



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, in St. Louis! For the first time in the Team's History, we will be competing for the Championship Chairman's Award. This is a tremendous honor, and everyone should be proud of the contributions they've made to help the Team earn this prestigious award. All eyes will be on us at this event, so every person should do what they can to show the *FIRST* Championship what *FIRST* Forward can do!

As in competitions past, we have compiled a packet of information regarding the trip to the Championship event in St. Louis. It is vital that both students and parents review this information prior to travel, to ensure that everything goes according to plan. Please note important transportation policies such as luggage allowances, required ID, and schedule information, as these are different than in years past.

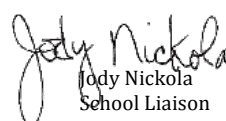
Thank you and CONGRATULATIONS,



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. 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 morning 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. Attendees will have bagged breakfast available to them for consumption on the train. Breakfast will be handed out before departure.
2. We have a train-switch in Chicago Union Station from 11:45am to 1:45pm on Tuesday. Students will be responsible for getting lunch at this time.
3. The cost for Students' meals is included in the Team Expenses as such: Breakfast foods will be purchased and distributed at the hotel, and lunch and dinner will be included on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday (whether at the competition site, at the hotel, or during travel home).
4. 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).
5. Team members will be responsible for obtaining their own lunch:
 - a. Students will receive a lunch allowance each day, which they are responsible for keeping and managing
 - b. Students must determine what they are going to eat and where they will get it from
 - c. Students may not leave the competition venue(s) or order food from outside of the venue(s).
6. 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.

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:
 - Tuesday - Any EngiNERDs shirt
 - Wednesday - 2013 *FIRST* Forward Travel Shirt
 - Thursday - 2013 Red T-shirt;
 - Friday - 2013 Black T-shirt;
 - Saturday - Black Mechanic Shirt;
 - Sunday - Any EngiNERDs shirt, or another Team's shirt



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- 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).
- Sweatpants, basketball/gym shorts and/or Yoga pants may ONLY be worn during travel (on Tuesday and Sunday). Sweatpants (Team-Issued and/or otherwise) MAY NOT be worn to competition on any day.
- Students, Team Mentors, and any guests in attendance must wear closed-toe tennis shoes or boots in the Pit Area.
- 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 or FIRST, and thus will not be allowed in the pit area.
- 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/Luggage Policies:

- Identification is required at all times for travel:
 - Students, Mentors, and Family members over the age of 18 must provide a Michigan Operator's license or State-Issued ID to check in, and carry it with them at all times
 - Students under the age of 18 who do not have a Michigan Operator's license or State-Issued ID must present their GBHS Student ID at check-in, and carry it with them at all times
- Each student will be assigned a Mentor/Adult to act as his/her chaperone for the duration of the event.
 - Students are assigned Mentors to create efficient and effective attendance-taking and safe travel.
 - Students may not switch their mentor assignment.
 - Students will be responsible for reporting to their mentor after checking in with Brandi and Jody each day.
 - Students must remain in the direct supervision of their assigned mentor whenever the group is traveling from one location to another.
 - Students must always be aware of the location of their assigned mentor, and ensure that their assigned mentor is aware of their location.
- The Team will be taking an Amtrak Train to St. Louis.
- All Team Members attending the event are responsible for arranging their own transportation to the Train Station.
 - Persons arriving after the scheduled time may be left behind.
 - It is recommended that anyone who drives to the train station should NOT leave their cars overnight. If possible, please arrange an alternate ride or have vehicles picked up after departure. Team 2337 and its affiliates are not responsible for vehicles left in the parking lot at any time.
- Passengers who experience motion sickness should plan to take precautionary measures to avoid sickness. Medication for motion sickness must be given to Jody – Students may not self-administer ANY medication.
- There will not be assigned seats on the train.
- The use of electronic devices is permitted on the train
 - There may or may not be power outlets available
 - For devices with sound, headphones MUST be worn (per Amtrak's policies)
- The train is equipped with restroom(s).
- All persons being transported by the train 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.
- Luggage Policies:
 - All persons traveling on the Train must adhere to Amtrak's luggage policy for trains where there is no checked baggage permitted.
 - Specific Baggage policies can be found at on Amtrak's website under Plan>Onboard>Baggage Policy:
<http://www.amtrak.com/servlet/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=am%2FLayout&cid=1251621565003>
 - All passengers may bring reasonably sized pillows and blankets for sleeping during the ride. Pillows and blankets do not count toward your carry-on allowance. Please do not pack blankets and pillows separately.
 - Each passenger is allowed two (2) carry-on bags that are 50 lbs each, not exceeding 28" x 22" x 14" each.
 - When packing your carry-on item, take into consideration that it must be stowed in the overhead bin or under the seat in front of you.
 - All luggage must be carried by its owner when transferring trains in Chicago, as well as after arriving in St. Louis, and walking to the hotel from the train station.
- While in St. Louis, the Team will be transported by the MetroLink, and/or walking as necessary. Please ensure that appropriate footwear is worn to accommodate walking. The cost for Students' MetroLink Pass is included in their fee to attend the event.
- Students requiring transportation to his/her home after the competition should have a ride waiting for him/her at the train station 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.
- 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.

