



www.HoustonRobotics.org

2009 Houston Robotics FIRST Sponsorships

Thank you for your interest in the Houston Robotics FIRST Sponsorship program. We are excited to announce that sponsorships valued to \$6,000 are available to teams planning to compete in the FIRST Lone Star Robotics Competition. The sponsorships range from \$1,000 to \$6,000 and will assist organizations with the registration fee into the FIRST robotics program and the entry fee for the Lone Star Regional. The amount an organization receives will be governed by the availability of funds and the expressed needs of the applying organization. In addition, Houston Robotics will assist in locating technical assistance when needed. Please visit www.USFIRST.org for information about the FIRST Robotics program.

The past has shown that this will be one of the most significant engineering education experiences your students, teachers, and mentors will ever have. You are choosing to provide your students with the opportunity to use their minds to accomplish an incredible task. Starting with a bunch of unrelated parts and ideas, your team will create a functioning robot in only 6 weeks.

Houston Robotics will select teams to receive the sponsorships for the 2009 competition based primarily upon these factors:

- Teams that have not previously competed in FIRST will be given preference.
- Teams from the Greater Houston area will be given preference.
- Economically disadvantaged schools or districts will be given preference.
- Overall potential for the school/industry partnership to form a viable robotic team.

Although brief, we have designed the application to accomplish the following purposes:

- To present your school with the basic questions that you must address to assure a successful and positive experience.
- To provide the selection committee information concerning your implementation plans and your degree of commitment.

All teams accepting a Houston Robotics Education Sponsorship must agree to the following conditions. Teams not complying with all sponsorship requirements will not be considered for future Houston Robotics sponsorships and may be required to provide reimbursement of funds applied toward their team during the current year.

- The name of the sponsoring organization must appear in the sponsored team's official name on record with FIRST. Other sponsors may be listed before or after the sponsoring organization.

- Sponsored teams agree to complete a robot by the deadline specified by FIRST.
- Sponsored teams must attend the FIRST Lone Star Regional competition.
- Sponsored teams acknowledge that the Houston Robotics Sponsorship may not be transferred to another team, and must be used by the original team applying for the sponsorship.
- Sponsored teams must submit a minimum one-page “newsletter-type” report presenting their season to Houston Robotics BEFORE participating in the Lone Star Regional.

Below is the philosophy behind the Houston Robotics application process. Participating in FIRST is incredibly rewarding but it is difficult --- it will likely be one of the most difficult things your students have ever done, but as Albert Einstein said, "In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity." We want you to succeed. It is our goal to use this application process for three purposes:

- Enable new teams to get involved in FIRST
- Ensure that selected teams are likely to succeed
- Assist teams by explaining what is necessary to succeed.

Please assist us by being brief with your answers. We anticipate that the average application will be no longer than two pages. Complete the attached application to the best of your ability. We do not want to discourage teams from participating and are committed to providing the information necessary for you to have a good understanding of the FIRST Robotics program. If you need assistance or have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Lucia Sevcik at lsevcik810@aol.com or Lucien at Lucien.Q.Junkin@nasa.gov.

A final note, this sponsorship does not cover participation in the Championships in Atlanta that requires an additional \$5,000 for registration, plus all the associated travel costs. Participation in the Lone Star Regional does not obligate you to attend or compete in the Championships. Please submit the completed application by October 15th, 2008. Teams selected to receive the sponsorship will be notified by October 30th, 2008. Please submit your applications in electronic format to:
Lucia Sevcik at lsevcik810@aol.com or Lucien.Q.Junkin@nasa.gov.

Thank you again for your interest,
Houston Robotics Education Program

Houston Robotics Sponsorship Application for participation in the 2009 FIRST Robotics Program and entry into the Lone Star Regional

Please review the FIRST web site (www.usfirst.org), especially the ASME's guide on "Starting a Team."

1. What are your goals and objectives?

Please describe what you intend for your team to gain from participating on the FIRST team.

2. What is the history of engineering and robotics education at your school?

Please provide information about the engineering and robotics education in which your school has been involved. Give details about other robotics competitions in which your school has competed (FLL, BEST, Botball, etc.). Also provide details about mentoring that your school has done with other robotics programs (EARLY, FLL, Botball, BEST, Robofest, etc.). Make reference to any curriculum and classes that your school has implemented.

3. Who is the leader?

Please provide information about the leader for your FIRST program. Typically, the leader is a dedicated teacher or science director who communicates daily with the team, corresponds with FIRST, and organizes activities that are related and unrelated to the construction of the robot. The leader does not need to have a technical background. Also, please provide the leader's contact information (address, email & telephone number).

4. How will your team be organized?

Please indicate how many schools will be involved and how many students might participate. Currently, there are teams that combine several high schools together to form a single team although the majority of the teams come from a single high school. The team sizes generally range from approximately 10 to 60 students with the typical size being about 30 students. If you have registered for FIRST or are a veteran FIRST team, please provide information such as your team number, years that the team has participated, events that the team has attended, etc.

5. Where will you get engineering support?

Please describe existing and planned support. Typically, teams have a minimum of 3 mentors who work directly with the students designing and constructing the robot. Although these mentors needn't be degreed engineers, a technical background and a willingness to do hands-on construction is of benefit. Usually, these mentors come from schools, universities, businesses, and the community and are teachers, parents, engineers, machinists, technicians, and whoever loves to tinker. Most importantly, the mentors need to want to work with and help the students!

6. What facilities will you use to build the robot?

Please indicate where you will build your robot. FIRST robots are constructed anywhere from a parent's garage or a school classroom to a school shop or a hi-tech machine shop. The location of the facility is usually at the participating school, a local college, or a local business. During the six weeks of robot construction, the team will need access to these facilities. In general, it is more important to have access to the facility than for the facility to be state-of-the-art.

7. What is your budget?

Please describe your budget. Although the Houston Robotics Sponsorship will assist with the FIRST registration to participate in the Lone Star Regional, other expenses such as tools, building materials, and possibly travel and lodging will be required.

8. What is your level of commitment?

Please describe the commitment of your teachers, team members, principal, etc. Please include addresses, emails, and telephone numbers for the school/organization, principal, etc. Before committing, each participant should review the FIRST web site (www.usfirst.org), especially the ASME's guide on *Starting a Team*