



FIRST Robotics Competition Team 1317 Digital Fusion

TENTATIVE DATES FOR 2025-26 *All plans subject to change* (ex: event schedules not yet determined)

- Team kickoff: anticipated date is August 2025
- Shop training for new students/parents: anticipated date is December 2025
- Season Kickoff (reveal of 2026 game): **Saturday, January 10, 2025**, approx. 9am-4pm (May begin at PAST Innovation Lab, 1003 Kinnear Rd, Columbus, OH 43212)
- Build season meeting location is Status Solutions, 999 County Line Road W, Westerville.
 - M-Th 6-9pm (longer hours as needed/possibly through 10 pm)
 - Sat 9-4 pm
 - Don't have to attend every night. **Advance notice required except in emergencies.**
- Tournament: March/April 2026 (Miami Valley Regional in Cincinnati) (waiting for 2026 dates)
- FIRST Championship (if we qualify and have funding): April 2026 in Houston, TX
- Open House: anticipated date is spring 2026 (recruiting and sponsors)
- Possible off-season tournaments (one-day events): TBD (summer and fall)
- Off-season events (not yet scheduled)
 - Skills training/team building meetings (prospective members welcome to attend)
 - Outreach/teaching events

Parents are expected to help with the team.

- A list of parent jobs will be provided at the first meeting in January.
- In addition, every family is expected to chaperone meetings.
 - The number of chaperones needed per meeting depends on the number of team members.
 - The chaperone responsibilities are divided equally based on the number of families.

Team activity fee: \$150/student (**Need-based scholarships are available**) – to be collected in January.

- Thanks to the efforts of coaches and team families, money from grants minimizes the student fee.
- Costs to operate the team include tournament registration, robot components & space rental, etc. Coaches and mentors are all volunteers.
- Since the cost to participate is subsidized, families are expected to help with team fundraising. Some corporations will provide grants for an employee's volunteer hours. Please check with your employer. Also, all donations to the team are tax deductible.
- There may be additional costs such as for T-shirts, for team snacks/meals or for hotel costs. Hotel costs are often covered by grants and fees; however, this year we may be forced to have families pay for some or all of the hotel cost because of lost financial support.

For New and Returning Students:

APPLICATION: To be COMPLETED & SIGNED by BOTH parent/guardian & student.

- Part I: Student information
- Part II: Parent/Guardian Information
- Part III: Contribution/Areas of Interest
- Part IV: (a) Parent/Guardian Contract and (b) Student Contract
- Essay: All applicants need to submit a **typed** essay (200-400 words).
 - *New students:* address how you learned about FIRST and why you want to participate.
 - *Returning students:* address skills that you could bring to the team, what you hope to learn from the team, and how you plan to contribute to the success of FRC Team 1317.

Please email the completed application by **Friday, August 30, 2026 (before the first week of January for new students)** to Bretq@yahoo.com AND Dhedges@insight.rr.com. Team size will be limited based on the needs of the team and coach/mentor support. Students will be notified by e-mail of the coaches' decision by Wednesday, September 4, 2025. Please contact Bret Queary at Bretq@yahoo.com, Judy Hedges at Dhedges@insight.rr.com, or Jen Adler at jenniferadler@icloud.com with questions.

2024-25 APPLICATION (Complete Parts I through IV)

Part I. Student Information (to be completed by the student) PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____ Birth Month/Day/Year: _____

Home Address: _____

Home #: _____ Cell #: _____ Text OK? ☐ Y ☐ N

School Name: _____ District _____

County _____ Graduating class of: ☐ 2024 ☐ 2025 ☐ 2026 ☐ 2027 ☐ 2028

Email address: _____

Please tell us about yourself. (Interests, Hobbies, Experience, etc.)

If you have a job/activity that will conflict with the build season, specify the days of week at issue:

Will you commit to the build season? ☐ Y ☐ N

*New Students: How did you hear about DF? _____

Please indicate in the chart below the number of years you've been involved in robotics.

	FLL	FT C	FR C	Other robotics-related classes or programs
# years involved				

Please complete the chart. STEM = science, technology, engineering or math.

	None	Very low	Average	Above average	High
What is your level of interest in any STEM subject?					
What is your level of ability in any STEM subject?					
What is the likelihood you will pursue a career in a STEM field?					

Career(s) that interest you:

Part II. Parent or Guardian Information (to be completed by parent).

We must be able to reach you in case of an emergency.

Will both parents share parent duties? ☐ Y ☐ N

If only one will participate in robotics, please complete the information for Parent/Guardian 1 only.

Parent/Guardian 1 Name: _____ Home #: _____

Address same as student? ☐ Y ☐ N. If not same, what is address? _____

Cell #: _____ Email: _____

Job title and employer for Parent/Guardian 1 (for parent help purposes):

Work #: _____

Please list any engineering or business experience you have that could help the team (see categories in Part III of the application):

Parent/Guardian 2 Name: _____ Home #: _____

Address same as student? ☐ Y ☐ N. If not same, what is address? _____

Cell #: _____ Email: _____

Job title and employer for Parent/Guardian 2 (for parent help purposes):

Work #: _____

Please list any engineering or business experience you have that could help the team (see categories in Part III of the application):

PART III. Contribution/Areas of Interest (to be completed by student)

Every student should expect to participate in one area of each category below. In each category (A, B, and C), rank your preferences with 1 being HIGHEST. Do not leave any blanks.

