



Clinton Bolinger  
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# Grand Blanc High School Robotics Team

## National Championship Competition Information



Brandi Bolinger  
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Hey NERDs!

We did it! Ladies and Gentlemen, we're going to The *FIRST* Championship, aka Nationals! Thank you to the students, mentors, parents, friends, and family that made this year a complete success! Without your time, knowledge, skills, funding, food, drinks, and everything else that you have contributed to the team, we could not have made it this far! Family support is an absolutely invaluable resource!

As for competitions past, we have compiled a packet of information regarding the trip to the Championship event in St. Louis. Please make sure that both students and parents review this information prior to travel. To ensure that everything runs smoothly, please prepare any required documents and turn them into Jody Nickola before the scheduled departure time.

Thank you and CONGRATULATIONS,

Clinton Bolinger  
Head Mentor

Brandi Bolinger  
Head Mentor

Jody Nickola  
School Liaison

### Travel Information:

#### Required Documents and Forms:

1. All Students (including Students over the age of 18) must submit a completed *Permission Slip*, with a valid parent/guardian signature. Students must also obtain the signatures of ALL of his/her teachers in order to be excused from school on the day(s) of competition. All students must submit a completed progress report, signed by each of his/her teachers. If a teacher is not present to sign the permission slip, students may gain the signature of a substitute or may consult the Counseling Office for a signature.
2. In order to ensure high standards of academic achievement, students must also complete a progress report.
3. Any Student requiring medication (both prescription and non-prescription) during the Competition must fill out a medical authorization form and return it to Jody Nickola on or before departure. **DO NOT PACK ANY MEDICINE IN YOUR BAGS.** All medication must be delivered to Jody on the night of departure in its original container which is enclosed in a zip-seal bag that is clearly labeled with the Student's name and dosing instructions. Students may not self-administer ANY medication.

#### Meal Information:

1. Students and Team Mentors should eat dinner at home prior to travel on Tuesday, or bring food to be consumed on the bus.
2. We will not be stopping for dinner during travel.
3. The cost for Students' meals is included in the Team Expenses as such: Breakfast will be included at the hotel, and lunch and dinner will be included on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday (whether at the competition site, at the hotel, or during travel home).
4. Funds for snacks, additional food, or meals larger than those provided must be supplied by individual families at their own expense, and at the discretion of parents/guardians. Team Mentors will NOT lend money to Students.
5. Any family or friends attending the competition must plan and pay for their own meals. If mentors, friends, or family would like to join the team for dinners, please check with Brandi for availability of space, and so reservations can be made (where available).

#### Uniform Guidelines:

1. Students and Team Mentors should wear the Team shirts provided. Shirts should be professional in appearance and clean. A long-sleeve shirt may be worn underneath, or Students and Team Mentors may wear a Team sweatshirt or jacket as an outer layer.
2. To ensure a uniform Team appearance, please use the following schedule:  
*Wednesday* - any Team/GBHS Shirt;  
*Thursday* - Red T-shirt;  
*Friday* - Black T-shirt;  
*Saturday* - Black Mechanic Shirt;  
*Sunday* - Any EngiNERDs shirt, or another Team's shirt
3. Students and Team Mentors should wear appropriately styled blue jeans, shorts, Capri pants or school-approved length skirt (with tights or leggings) that is professional in appearance, (without holes or tears, and a belt where necessary).
4. Non team-issued Sweatpants, basketball/gym shorts and/or Yoga pants may only be worn during travel (Tuesday night and Sunday)
5. Team-issued Sweatpants may only be worn to the competition on Thursday



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6. Students, Team Mentors, and any guests in attendance must wear closed-toe tennis shoes or boots in the Pit Area.
7. Students and Team Mentors are responsible for bringing his/her own safety glasses to and from the competition. Students and Team Mentors who do not bring his/her own safety glasses to the competition will NOT be permitted to borrow Safety glasses from the Team, and thus will not be allowed in the pit area.
8. Safety Glasses will be available for guests in attendance to borrow, but must be returned after use.
9. While in the Pit Area, all Students, Team Mentors and Guests in attendance may not wear loose or baggy clothing, dangling jewelry, or other items that may cause a safety hazard. Long hair must be pulled back into a ponytail or braid that does not present a safety hazard.

