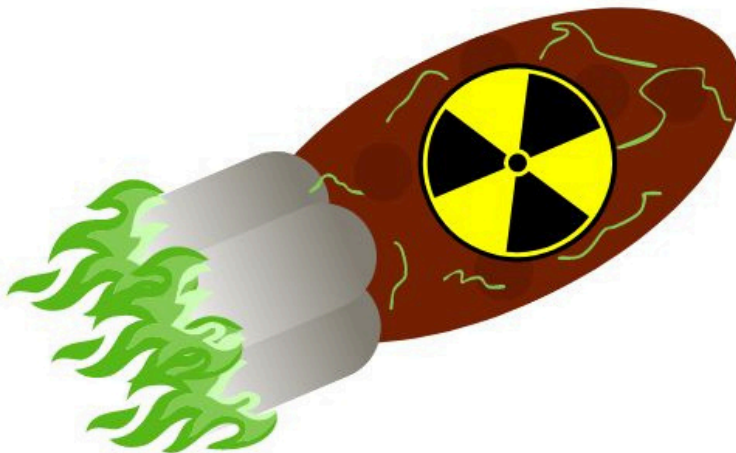


Reboot Robotics



Nuclear Space Potatoes

N.S.P



VEX V5
2026-2027
Team Handbook

Nuclear Space Potatoes

VEX V5 Team

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 VEX. 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—and our first season competing under the VEX platform. Over the past two seasons, our team has grown in skill, confidence, and unity, and this year we're excited to build on that foundation 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.

VEX V5 Robotics Competition 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 strategy, 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

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About VEX and VEX V5

About VEX Robotics

VEX Robotics is a leading educational robotics platform designed to inspire students through hands-on STEM learning, engineering, and competition. Through age-appropriate robotics systems and real-world challenges, VEX helps students develop valuable skills in problem-solving, collaboration, critical thinking, and innovation. VEX programs are used around the world in classrooms, clubs, and competitive robotics teams to make STEM learning engaging, accessible, and exciting. The broader VEX competition pathway is managed in partnership with the REC Foundation, which supports robotics competitions and STEM opportunities for students worldwide.

Today, the VEX pathway includes several age-appropriate programs:

- VEX 123 – Early elementary students
- VEX GO – Elementary students
- VEX IQ Robotics Competition – Elementary and middle school students
- VEX V5 Robotics Competition – Middle and high school students
- VEX U – College students

To learn more, visit vexrobotics.com and recf.org

About VEX V5 Robotics Competition

VEX V5 Robotics Competition is a hands-on STEM program designed for middle and high school students. Using a metal-based robotics system, students work together to design, build, code, and drive a competition robot to complete an annual game-based engineering challenge. Teams apply creativity, strategy, critical thinking, and technical problem-solving as they test ideas, refine mechanisms, and improve performance through iteration.

Through VEX V5, students learn how to:

- Think like engineers and problem-solvers
- Work collaboratively as a team
- Apply creativity and strategy to complex design challenges
- Build resilience through testing, mistakes, and improvement
- Compete with integrity, teamwork, and sportsmanship

Each season culminates in exciting competitions where teams participate in alliance matches, robot skills challenges, and often judging opportunities that highlight their design process, teamwork, communication, and engineering notebook. VEX V5 helps students grow not only in technical ability, but also in confidence, leadership, perseverance, and real-world STEM readiness.

REC Foundation Code of Conduct

Reboot Robotics participates in programs governed by the Robotics Education & Competition Foundation (REC Foundation), which emphasizes respectful behavior, integrity, sportsmanship, and student ownership in all aspects of competition.

All students, coaches, mentors, volunteers, parents, and guests are expected to demonstrate professionalism and respect during team meetings, outreach events, and competitions. This includes:

- Act with integrity, honesty, and reliability
- Behave in a respectful and professional manner with all event participants, attendees, and RECF staff members
- Exhibit maturity and professionalism when dealing with difficult and stressful situations
- Respect individual differences
- Respect the facility and equipment provided at an event
- Follow all rules as listed in the current game manual(s)
- Operate as student-centered teams according to the Student Centered Policy
- Prioritize safety in actions and design
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship, which includes supporting your alliance partners

Student-Centered Philosophy

One of the most important values in VEX is that teams must remain student-centered. This means students should take the lead in designing, building, programming, strategizing, and problem-solving.

Adults play an important role but that role is to teach, mentor, ask questions, and guide, not to do the work for students. Students learn best when they are given the opportunity to test ideas, make mistakes, improve, and grow through experience.

At Reboot Robotics, we are committed to maintaining a learning environment where students are encouraged to take ownership of their work while being supported by caring adults who help them succeed with integrity.