Overnight/Hotel Information:

- The Team is staying at The Courtyard St. Louis Downtown – Marriott at 2340 Market Street at Jefferson · St. Louis, Missouri 63103
- 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. Rooms must be booked through Steele Meetings.



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3. 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.
4. 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, Jody/Clinton/Brandi's room, 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.
5. Sunday Room Check-Out:
 - a. 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.
 - b. Sunday morning, students should be packed and ready for checkout prior to departure in the morning.
 - c. Room checks will be completed prior to breakfast on Saturday.
 - d. 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.
 - e. 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 checkout.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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).
9. Sleeping Schedules:
 - a. Team Members are responsible for ensuring that they receive enough sleep
 - b. Please make an agreement in your room about a mutually beneficial sleeping schedule, and be respectful of your roommates who require additional sleep.

At the Event:

1. Exact daily schedules will be determined once we arrive in St. Louis. The schedule below is tentative and should only be used as a guide.
2. The Team will be doing a sight-seeing activity on Wednesday morning
 - a. Activity is TBD, and will be based on weather conditions and budget.
 - b. Students may give suggestions for the site-seeing location, which may or may not be accepted
3. Students, Mentors, Parents, and any other guests in attendance must be aware that the Team is applying for the National Chairman's Award, and conduct themselves in a manner that reflects behavior that other Teams should want to emulate. Inappropriate behavior will NOT be tolerated.
4. Schedules will be distributed at the event, and must be followed. Students may not switch shifts without talking to Brandi FIRST.
5. Informational conferences will be held on Wednesday and Thursday:
 - a. Students wishing to attend specific conferences must sign up in advance on the Google Doc (available on the Team Documents section of the Team Hub).
 - b. Brandi will do her best to accommodate Team Members who wish to attend conferences, but everyone must contribute to the scouting Team throughout matches on Thursday.
 - c. Team Members will be responsible for managing their own conference schedule, and ensuring that they attend their assigned Team duties throughout the event.
 - d. All Team members attending conferences should plan on staying for the duration of the presentation, and should NOT leave during a seminar unless there is an emergency. Boredom is not an excuse to leave!
6. Students may move between the two competition venues freely, as long as they are adhering to the buddy policy.
7. It is HIGHLY recommended that each Team Member visit the LEGO League and FTC pits before they close at 5:00 on Friday. Visiting on Thursday is preferred. Teams will be visiting from throughout the world, and have lots of awesome stories to tell.
8. Team Members should use the 2013 FIRST Championship Spectator Schedule (available at usfirst.org) as a guideline for visiting other areas of the competition, as well as departure and arrival times.
9. All students - **INCLUDING THOSE IN THE PITS** - must meet in the Team's stands/seating area 15 minutes prior to the venue closing.

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. 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.



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4. Free Time:
 - a. Devices such as personal video game systems, card games, etc. should not be brought to the competition venue.
 - b. Excessive use of cell phones and/or other electronic devices for non-robotics related purposes might warrant a mentor confiscating it.
 - c. Team Members should use his/her free time to spend time in the pits, explore the competition, and cheer for the Team.
 - d. Students may not use free time to sleep in the stands or other locations throughout the venue.
5. Personal and/or valuable items should be left at home during the competition.
 - a. 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).
 - b. 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).
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.