### Transportation/Travel Policies:

1. The Team will be taking a Charter Bus to St. Louis. There will not be assigned seats on the bus.
2. Our charter bus is equipped with televisions for viewing movies, and only those movies pre-approved by Jody Nickola will be viewed during the trip. Please do not bring movies that have not been approved.
3. Our charter bus is equipped with one restroom.
4. All persons being transported by the Charter Bus should be aware of the close proximity to others that he/she will be experiencing during the extended travel. Please be considerate with your showering schedule, and use of cologne or perfume.
5. All passengers may bring reasonably sized pillows and blankets for sleeping during the ride. Please be considerate when packing your carry-on item, and leave adequate space for storage of any pillows and/or blankets that you may bring. Please do not pack blankets and pillows separately.
6. While in St. Louis, the Team will be transported by the Charter Bus, and/or walking as necessary. Please ensure that appropriate footwear is worn to accommodate walking.
7. It is recommended that students who drive themselves to the parking lot at GBHS West Campus should NOT leave their cars overnight. If possible, please arrange an alternate ride or have vehicles picked up after departure. The Grand Blanc High School Robotics team is not responsible for vehicles left in the parking lot at any time.
8. Parents, friends, or other family members may not transport any Student (including their own student) without written permission from a Head Mentor and School Liaison. If a Student will be transported by a method other than the Team bus or public transportation, a release form must be completed. (For example, if a family is attending the Championship on any day – even Saturday – and wishes to transport a Student, the aforementioned Student must be released from the supervision of the Team, via a written consent form.) The Team must receive a release form for each Student, signed by his/her parent/guardian, for each leg of transportation in which the Team will not transport him/her. Please see Jody Nickola for a release form. Forms should be completed at least 2 days prior to the event.
9. No person may take responsibility for any Student that is not their own without written consent from his/her parent/guardian.
10. In order to leave the competition early, Students must check out with both Brandi Bolinger AND Jody Nickola. Students must also complete a Student Release form (which must be signed by his/her parent/guardian). Students MUST comply with this procedure, failure to do so can/will result in suspension from future events with the team.
11. Students requiring transportation to his/her home after the competition should have a ride waiting for him/her in the Parking lot at the designated time. Parents may transport other Students after drop-off without a written release form, so long as permission has been granted by the Students' parents.
12. Any family or friends wishing to drive to competitions may do so at their own expense, or may check availability to ride on the Charter Bus with the Team. Please ask Brandi Bolinger for details. Friends and family may also purchase an individual public transportation pass for personal use.
13. The team will not be responsible for the refund of any travel expenses (up to and including, but not limited to: transportation costs, meals, hotel accommodations or any other costs) of those Students who leave the competition early, arrive to the competition late, or do not attend the competition.

### Behavior Expectations:

1. Any Student who does not attend the competition on MUST attend school. Attendance will be verified.
2. Students are expected to be on their best behavior while traveling with the Team, and must adhere to the Team Member Basic Conduct Guidelines and Team Member Expectations at all times. Per these agreements, any behavior or action(s) deemed inappropriate or detrimental to the Team (at the discretion of Head Mentors or School Liaison), will result in the Student's immediate dismissal from the competition. The Team will not be responsible for transporting the Student home; he/she must be picked up by his/her parents. The Team will NOT cover any cost to send a Student home due to inappropriate behavior, and will not refund any costs associated with missed Team activities.
3. Parents, friends, family and other guests in attendance are expected to behave in a manner that reflects Gracious Professionalism and represents Team 2337, Grand Blanc High School, and Team 2337's sponsors in a positive way. Any guests behaving inappropriately may be asked to leave.
4. Each morning as they check-in with Brandi, students will receive a schedule of Team responsibilities. Each student is responsible for ensuring that he/she is *on time or early* to his/her assigned location, and that each of his/her individual assigned tasks are completed.
5. Students may not go outside/outdoors of the competition venue unless he/she has checked out with Brandi AND Jody, and is accompanied by a Team Mentor (note: parents of students on the Team are not always considered mentors. Please check with Jody and Brandi).
6. Devices that use Headphones, Earbuds, etc. will not be allowed in the pit area or on the Field, due to safety hazards.
7. Personal and/or valuable items should be left at home during the competition. The Team is not responsible for these items, should they be lost or stolen (this applies to the competition site as well as the hotel).
8. Large bags and backpacks should not be brought to the competition site. These items should be left at home or in the hotel room(s).
9. Students should use the "buddy system" at all times. Students not using the "buddy system" will receive one warning from Jody and/or Brandi, and on the second offense the students' parents will be called and the student will be sent home.



