



Grand Blanc High School Robotics Team



2017 FIRST Championship Competition Information

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Hey NERDs!

After 4 competitions, 73 matches, and 6 awards... we've made it to the last FIRST Championship in St. Louis! Thanks to all of the Students, Mentors, Parents, friends, and family that have helped make this season so successful; we couldn't have done it without you.

Since St. Louis is SO far away, some things change for this event. PLEASE take the time to review this document and contact Clinton or Brandi with any questions.

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.
2. All students must submit a completed progress report, signed by each of his/her teachers.
 - a. Students must print off a copy of his/her grades from the Synergy system and attach it to the progress report and permission slip BEFORE attempting to obtain signatures from Teachers.
 - b. 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.
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 **PRIOR TO** 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 sandwich-sized 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. Breakfast should be eaten prior to departure on Tuesday, or something may be brought to eat on the Train or at the Station in Flint.
2. The cost for Students' meals is included in the pre-paid amount, including:
 - a. Breakfast Each day
 - b. Lunch each day
 - c. Dinner each day
3. NOT Included:
 - a. Snacks
 - b. Food/Drinks on the Train (other than provided dinners)
 - c. Food/Drinks at Union Station in Chicago (other than provided lunch)
 - d. Food/Drinks from the event venue (other than provided lunch)
 - e. Dessert at Team meals (unless noted on the Team-provided menu)
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 Martha Breneiser or Lisa Carter for availability of space, and so reservations can be made (where available).
6. It is HIGHLY recommended that each Team Member bring a reusable water bottle with them on the train (fill it before you leave home, drinking water is NOT available on the train) and to the event.



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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.
 - During competition, Team Members should only wear an outer layer that is part of the Team-distributed apparel.
2. To ensure a uniform Team appearance, please use the following schedule, ensuring you **wear the CORRECT shirt for 2017:**
 - Tuesday* – Any EngiNERDs shirt or GBHS shirt
 - Wednesday* – 2017 Championship Shirt
 - Thursday* – 2017 Red T-shirt;
 - Friday* – 2017 Black T-shirt;
 - Saturday* – 2017 Black Mechanic Shirt;
 - Sunday* – Any EngiNERDs shirt, or another Team's shirt that you've traded, or a *FIRST* Shirt from the *FIRST* Store
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). Leggings may NOT be worn as pants.
4. 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.
5. Comfortable Tennis/Walking Shoes/Boots are HIGHLY recommended. We will be doing a lot of walking. Students, Team Mentors, and any guests in attendance must wear closed-toe tennis shoes or boots in the Pit Area.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Long hair must be clean and pulled back into a ponytail or braid that does not present a safety hazard.
9. All children under the age of 12 must be supervised at all times.

Transportation/Travel/Luggage Policies:

1. Identification is required at all times for travel:
 - a. Students, Mentors, and Family members over the age of 18 must provide a Michigan Operator's license, State-Issued ID or GBHS Student ID to check in, and carry it with them at all times
 - b. 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
 - c. Students, Mentors, and Parent Chaperones will be given a badge after our Team checks in at the event (will be distributed by Brandi). All attendees, including guests, must wear the badge in a visible location at all times, as it will be required for entry into the event.
2. Each student will be assigned a Mentor/Parent Chaperone to act as his/her chaperone for the duration of the event.
 - a. Students are assigned a Mentor Chaperone to create efficient and effective attendance-taking and safe travel.
 - b. Students may not switch their mentor assignment.
 - c. Students will be responsible for reporting to their mentor after checking in with Brandi and Jody each day.
 - d. Students must remain in the direct supervision of their assigned mentor whenever the group is traveling from one location to another.
 - e. Students must always be aware of the location of their assigned mentor, and ensure that their assigned mentor is aware of their location.
 - f. When Traveling, Students must remain within the visual and auditory range of his/her Mentor
 - g. Students will be required to program the cell phone number of his/her chaperone into their cell phone.
3. The Team will be taking an Amtrak Train to St. Louis.
4. All Team Members attending the event are responsible for arranging their own transportation to the Train Station.
 - a. Persons arriving after the scheduled time may be left behind.
 - b. It is recommended that anyone who drives to the train station should NOT leave 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.
5. 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.
 - a. Non-medicated Items such as ginger candy, Psi Bands, and essential oils may be used for motion sickness, and do not require a Mentor to administer.
 - b. If you start to feel motion sick, please inform Jody or Brandi sooner than later. It's always better to prevent than to treat.
6. There will not be assigned seats on the train, but:
 - a. We will be assigned a group seating assignment, and Students must remain within those seats during designated times
 - b. Students should inform Jody and/or Brandi before moving to another train car
 - c. Students may be separated or asked to move seats if inappropriate behavior is noted by Team Mentors
 - d. PDA between Students of opposite and/or the same sex, is not permitted on the Train.
 - e. Sharing or cohabiting of blankets and/or pillows will not be permitted.



