

Reboot Robotics



Space Taters



VEX IQ
2026-2027
Team Handbook

Space Taters

VEX IQ Team

Team Handbook

Table of Contents

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.

Table of Contents

1. Welcome	3
2. About VEX and IQ	4
3. VEX Code of Conduct	5
4. About Reboot Robotics	6
5. Reboot Robotics Statement of Faith	6
6. Our Key Verse: Romans 12	7
7. Reboot Robotics is a 501(c)(3)	7
8. Reboot Robotics Code of Honor	8
9. Team Overview	9
10. Team Structure and Roles	10
11. Season Overview	11
12. Time Commitment	12
13. Competition Overview	13
14. Team Behavior and Expectations	14-15
15. Disciplinary Policy	16
16. Parent/Guardian Expectations	17-18
17. Communication & Contact Guidelines	19
18. Health and Illness Policy	20
19. Fundraising	21
20. Team Fees	22
21. Other Notes	23
22. Forms and Agreements	24
23. Closing Statement	25

Welcome

We're thrilled to welcome both returning and new families as we begin an exciting new chapter in our second year of competitive robotics. While this is our first season competing in VEX IQ, we're building on the strong foundation established in our inaugural year and are excited to continue growing in skill, confidence, and teamwork.

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, all while operating on a strong biblical foundation and serving families in Polk, St. Clair, Cedar, Hickory, Henry, and neighboring counties.

VEX IQ may not involve running laps or scoring touchdowns, but make no mistake, this is a sport for the mind. Through brainstorming, building, coding, and problem-solving, our team members face challenges that test their ingenuity, perseverance, and teamwork. Every meeting is practice. Every challenge is a chance to grow. And every competition is a celebration of what we've learned together.

This Team Handbook is your complete guide to the Space Taters experience. Think of it as your official Space Taters field guide, filled with everything you need to know as we grow through another exciting year of robotics and STEM discovery.

We're excited to continue learning, building, and competing alongside each of you. Here's to a season of creativity, teamwork, and tater-powered success!

Go Space Taters!

With enthusiasm,
The Reboot Robotics Team

Contact Information:
info@rebootrobotics.org

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

About VEX and VEX IQ

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 IQ Robotics Competition

VEX IQ Robotics Competition is a hands-on STEM program designed for elementary and middle school students. Using a snap-together robotics system, students work together to design, build, code, and drive a robot to complete an annual game-based engineering challenge. Teams apply creativity, strategy, and problem-solving as they test ideas, improve designs, and learn through iteration.

Through VEX IQ, students learn how to:

- Think like engineers and problem-solvers
- Work collaboratively as a team
- Apply creativity and strategy to 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 teamwork matches, robot skills challenges, and often judging opportunities that highlight their design process, teamwork, and communication. VEX IQ helps students grow not only in technical ability, but also in confidence, leadership, and perseverance.

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 IQ, 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 Space Taters is Reboot Robotics' VEX IQ Robotics Competition team, entering its second year of competitive robotics and first season competing under the VEX platform in 2026–2027. This team includes homeschooled students ages 9–14 who work together to design, build, code, and compete with a robot while developing teamwork, problem-solving, and engineering skills through hands-on learning.

To support hands-on learning and meaningful mentorship, each team will be kept small—3 to 5 students. If student interest exceeds available space, we may expand by forming additional teams, including separate elementary and middle school teams if appropriate.

After establishing a strong foundation in our inaugural year, this season is focused on building on that growth—strengthening teamwork, deepening STEM skills, growing in faith, and continuing to develop confidence, perseverance, and creativity through competitive robotics.

While coaches and volunteers help guide the team, families play a key role in its success. More details on parent roles and responsibilities can be found in the Parent/Guardian Expectations section of this handbook.

Team Structure and Roles

Each Reboot Robotics VEX IQ team will consist of 3 to 5 students and will be supported by 2 adult coaches. While students may naturally gravitate toward certain tasks based on interest or strengths, **every team member is required to participate in all areas of the project**, as we are committed to learning, growing, and working together as a team.

Team Areas of Work

Throughout the season, students will work together in several key areas, including:

- **Building** – Constructing and refining the robot using VEX IQ parts
- **Programming** – Creating and testing code using block-based coding
- **Design & Planning** – Brainstorming ideas, sketching concepts, and planning robot improvements
- **Driving & Strategy** – Practicing robot control, learning game strategy, and preparing for match play
- **Engineering Notebook** – Recording ideas, design changes, testing results, and team progress throughout the season
- **Team Coordination** – Helping organize tasks, encourage teamwork, and support effective communication

Students will rotate through these areas, learning by doing, supporting one another, and gaining experience in every part of the VEX IQ program.