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10. Running is not permitted anywhere inside the event facility. Students who are seen running will receive one warning. Any additional instances of running will cause the student to be placed with a mentor at all times.
11. Students should maintain a professional, respectful relationship among their peers. Inappropriate behavior such as horseplay, unnecessary physical contact, public displays of affection, cruel or inappropriate comments, inappropriate language and intentionally irresponsible behavior will not be tolerated.

### Overnight/Hotel Information:

1. The location at which the Grand Blanc High School Robotics team will be staying overnight is Wingate by Wyndham Missouri Research Park
2. 32 Research Park Circle, Weldon Springs, MO 63304
3. Mentors, family and friends wishing to reserve a room may do so at their own expense. The Grand Blanc High School Robotics Team will not be responsible for reservations and/or payment of hotel rooms of Mentors, family and/or friends. Discounted rate is available under the Group "EngiNERDs Robotics"
4. When students report to the designated meeting spot for breakfast, he/she should be ready for departure, and should NOT plan on returning to his/her room prior to departure for the competition. On Sunday morning, students should be packed and ready for check-out prior to breakfast in the morning. Room checks will be completed prior to breakfast on Saturday. Rooms which are ready for checkout should be clear of all personal belongings, have the bedding piled on beds, all dirty towels placed in the bath tub, and all cabinets/drawers opened. Students should quietly and graciously place his/her bags in the hallway and open their door as a signal that their ENTIRE room is ready for check-out.
5. Each room will have two (2) queen-sized beds, and will have four (4) students assigned to it. Students will be responsible for making their own sleeping arrangements. Students should be Gracious Professionals when making arrangements, and should bring any issues to Clinton, Brandi, or Jody Nickola.
6. Team members may not enter into the rooms of students of opposite sex at any point during the trip. Should a female and male Team member want to spend their free time together, he/she may only do so in public/common areas (such as the hotel lobby during operational hours, hallways, pool area, etc.) while under supervision of a Team Mentor or assigned chaperone. Students wishing to spend his/her free time in a public/common area must check out with Brand AND Jody, and gain permission to go to a specific area, *before* going to their chosen location.
7. Students may not go outside of the hotel at any point in time, unless he/she checks out with Brandi AND Jody, AND is accompanied by a Team Mentor.
8. If the hotel has a pool, students may use the pool under Mentor supervision, during regular pool operating hours. Students should wear appropriate swimming attire, and exude Gracious Behavior at all times.
9. All students will be expected to remain in their assigned rooms once the room check is performed at the time designated on the agenda. Any student outside of their assigned room at this time will be sent home without a warning (aside from a case of emergency).

### Other Considerations:

1. Our team will be competing in the Galileo Division. Please feel free to watch rounds on our Division as well as others. Additionally, please feel free to sit and cheer with other teams.
2. While in the Pit area, any guest under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult.
3. The venue will be equipped with either stadium-style or bleacher seating. Please take into consideration any provisions that may need to be made for your personal comfort.
4. Venues tend to be very hot or very chilly during competitions. Please take into consideration any provisions that may need to be made for your personal comfort.



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### What to bring:

Please use the following checklist as a guideline for travel packing. Please do not over-pack, as there is limited space available for bags and suitcases. Please limit luggage to one (1) soft-sided duffle bag, tote, or small suitcase and one carry-on item per person. Carry-on items must be stow able in overhead compartment or under seat storage area.