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7. The use of electronic devices is permitted on the train
 - a. There may or may not be power outlets available
 - b. For devices with sound, headphones **MUST** be worn (per Amtrak's policies)
 - c. Internet connection may or may not be available on the Train.
8. The train is equipped with restroom(s).
9. Team Members are encouraged to visit the Observation Car (only available from Chicago to St. Louis). Buddy system must be used at all times on the Train (unless entering the restroom).
10. 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.
11. Luggage Policies:
 - a. All travelers **MUST** adhere to Amtrak's luggage policy, available here: <http://www.amtrak.com/baggage-policy>
 - b. The Team **WILL NOT** be checking bags. All items must fit into the allowed carry-on allowance.
 - c. All luggage (including suitcases, carry-on items and small bags) must be clearly labeled with the assigned Team Luggage Tags. See Brandi to obtain additional Team Luggage Tags.
 - d. **YOU** are responsible for your **OWN** luggage at all times (including when transferring trains in Chicago, as well as after arriving in St. Louis, and walking to the hotel from the train station. Please take this into consideration when packing, and be mindful of the size and weight of your suitcase. Rolling suitcases are **HIGHLY** recommended.)
 - e. 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.
 - f. 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.
12. While in St. Louis, the Team will be transported by the MetroLink, and/or walking as necessary.
 - a. MetroLink passes must be attached behind or worn with the FIRST ID Badge each day.
 - b. All MetroLink Passengers are subject to inspection of MetroLink Passes, and should have their passes visible when boarding and getting off of the tram each day.
 - c. 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.
13. 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. A team Text Alert will be sent approximately 1 hour prior to arrival.
14. 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:

1. The Team is staying at the Sheraton St. Louis City Center Hotel, located at 400 South 14th Street, St Louis.
 - a. More Information: <http://www.stlouiscitycenterhotel.com/>
2. 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.
3. Each room will have one large bed, and a queen-sized pull-out, and will have up to 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. Morning Departures/Sunday Room Check-Out:
 - a. When students report to the lobby, 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.
 - i. Room checks will be completed prior to departure on Sunday.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. Students should text Jody, 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. The hotel pool will be closed for the duration of this event.
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).



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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 visiting the City Museum on Wednesday morning
 - a. The City Museum is an indoor "playground" made from reclaimed and recycled materials.
 - b. Students MUST use the Buddy System at all times. Students who are roaming without a buddy will lose the opportunity to play.
 - c. Students who are afraid of heights of enclosed spaces should be mindful of their surroundings and only go places that will be comfortable for them.
 - d. Please wear pants/shorts, the assigned Team shirt and tennis shoes/boots for this event.
 - e. Lunch will be pre-ordered and provided at the Museum
 - f. A small gift shop is available at the Museum. The Team will not provide funds to purchase gifts.
 - g. Please be sure to empty your pockets before playing. We're not responsible for lost items.
3. Schedules will be distributed at the event, and must be followed. Students may not switch shifts without talking to Brandi (NOT other mentors or students).
4. Students may move between the two competition venues freely, as long as they are adhering to the buddy policy.
5. It is HIGHLY recommended that each Team Member visit the pits of other Teams. It's a huge part of the FRC CMP experience.
6. All students - **INCLUDING THOSE IN THE PITS** - must meet their assigned Mentor at the time designated in Slack. A Team Slack Message will be sent as a warning - adhere to it, or you'll lose the opportunity to roam freely.

