicable): _____

Student Email Address (if applicable): _____

Allergies or medical conditions: _____

Parent/Guardian Information:

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Relationship to Student: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email Address: _____

Additional Information:

Does your student have any learning differences, sensory needs, or other conditions we should be aware of?

Yes No

If yes, please explain briefly:

5. Do you have experience with any of the following? (Check all that apply)

- Building or tinkering with mechanical parts
- Coding (any language)
- Graphic design, writing, or presentation
- Fundraising or organizing events
- Public speaking or leadership
- Team sports or group activities
- Other: _____

6. Which of the following areas interest you most? (You can select more than one)

- Building the robot
- Programming
- CAD or 3D design
- Engineering documentation
- Team strategy
- Drive team
- Marketing or fundraising
- Public outreach and STEM advocacy
- Other: _____

7. Are you comfortable speaking in front of a group or sharing ideas with a team?

- Yes No I'm willing to try

8. What does being a good teammate mean to you?

Note: Submission of this application does not guarantee a spot on a Reboot Robotics team. Space is limited and placement is based on available openings, team structure, and readiness to meet team expectations.

Handbook Acknowledgment and Agreement

By signing below, we acknowledge that we have received, read, and understood the Reboot Robotics Team Handbook for the 2026-2027 season. We agree to abide by the expectations, policies, and commitments outlined in the handbook.

Parent and student: Please initial each statement below to indicate agreement.

- _____ We agree to uphold the values and standards of Reboot Robotics and the Nuclear Space Potatoes.
- _____ We agree to the Statement of Faith and understand that practices and events may include prayer.
- _____ We agree to follow the Code of Conduct & Code of Honor as provided with this application.
- _____ We understand the expectations for student behavior, attendance, and teamwork.
- _____ We understand and accept the parent/guardian responsibilities and communication guidelines.
- _____ We have read and understand the consequences for misconduct.
- _____ We acknowledge that the application fee is non-refundable.
- _____ We agree to support team fundraising efforts throughout the season and year.
- _____ We understand that accommodations may be made when possible, but Reboot Robotics is a volunteer-led program and not equipped to provide professional special education or behavioral support.
- _____ We understand that the student may not participate in team activities until all required Reboot Robotics forms are submitted.

We commit to fostering a positive, respectful, and Christ-centered environment for all members of the team.

Student Name:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Student Signature:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date: _____

Date: _____

Photo, Video and Social Media Release Form

Reboot Robotics 2026-2027 Season

Reboot Robotics may take photographs and videos of team members during meetings, events, competitions, and other team activities. These images and recordings may be used for the purpose of sharing team progress, celebrating achievements, and promoting the program to the wider community.

By signing below, I grant permission to Reboot Robotics to:

- Photograph and/or record my child during team activities.
- Use these photos or videos in team communications, such as newsletters, presentations, and team recap videos.
- Share these images or videos on Reboot Robotics' social media platforms, website, and printed materials.
- Include my child's first name only in captions or team highlights when appropriate.

I understand that these materials may be used without further notice, and that they will be used respectfully to represent the mission and values of Reboot Robotics.

Student's Full Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____