1. Team Uniform
  - ANY Team 2337 Shirt OR school-approved shirt (Wednesday)
  - Red Thursday T-Shirt (Thursday)
  - Black Friday T-Shirt (Friday)
  - Mechanic Shirt (Saturday)
  - Any Team shirt, including ones you've traded with other teams, or a school-approved shirt (Sunday)
  - Appropriate/professional blue jeans, shorts, Capri pants or skirt for each day
  - Team Sweatshirt or Track Jacket
  - Close-toed shoes
  - Belt (where necessary)
  - Safety Glasses
2. Sleeping Needs
  - Blankets and/or pillows for travel (optional)
  - Appropriate sleeping attire
3. Toiletries
  - Soap
  - Shampoo
  - Toothbrush and Toothpaste
  - Deodorant
  - Other personal essentials
4. Other/Optional
  - Warm sweatshirt or jacket for travel
  - Bathing Suit
  - Books, deck of cards, games, music, etc for entertainment



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### Tentative Schedule of Events - Tuesday, April 24, 2012

	Description
11:15pm	Meet in the Grand Blanc High School West Campus parking lot,
11:30pm	Begin Loading Luggage
11:59pm	Depart for the St. Louis

### Tentative Schedule of Events - Wednesday, April 25, 2012

	Description
Between 12:30 and 1:30pm, CST	Estimated time of arrival at the Wingate Weldon Spring. Check in, unload luggage, and students report to their assigned rooms.
1:30pm - 3:00pm	Free time at the Hotel, Lunch served at sometime
3:00pm	Board Bus
3:05pm	Leave for Edward Jones Dome
8:30pm	Event closes, board bus
9:00pm	Arrive at hotel, have dinner, and free time (schedule permitting)
11:00pm	Room Inspection, Students must remain in their assigned Hotel Rooms after this time

### Tentative Schedule of Events - Thursday, April 26, 2012

Time	Description
6:00am	Meet in designated meeting spot for breakfast before departure
6:05am	Board bus for Edward Jones Dome
7:00am	Pits and machine shop open
9:00am - 12:00pm	Practice Rounds
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch Break
1:00pm - 6:00pm	Qualification Rounds
6:00pm-6:45pm	Break
6:45pm - 8:15pm	Qualification Rounds
8:30pm	Pits close, board bus
9:00pm	Arrive at hotel, have dinner, free time (schedule permitting)
11:00pm	Room Inspection, Students must remain in their assigned Hotel Rooms after this time

### Tentative Schedule of Events - Friday, April 27, 2012

Time	Description
6:00am	Meet in designated meeting spot for breakfast before departure
6:05am	Board bus for Edward Jones Dome
7:00am	Pits and machine shop open
8:30am - 9:15am	Opening Ceremonies
9:30am - 12:00pm	Qualification Rounds
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch Break, Dean's List Presentation
1:00pm - 6:00pm	Qualification Rounds
7:00pm	Pits close, board bus
TBD	Activities TBD
TBD	Board Bus for Hotel
TBD	Team Activities and free time (students may not leave the hotel)
11:00pm	Room Inspection, Students must remain in their assigned Hotel Rooms after this time



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### Tentative Schedule of Events – Saturday, April 29, 2012

Time	Description
6:00am	Meet in designated meeting spot for breakfast before departure
6:05am	Board bus for Edward Jones Dome
7:00am	Pits and machine shop open
8:15am – 10:30am	Qualification Rounds
10:30am- 11:00am	Alliance Selections
11:00am – noon	Lunch Break
12:00pm – 2:30pm	Division Elimination Rounds
2:30-3:00	Division Awards Ceremonies
4:00pm – 6:00pm*	Einstein Rounds, Awards Ceremonies
5:00pm	Pits Close, board bus
TBD	TBD Team Activities
TBD	Board Bus
TBD	Dinner
TBD	Arrive at Hotel
11:00pm	Room Inspection, Students must remain in their assigned Hotel Rooms after this time

### Tentative Schedule of Events – Sunday, April 29, 2012

Time	Description
8:15am*	Meet in designated meeting spot for breakfast before departure
8:30am	Load luggage and passengers on bus
9:00am	Depart Hotel
TBD	Visit local attractions, have lunch
11:00am	Board Bus, leave for Michigan, have dinner on the way home
10:00pm	Arrive at GBHS, students should be picked up

*\* ALL Times are subject to change based on length of Team Activities, Traffic, flow of Rounds, Road Traffic etc.*