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 Partners in a positive way. Any guests behaving inappropriately may be asked to leave.
4. Restrictions and suggestions for Free Time:
 - a. Devices such as personal video game systems, e-readers, card games, etc. should not be brought to the competition venue.
 - b. Headphones are NOT permitted at the event, including during free time.
 - c. Excessive use of cell phones and/or other electronic devices for non-robotics related purposes might warrant a mentor confiscating it.
 - d. Team Members should use his/her free time to spend time in the pits, explore the competition, and cheer for the Team.
 - e. 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 Archimedes 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
 - b. <https://frc.divisions.co/r/north/d/Archimedes>
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 during their scheduled free time. Students MAY NOT trade shirts that are scheduled to be worn in the upcoming days.



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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 at all times.
- Carry-on items must be stowed in overhead compartment or under seat storage area.
- We recommend either a suitcase with wheels or a camping-style backpack

1. Team Uniform

- 2017 Travel Shirt (worn on Wednesday)
- 2017 Red Thursday T-Shirt (worn on Thursday)
- 2017 Black Friday T-Shirt (worn on Friday)
- Mechanic Shirt (worn on Saturday)
- A shirt to wear Sunday (see uniform above)
- Appropriate/professional blue jeans, shorts, Capri pants or skirt for each day (tights/leggings under skirts)
- Undergarments, socks, and undershirts/camisole for each day
- Team Sweatshirt and/or Track Jacket
- Close-toed shoes
- Belt (where necessary)
- Safety Glasses
- Reusable water bottle (labeled with student name and Team number)

2. Sleeping Needs

- Blankets and/or pillows for travel/hotel (optional)
- Appropriate sleeping attire

3. Toiletries

- Soap
- Shampoo
- Toothbrush and Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Other personal essentials

4. Other/Optional

- Books, deck of cards, games, music, etc. for entertainment at the Hotel – DO NOT OVER-PACK
- Entertainment for the Train ride – DO NOT OVER-PACK
- Umbrella and/or rain coat
- Light Jacket
- Camera
- Extra Shoes – HIGHLY RECOMMENDED (in case of wet weather)!



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Tentative Schedule of Events - Monday, April 24, 2017

	Description
6:30pm - 8:30pm	Meet at Premier to Load trailer and Team Materials

Tentative Schedule of Events - Tuesday, April 25, 2017

	Description
6:45am	Meet at the Amtrak station in Flint (located at I-69 and Dort Highway), ready for check-in - BE ON TIME. DO NOT ARRIVE LATE. We will check in as a group, and everyone must be present! We will board as soon as the conductor approves! We cannot wait for you!
7:32am	Train Departs for Chicago - Blue Water Line 365
11:45am*	Arrive at Union Station in Chicago, grab lunch to eat in the queue area
1:00pm*	Board train at Union Station
1:45pm*	Depart St. Louis - Texas Eagle Line 21
7:45pm (CST)	Arrive in St. Louis, walk to Hotel
TBD	Arrive at hotel, check in, and move to assigned rooms.
TBD	Team Activities/Free-time (schedule permitting)
TBD	Room Inspection, Students must remain in their assigned Hotel Rooms after this time

