

Iron Patriots FRC Team 4135

2023-2024 Parent Information

Parent Involvement

We highly encourage parents to participate as parent volunteers. They are necessary for our team to run smoothly; parent volunteers help to organize trips, fundraising, bring food, help with transportation, chaperone, assist at outreach events, and keep the lines of communication open. Parents who wish to get more involved may mentor, become a Patriot Robotics Booster member, or help in the ways listed below.

Boosters

The Robotics Boosters group meets every third Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm in the Beyer Multi-purpose Room (off Palmwood Dr, Teacher Parking Lot). We encourage ALL parents to attend regularly. Parent participation is vital to the success of our program. This is the best place to get information and ask questions. The boosters are responsible for planning food, travel, fundraising, and much more for the team.

Sponsorships, Grants, & Donations

Many of our sponsorships and grants come from parent connections to their workplace and the community. Our program is self-funded and it takes all of us to find funding for the program. Adults are needed to assist with grant writing or enroll in their workplace matching programs for non-profit organizations. We have sponsorship forms available on our website. On occasion we may ask for donations of food, supplies, or items for fundraising events. While these are not required of anyone to be on the team, we do need everyone who can to help with these needs.

Food

Lunch is provided by the parents on Saturdays during build season. A sign-up will be available and organized through Boosters. Each family who can, please sign up for a portion of a meal - it can be just a side dish or dessert, if everyone contributes we can keep our students fed with healthy meals. We will also have sign-up forms for snacks and drinks throughout the build season. In addition, adults are needed to order, pick up, and hand out food at competitions (competition lunches are booster paid).

Chaperones

The team needs adults to travel with the students, chaperone, and provide transportation and food support at competitions. Boosters will make the hotel arrangements when the competitions are set and will provide details at booster meetings in the fall. Travel is self-funded, boosters usually get a discounted group rate on hotels. Chaperones are also needed for outreach events. We need parents to be present to help run the event and to help in transporting students to the outreach events.

Transportation

Parents are needed to carpool students to competitions and events. Davis, Fresno, and Monterey are common competition locations. We will need many, many adults to drive students to these events in March. Drivers are also needed for some outreach events. We also need drivers capable of transporting the robot and pulling a trailer. All drivers will need to complete the School Driver Form and submit it to Beyer's front office. This form is available at www.beyerrobotics.org/boosters. This needs to be filled out every school year, please do so as soon as possible if you can drive students anytime this year. When submitting this form, please indicate at the top that you are signing up to be a Robotics Driver.

Costs

We try to keep costs as low as possible, and scholarships are available when needed. Students will purchase a t-shirt at the beginning of build season for approx. \$20. Travel fees are usually \$100-\$150* per competition, plus money for 3 dinners per competition. We also ask everyone who is able to contribute to food during the build season. Other items will be optional, such as additional shirts, sweatshirts, and team yearbooks. *Travel scholarships are available.

Schedule

Off Season: September 13th - December, Wednesdays after school* (traditionally 3:30-5:30, times are subject to change)

This is where new students get an introduction to the team and sub-team options, robot basics, competition strategies. All students will be trained on tools and will need to pass a tool identification quiz and safety quiz. Returning students lead meetings, and work on development projects.

Build Season: January 6th, 2024 - February 29th, 2024 Sat. 9-5 pm, Tues. & Thurs. 5:30 pm-8:30 pm.*

Build season is where it all comes together. At Kickoff (Saturday Jan 6 from 8am - 5pm), we will receive the game, and we will design, build, program, and wire the robot by the February deadline. Because we intend to keep our build season to 8 weeks, we need our strongest commitment during build season. Sunday afternoons and school holidays may be added as needed.

Competition Season: March 1, 2024-April 21, 2024 As needed*

During competition season, we will be preparing the team for competition and attending competitions. We may add additional hours to continue working on the robot, but it will be less time consuming than the build season and probably involve a skeleton crew. It is not a requirement for remaining an active member of the team. *all three timeframes and schedules are tentative and subject to change.

Competitions: March TBD, Championships (if we qualify) are in April

A travel team will be selected at the end of February for each competition. The number will be determined by budget, space constraints, and other considerations but will remain under 30 students. The travel team will have transportation, food, and hotels arranged by the Boosters. Travel team selection criteria is outlined in detail in the student manual. Travel team students leave after school on a Wed. or Thurs., returning Sat. or Sun. respectively. Team members who are not part of the travel team are welcome to attend competitions on their own under parent supervision and may join the team in the stands for scouting, cheering, and team support.

Summer Season: May -August

During the summer, regular meetings are not scheduled. However students will be able to participate in various community outreach events such as our Summer STEM Camp, county fair or presentations to local community groups. Students who participate in these outreach events will be able to count these events toward the upcoming season full time membership criteria.

Time Commitment

Students need to be at the build season kick off (Saturday Jan 6th from 8 am -5pm) and attend 85% of all build season meetings to be considered a full-time active member. They should also plan to attend most off season meetings, participate in fundraisers, and participate in at least 3 outreach events. While not every student will reach full-time status, only full-time members will be considered for the travel team and leadership positions. All students will be required to meet the requirements outlined in the student manual to remain on the team. This is a VARSDITY team and requires a great deal of maturity and commitment.

Fundraisers & Events

We have several important events throughout the year. Our biggest fundraiser is a Spaghetti Dinner (March 1, 2024). All students will be expected to sell tickets to the event, and we will ask for donations for our silent auction baskets. All students will also be expected to help at the event. Our FLL tournament is Saturday, November 18th. All students are expected to volunteer and we need parent volunteers as well. Additional fundraisers may include pie sales in November and Chipotle nights.

Communication

Boosters will send most parent communications through email. Announcements and reminders are also sent through REMIND. Students communicate through Discord.

Contact Info

Heidi Pagani, Coach: Pagani.H@monet.k12.ca.us

Karla Valencia-Nunez, Coach: Valencia-Nunez.K@monet.k12.ca.us

Boosters: beyerhighschoolrobotics@gmail.com

Team Sign-Up

www.beyerrobotics.org/register - Join the team roster, create a FIRST account, download forms

REMIND: Parents & Students text @frc4135 to 81010

DISCORD: Students <https://discord.gg/xUudxqDyNP>

Important Dates

Robotics Booster Meetings: Every 3rd Wednesday 6:30 PM in the multi-purpose room off Palmwood Ave. **All parents/adult supporters highly encouraged to attend!**

Fall Student Meetings: September 13th-December 13th, 2023. Wednesdays 3:30-5:30 pm in I-1 (the “shop”)

Ripon Pie Sales: Selling pies from October 30-November 8, Pie pick-up on Thursday November 16, 4pm-6pm

FLL Tournament: November 18th, set up Friday November 17th @ Beyer High School

Build Season Kick-Off: January 6th, 2024 Parents join first 2 hours

Build Season Meetings: January 6th-February 29th, 2024. Tuesdays & Thursdays 5:30-8:30 pm and Saturdays 9am-5pm.

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser: Friday, March 1st 2024

Competitions: TBD in March. (Wed-Sat or Thurs-Sun - travel team)

Championships if we qualify: April 16-21 (small travel team)