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.
 - a. More Information, schedules, and match video are available at: www.thebluealliance.com
2. An adult must accompany all guests under the age of 12 at all times.
3. The venue will be equipped with fold-down, stadium-style 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.
5. Weather in St. Louis can be very unpredictable. Please bring shoes that are appropriate for all weather, and a folding umbrella for walking.
6. Team Members wishing to trade shirts with other Teams may do so graciously at their own discretion and expense.
7. Spending Money:
 - a. Spending money for all shopping should be at the preference of individual families.
 - b. Please note: prices may be slightly inflated in St. Louis, please take this into consideration when budgeting.
 - c. The Team and its Mentors cannot be held accountable for irresponsible spending habits of students.
 - d. There is a FIRST store in the Pit Area that sells FIRST-branded items such as shirts, bags, water bottles, etc.
 - e. Shopping may be available at Union Station in Chicago, as well as the St. Louis attraction that the Team chooses to visit.



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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.
- **REMEMBER:** You must carry all of your belongings with you for at least two blocks once we arrive in St. Louis
- Carry-on items must be stowed in overhead compartment or under seat storage area.

1. Team Uniform

- FIRST Forward Travel 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
- Undergarments, socks, and undershirts/camisole 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

- Pillows/Blankets for travel
- Warm sweatshirt or jacket
- Bathing Suit
- Books, deck of cards, games, music, etc. for entertainment at the Hotel
- Entertainment for the Train ride
- Umbrella
- Camera



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Tentative Schedule of Events - Tuesday, April 23, 2011

	Description
6:15am	Meet at the Amtrak station in Flint, ready for check-in
7:30am	Train Departs for Chicago
11:45am	Arrive at Union Station in Chicago, have lunch
1:00pm	Board train at Union Station
1:45pm	Depart for Chicago
7:20pm (CST)	Arrive in St. Louis, obtain MetroLink passes, board MetroLink, depart for Hotel
TBD	Arrive at hotel, check in, and move to assigned rooms.
TBD	Team Activities/Free-time (schedule permitting)
10:30pm	Room Inspection, Students must remain in their assigned Hotel Rooms after this time

Tentative Schedule of Events - Wednesday, April 24, 2013

	Description
8:15am	Meet in Hotel Lobby, ready for departure
8:30am	Board MetroLink for sight-seeing, location TBD
TBD	Have Lunch
TBD	Board MetroLink for Edward Jones Dome
3:30pm	Arrive at Edward Jones Dome
4:00pm - 7:30pm	FIRST Workshops (students sign up in advance on Google Doc)
7:30pm	Event closes, board MetroLink
8:00pm	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 25, 2013

Time	Description
6:00am	Meet in hotel lobby, ready for departure (may change due to routes and walking times)
6:05am	Board MetroLink for Edward Jones Dome (may change due to routes and walking times)
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	Qualification Rounds Break
6:45pm - 8:00pm	Qualification Rounds
8:30pm	Pits close, board MetroLink
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 26, 2013

Time	Description
6:00am	Meet in hotel lobby, ready for departure (may change due to routes and walking times)
6:05am	Board MetroLink for Edward Jones Dome (may change due to routes and walking times)
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 - 6:15pm	Qualification Rounds
7:00pm	Pits close, board Metrolink
TBD	Dinner, location 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 27, 2013

Time	Description
6:00am	Meet in hotel lobby, ready for departure (may change due to routes and walking times)
6:05am	Board MetroLink for Edward Jones Dome (may change due to routes and walking times)
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
6:00 – 9:30pm	FIRST Finale – details TBD
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 28, 2013

Time	Description
6:30am	Meet in lobby, ready for departure with room checks completed (may change due to routes and walking times)
7:15am	Arrive at Train Station
7:55am	Train Leaves St. Louis
2:00pm – 3:15pm	Arrive in Chicago, have a Lunch Break
3:15pm	Board train for Flint
10:02pm	Arrive in Flint, passengers must be picked up from the Train Station

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