A. Robot-related

	Rank all from 1-4	Student (experience/comments)
Mechanical		
Electrical		
Programming		
3D modeling		

B. Business-related

	Rank all from 1-6	Student (experience/comments)
Marketing/PR		
Corporate fundraising		
Soliciting meal donations		
Administration		
HR		
Other business skill		

C. Other

	Rank all from 1-8	Student (experience/comments)
Computer animation		
Updating websites		
Creating videos (music videos, promos, etc.)		
Using social media (promoting the team)		
Writing grants		
Writing business plan		
Writing essay or skit		
Acting in a skit		

Student (optional): Provide additional comments to clarify participation interest or experience:

For Coaches only:

Payment Y N \$_____ Added to Teamsnap Y N Added to Slack Y N

PART IV. PARENT/GUARDIAN & STUDENT CONTRACTS (page 1 of 2)

Parents/Guardian & students: to ensure that everyone understands the responsibility and commitment needed to participate, please read this contract together and sign both parts. **KEEP A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS.**

A. Parent/Guardian Contract

I understand that the coaches and mentors volunteer a significant amount of time and effort to provide a rewarding experience for the team and that this team does not have the typical support structure or the resources of a school-supported team. Therefore, as a parent of a team member,

_____ I agree to sign up and actively participate in needed support tasks.

_____ I agree to actively chaperone meetings to which I am assigned as chaperone. In addition, if my child requires more constant supervision (whether from the perspective of myself or the coaches), I will ensure that supervision for my child at all meetings.

_____ I agree to attend and either volunteer or cheer at competitions.

I also understand that communication is vital. Therefore,

_____ I agree to communicate regularly through TeamSnap and Slack (or whatever communication tools the coaches choose). This includes **DAILY** checking emails and updating meeting attendance in TeamSnap. **ALL ABSENCES REQUIRE ADVANCE NOTICE except in case of an emergency.**

_____ If my child is unable to attend with less than 24 hours' notice, I will make sure that either my child or I will call or text Mr. Queary as soon as possible. (His contact information is included in TeamSnap.)

_____ I agree to make every effort to have my child arrive and depart on time for meetings.

_____ I have read the student contract and understand the commitment my child is making and acknowledge that my child is capable of fulfilling those commitments. **Specifically, I understand that dismissal from the team may result from repeated infractions.**

Signature of parent/guardian 1 _____ Date _____

Printed name _____

If parent/guardian 2 will be involved in robotics, please complete the information below:

Signature of parent/guardian 2 _____ Date _____

Printed name _____

PART IV. PARENT/GUARDIAN & STUDENT CONTRACTS (page 2 of 2)

B. Student Contract: *Students, please initial each item below to which you can honestly agree.*

I understand that I will be part of a team. For the benefit of the team, I will:

- _____ encourage my teammates' input and listen to them rather than make decisions unilaterally.
- _____ cheerfully participate in tasks where I am assigned even if they are not the tasks I desired.
- _____ cooperate on whatever solution the team chooses, even if it is not my first choice.
- _____ try not to waste my or anyone else's time. I will stay on task, and I will not distract others.

I also agree to do the following:

- _____ keep my event availability up-to-date in TeamSnap. **ALL ABSENCES REQUIRE ADVANCE NOTICE except in case of emergency. If unable to attend with less than 24 hours' notice, I will call or text Mr. Queary as soon as possible.**
- _____ stay in **CONSTANT** communication via TeamSnap & Slack, including **DAILY** checking emails.
- _____ be on time to each meeting
- _____ keep my work areas clean and organized – especially at the end of each workday.
- _____ keep my hands to myself: off others and off their belongings.
- _____ stow electronics away during team meetings unless they are needed for work on the robot.
- _____ dress appropriately for working on a robot.
- _____ will not work with just one or two others unless authorized by a coach to do so. I will also not wander off. If I ever need/want to leave or step away, I will notify the coaches.
- _____ read the game manual and understand it is my responsibility to ensure all design decisions and parts are within the game rules.
- _____ behave respectfully toward others (including coaches, mentors and parents) at all team meetings and tournaments and treat all materials and build spaces with respect.
- _____ observe shop safety by wearing appropriate safety equipment. I will not use any power tools I have not been trained to use. Any unsafe behavior or horseplay in the shop may result in loss of shop privileges.

_____ I agree to follow the coaches' design process and understand that some final decisions will be made by them as they help us to develop the skills to make those decisions ourselves. I will take any concerns/issues to the coaches. I won't complain about the coaches or undermine their authority.

_____ **I agree that if I violate any of the terms above, coaches may – at their discretion – ask me to leave the meeting in which I exhibit the negative behavior. I understand that repeated infractions may result in removal from the team.**

Signature of team member _____ Date _____

Printed name _____