Tentative Schedule of Events - Wednesday, April 25, 2017

	Description
8:45am	Meet in Hotel Lobby, ready for departure - TENTATIVE
9:00am	Walk to the City Museum - TENTATIVE
9:30am	Arrive at City Museum - TENTATIVE
12:00pm	Have lunch at the City Museum
12:30pm	Designated Pit Crew leaves for Edward Jones Dome
3:30pm	Remaining Team Members leave for Edward Jones Dome
4:00pm - 8:00pm	Pits open to all participants, FIRST conferences
8:30pm	Meet at designated spot (sent via text message) to Board MetroLink or walk to Dinner Location
Upon Arrival	Dinner at hotel
10:30pm*	Room Inspection, Students must remain in their assigned Hotel Rooms after this time

Tentative Schedule of Events - Thursday, April 26, 2017

Time	Description
5:30am	Meet in hotel lobby, ready for departure (may change due to routes and walking times)
5:40am*	Board MetroLink for Edward Jones Dome (may change due to routes and walking times), breakfast delivered
7:00am	FRC Pits and machine shop open
8:30am - 5:00pm	Qualification Matches, FIRST Championship Conferences
10:00am - 5:00pm	FIRST Scholarship Row and Innovation Faire - Renaissance Grand Hotel
11:00am - 1:00pm	Archimedes Division Lunch Break (Pre-Order lunch served at designated spot)
5:30pm	FRC Pits Close - Meet in stands for FIRST Opening Ceremonies
6:00pm - 7:30pm	Opening Ceremonies
7:30pm*	Meet in designated spot to board MetroLink (exact time and location sent via text message alert)
8:30pm	Dinner served at the Hotel
10:00pm	Room Inspection, Students must remain in their assigned Hotel Rooms after this time



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Tentative Schedule of Events – Friday, April 27, 2017

Time	Description
5:30am	Meet in hotel lobby, ready for departure (may change due to routes and walking times)
5:40am*	Board MetroLink for Edward Jones Dome (may change due to routes and walking times), breakfast delivered
7:00am	FRC Pits and machine shop open
TBD	Visit from Faith - Details will be announced/sent via text when they're finalized
8:00am – 6:30pm	Qualification Matches
10:00am – 4:00pm	FIRST Scholarship row and Innovation Faire
11:30pm – 1:30pm	Archimedes Division Lunch Break
7:00pm	Pits Close
6:00pm – 8:00pm*	GM Teams Awards Presentation in Ferra Theatre
8:00pm	Meet for departure from Edward Jones Dome (exact time and location sent via text message alert)
8:30pm	Dinner Served at the Hotel
TBD	Team Activities (students may not leave the hotel)
10:30pm	Room Inspection, Students must remain in their assigned Hotel Rooms after this time

Tentative Schedule of Events – Saturday, April 28, 2017

Time	Description
5:15am	Meet in hotel lobby, ready for departure (may change due to routes and walking times)
5:20am	Board MetroLink for Edward Jones Dome (may change due to routes and walking times)
6:45am – 2:30pm	Pits and machine shop open
7:30am – 8:30am	Division Awards ceremony and alliance selection
8:30am – 3:00pm	Team Load-Out (for those not in the elimination rounds)
9:30am – 12:30pm	Division elimination matches
12:30pm – 3:00pm	All divisions Break
3:00pm	Pits Close
3:30pm – 7:00pm*	Einstein Rounds, Awards Ceremonies (time and location sent via text message alert)
TBD*	Board MetroLink to go to the hotel
9:30pm	Dinner served at the hotel, "Remember When" sharing
TBD	Room Inspection, Students must remain in their assigned Hotel Rooms after this time

Tentative Schedule of Events – Sunday, April 29, 2017

Time	Description
7:00am	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 – Texas Eagle Line 22
1:52pm	Arrive in Chicago, grab lunch to eat in queue area
3:15pm*	Board train for Flint (exact time sent via text message)
4:00pm	Train leaves for Flint – Blue Water Line 364
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.