Coaches, Mentors, & Volunteers

Coaches, mentors, and volunteers are there to guide and support, **not do the work for students**. Their role is to:

- Ask questions that spark curiosity
- Facilitate teamwork and conflict resolution
- Help the team stay organized and on track
- Ensure safety and uphold the values of both VEX and Reboot Robotics

Season Overview

Participating in VEX IQ is an exciting journey filled with learning, creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork. Like any sport or team activity, it also comes with a time commitment that helps ensure every student can contribute meaningfully to the team's success.

Season Timeline

While the VEX IQ season can run year-round, Reboot Robotics will operate from the end of July through February for the 2026–2027 season, with advancement opportunities extending into February–April.

Key Milestones:

- **Game Reveal** - Announced at the end of the VEX IQ 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

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 party 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 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM**, starting with the first meeting of the season on July 20, 2026.

As Qualifier Tournaments approach, we may add occasional extra meetings or extend regular meeting times for robot testing, skills practice, engineering notebook work, and final preparations.

Students may also occasionally be asked to work at home on simple tasks such as brainstorming ideas, reviewing coding concepts, or helping document progress in the engineering notebook.

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 IQ Robotics Competition is an exciting and educational event where students showcase the robot they have designed, built, programmed, and practiced with throughout the season. Competitions are designed to highlight students' teamwork, problem-solving, engineering, and perseverance in a fun and supportive environment.

VEX IQ competitions may include several key elements:

- **Teamwork Matches** – Teams work together with a partner team to score as many points as possible during a match. These matches emphasize collaboration, strategy, communication, and driver skill.
- **Robot Skills Challenge** – Teams may also compete in individual driving and autonomous coding challenges to demonstrate the robot's independent performance.
- **Engineering Notebook & Judging** – Teams may be evaluated on their engineering notebook, design process, teamwork, communication, and overall student-centered learning throughout the season.

The Space Taters 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 IQ team is not just about building robots—it's about building character, collaboration, and a culture of respect. The Space Taters 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 participate** in meetings, team discussions, and competitions. Every student is expected to contribute, collaborate, and support team goals.
- **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 Space Taters 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.

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 Space Tater, 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.
- Students are not expected to use email or phones to communicate formally, but they should begin practicing basic professional courtesy when speaking with mentors and peers.

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 thrilled to begin another season with you and your student as part of the Space Taters and the greater Reboot Robotics community. This handbook was created to guide, support, and unify everyone involved, helping us move forward with clarity, purpose, and joy.

As we enter our second year, we're excited to build on the foundation we established together—embracing new challenges, celebrating continued growth, and deepening the skills and values that make this team special. Whether it's solving problems, learning to collaborate, or stepping outside comfort zones, every moment is an opportunity to grow in character, confidence, and skill.

Thank you for trusting us with your child's robotics journey and for partnering with us to create something meaningful. We look forward to a season filled with learning, creativity, perseverance, and lasting impact—all for God's glory.

Let's build something great—together.

Reboot Robotics Student Application

VEX IQ 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

Please have the student complete this section to help us learn more about their interests, experience, and goals for joining Reboot Robotics.

1. Why do you want to be part of a robotics team?

2. In a VEX IQ team we must do all the following activities, mark the ones that you are most excited about:

- Building the robot
- Programming the robot
- Designing strategies for challenges
- Researching engineering problems
- Brainstorming ideas for solutions
- Testing and improving our robot's performance
- Talking to mentors or experts about engineering challenges
- Collaborating with teammates to solve problems
- Working independently to develop ideas or skills
- Documenting our work in the Engineering Notebook
- Writing about our team's design process and experiments
- Talking with judges about our robot and design process

3. Even if you are not interested in some of the work the team must do, can you do whatever the team needs you to do, cheerfully and without complaining?

- Yes No

4. Is there anything on the list above that you are unwilling to do, even if the team needs you to? Please explain.

5. What skills or experiences do you have (if any) that might help the team?

- Building with VEX IQ parts or other robotics kits
- Coding/programming (any language, including VEXcode)
- Problem-solving or designing solutions
- Documenting work in notebooks or reports
- Talking with others about ideas or projects
- Drawing/designing (robots or diagrams)
- None yet—but I'm ready to learn!
- Other: _____

6. Are you comfortable talking with judges as part of your team (explaining your robot and design process)?

- Yes
- No
- I'm willing to try

7. 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 Space Taters.
- _____ 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: _____