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 VEX V5, 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' VEX V5 Robotics Competition team, entering its third competitive season in 2026–2027 and its first season competing under the VEX platform. **This team is designed primarily for high school students, with occasional exceptions for mature 7th–8th grade students who have successfully completed at least one full season on our VEX IQ team and are ready for the increased commitment and advanced challenges of VEX V5.** Our goal is to ensure students are well-prepared for the demands of the program and positioned to contribute meaningfully to the team's success.

The team consists of homeschooled students ages 14–18 who work together to design, build, program, and drive a metal-based competition robot while developing engineering, strategy, leadership, and collaboration skills through hands-on experience.

Participation on the Nuclear Space Potatoes is **by invitation only**. Reboot Robotics requires students to complete at least one season on our VEX IQ robotics team before being considered. If a student is new to Reboot Robotics and is already beyond the age eligibility for our younger program, they may still apply by submitting an application and completing an interview. If the coaches and team choose to move forward, the student will begin with a **six-week trial period**, allowing both the student and Reboot Robotics to determine whether 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 small—4 to 6 students. If interest exceeds capacity, Reboot Robotics may consider forming additional VEX V5 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 grow as thinkers, collaborators, and leaders while developing perseverance, integrity, and real-world problem-solving skills.

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 VEX V5 team will consist of **4 to 6 students** and will be supported by **2 adult coaches**, with additional mentors or volunteers as needed. Due to the complexity of VEX V5 Robotics Competition, 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.
- **CAD Designer** – Uses 3D modeling software to digitally prototype robot parts or mechanisms before fabrication.
- **Mechanical Engineer / Builder** – Designs and builds the robot's structural and mechanical systems using metal framing and VEX V5 components.
- **Programmer** – Writes and tests code using VEXcode (Blocks, Python, or C++) for autonomous and driver-controlled functions.
- **Electronics Lead** – Manages wiring, motors, sensors, controllers, and overall robot electronics configuration.
- **Driver** – Controls the robot during matches and develops strong coordination, communication, and field awareness.
- **Drive Coach** – Provides real-time strategy and support to the driver during matches and helps guide in-game decision-making.
- **Strategy Lead** – Interprets game rules, analyzes scoring opportunities, and helps shape match strategy.
- **Scouter** – Observes other teams during matches to collect information on robot performance, strategy, and potential alliance strengths.
- **Engineering Notebook Manager** – Maintains the Engineering Notebook with clear documentation of the team's design process, coding, testing, and decisions.
- **Marketing & Fundraising** – Supports branding, fundraising, outreach, and public engagement to help promote the team and support program 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 modeling teamwork, integrity, and the values of Reboot Robotics
- Ensuring safety and a productive learning environment

Season Overview

Participating in VEX V5 is a dynamic, year-round journey filled with engineering challenges, innovation, strategy, and teamwork. Like any sport or competitive team, VEX V5 requires a meaningful time commitment that allows students to contribute consistently, grow through hands-on experience, and work toward shared goals.

Season Timeline

The VEX V5 season can run nearly year-round, and Reboot Robotics plans to structure the team accordingly for the 2026–2027 season. While the competition season has key milestones and active build periods, the team may also continue meeting beyond official events for skill-building, outreach, fundraising, and preparation for the next season. A summer break or lighter meeting schedule will likely occur, though exact timing may vary from year to year.

Key Milestones:

- **Game Reveal** – Announced at the end of the VEX V5 World Championship in late April
- **Team Meetings** – Begin at the end of July and continue weekly
- **Weekly Practices** (July–Season End) – Robot building, programming, driving practice, strategy development, and engineering notebook work
- **Qualifier Tournaments** (Typically November–February) – Main competition events
- **Advancement** (February–April, if applicable) – Potential advancement to additional competitions
- **Post-Season** – Depending on advancement, this period may include lighter meetings, skill-building, outreach, fundraising, and early preparation for the next season

Other Events

In addition to official competitions, students may be invited to participate in:

- Invitational or Off-Season Competitions – Additional opportunities to gain experience, test improvements, and have fun competing
- Outreach Opportunities – Events where we share robotics and STEM with the broader community (may occur during or outside of the regular season)
- End-of-Season Celebration – A fun team gathering to celebrate the season’s accomplishments and recognize each student’s contributions

Details for outreach events and celebrations will be communicated as they are scheduled.

Participation in outreach and celebrations, while encouraged, may vary depending on student and family availability.

Time Commitment

Weekly Schedule

Teams will meet once per week on **Mondays from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM**, starting with the first meeting of the season on July 20, 2026.

Additional time or meetings may occasionally be scheduled during critical phases of the season, 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 Game Manual**
- Researching and developing ideas
- Exploring and learning from other teams' robots, matches, and strategies while studying game rules to build understanding and inspire ideas
- Practicing specialized skills (e.g., coding, driving, CAD)
- Assisting with engineering notebook documentation
- Supporting marketing, fundraising, and outreach efforts

This deeper commitment reflects the level of challenge in VEX V5 and helps ensure meaningful growth in STEM skills and team collaboration.

Attendance & Commitment

Consistent attendance is essential. Each team is small and highly collaborative, so frequent absences can impact both the individual student's experience and the team's overall progress.

To support team cohesion and ensure a positive experience for all, **students are required to attend at least 80% of scheduled meetings**. This allows everyone to stay engaged, contribute meaningfully, and be well-prepared for competition.

We understand that family and academic obligations come first, but we ask families to seriously consider the time commitment before applying. Every student's presence and participation truly matters!

Competition Overview

The VEX V5 Robotics Competition is an exciting and challenging experience where students put their engineering, programming, strategy, and teamwork skills to the test. Competitions give teams the opportunity to showcase the robot they have designed and built while demonstrating collaboration, problem-solving, and professionalism in a real tournament environment.

VEX V5 tournaments typically include several key elements:

- **Qualification Matches** – Teams are paired into changing alliances throughout the day and compete in head-to-head matches against other alliances. These matches test robot performance, strategy, communication, and adaptability.
- **Robot Skills Challenge** – Teams may also participate in Driver Skills and Autonomous Coding Skills, where the robot is tested in individual performance-based runs. These scores can contribute to rankings and awards at some events.
- **Alliance Selection & Finals Matches** – At many tournaments, top-ranked teams may select alliance partners for the elimination rounds. Finals matches then determine the tournament champions.
- **Judging & Interviews** – Depending on the event, teams may also participate in judging sessions where they share their engineering notebook, design process, teamwork, communication, and overall program development.
- **Awards & Advancement** – Teams may earn awards for excellence in areas such as design, notebook documentation, innovation, teamwork, and overall tournament performance. Advancement opportunities depend on tournament structure and results.

The Nuclear Space Potatoes will participate in Qualifier Tournaments held throughout the season, typically between November and February. Reboot Robotics plans to **attend at least one and up to five tournaments**, depending on team readiness, scheduling, and availability. These events give students the opportunity to compete against other local teams, apply what they've learned throughout the season, and potentially advance to additional competitions.

Expectations for the competition day:

To help ensure a smooth, safe, and positive experience, students are expected to:

- Arrive on time with all necessary materials
- Participate in all aspects of the event, including matches, skills, and team responsibilities
- Remain with the team at all times unless given permission by a coach
- Show respect and sportsmanship toward teammates, partner teams, competitors, judges, volunteers, and event staff
- Wear team apparel, closed-toe shoes, keep long hair tied back, and follow any safety expectations for the event

Team Behavior and Expectations

Being part of a VEX V5 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 the values of good sportsmanship, integrity, and teamwork, as well as 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 good sportsmanship**, especially during challenges or disagreements, by maintaining a positive, respectful, and team-centered 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, VEX V5 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 VEX

In addition to supporting your student's involvement with Reboot Robotics, we encourage parents/guardians and family to consider volunteering at VEX events, especially any VEX events hosted by Reboot Robotics.

VEX competitions 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, serve alongside your student, and support the values we are working to build.

There are many opportunities available, from judging and refereeing to event coordination, field reset, check-in, and general event support. No technical experience is necessary—just a willingness to serve and learn.

If you are interested, information about volunteer opportunities will be shared throughout the season, particularly when Reboot Robotics is hosting an event. Families may also explore opportunities through local VEX event listings and the REC Foundation.

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.

Important Notes

- All Reboot Robotics forms must be submitted before a student may participate in any team meetings or events.
- 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 of competitive robotics and our first season competing in VEX V5, 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, problem-solving, and teamwork. Through it all, our goal remains the same: to grow in character, capability, and collaboration while 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

VEX V5 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:

Student Questionnaire

For New Students Not Eligible for VEX IQ Participation

Thank you for your interest in joining Reboot Robotics' VEX V5 Robotics Competition team, the Nuclear Space Potatoes! Because VEX V5 is a competitive, advanced-level program requiring strong teamwork, critical thinking, problem-solving, and technical skills, new students who have not participated in one of Reboot Robotics' younger competitive robotics programs must complete this questionnaire as part of the application process.

This form helps us get to know you—your interests, experience, and how you might contribute to the team prior to an interview.

Please answer honestly and thoughtfully. There are no “right” answers!

1. Why are you interested in joining the Nuclear Space Potatoes at Reboot Robotics?

2. Have you participated in any robotics, engineering, coding, or STEM activities before? If so, tell us a little about it.

3. What are you most excited to learn or try if you join this team?

4. What are your personal strengths, and how would you use them on the team? How do you handle challenges or setbacks, and are you willing to commit to extra work outside of meetings if needed?

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

- Building or tinkering with mechanical parts
- Coding or programming (any language)
- CAD or 3D design
- Writing, documenting, or note-taking
- Graphic design or presentation work
- 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 notebook 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: _____