

Rookie Conference Call #2

Rookie Website/Google Groups:

- New site developed by RUSH and EngiNERDs:
<http://www.frcrookies.com>
- Google Group for 2012 Rookies - to subscribe go to
<http://www.frcrookies.com/google-group.html>
unsubscribe from this group, by sending an email to
2012rookie+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com (this is at the bottom of every email)
- All documents will be held there
- We will continue to update as we go

Money – Financials

Great RESOURCE: Team RUSH Tool Kit on Sponsorship and Fundraising:

<http://teamrush27.net/resources/toolkit.html> Chapter 3 - Financial FUNdraising

Budget required items – Registration, Uniforms, Supplies

Registration fees

- \$6,500 Initial registration fee
- Possibility of \$4,000 for State Competition

T-shirts/uniforms

- FIRST wants you to “look” like a team
- Most teams just use a t-shirt or polo as their uniform
- Local t-shirt shops may cut you a deal
- **Make sure to include:**
 - Team Name
 - Team Number
 - Financial Sponsor(s)
 - In-kind Sponsors of Supplies (including tools)
 - May want to include school - not a mandatory requirement
- See the attached list of tools (discussed below)
- May need supplies: wood, plastic, metal, etc. to build “parts”

Optional Budget Items

- Travel costs –
 - Money for a bus
 - Funds for gas
 - Hotel costs
 - Food
- Give-aways
- Some teams give away buttons, stickers, etc.

- **This is NOT required**

Financial Sponsorship:

Resource: <http://teamrush27.net/resources/toolkit.html> Chapter 5 - Sponsorship

- **Student dues**
 - Some teams require students to pay a fee to be on the team
 - You can use this money to buy their uniforms
 - Ask for a few bucks to cover costs of uniforms, buses, food, etc
 - Think about how you're going to pay for food
 - Collect money up front
- **Meals –**
 - Have a potluck meal
 - Ask parents to provide a meal to the team
 - Have a parent create a google calendar with the meals
- **Local company donations – start with family contacts**
 - Ask parents if they know anyone who would be willing to chip in
 - Small donations add up!
- **Corporate sponsorships**
 - Ex: GM,
- **Team Fundraisers**
 - Team RUSH Tool Kit: Chapter 3
- **School money**
 - Some schools can provide a little bit of funds
 - Operation and Promotion
 - Copies (if your school doesn't provide them)
 - Other expenses – busing?
 - Ask for a brown-bag lunch from the school
- **Grants**
 - More long term
 - Usually need a 501-C3 if team is not associated with a school
 - Very specific to what you need to spend the money on

Tools and Fasteners:

TOOLS

- **Refer to attachment for list of tools and description**
 - Minimal list, feel free to get more. Lots of teams do.
- **Parents may be willing to:**
 - Donate Tools from Home
 - Let the team borrow tools
 - Find a place to donate tools

- **Purchasing tools (based on your budget) consider:**
 - Cheap tools (from somewhere like Harbor Freight)
 - Tools with a guarantee (Craftsman, etc.)
 - What kind of tools to obtain
- **Tool Box/Storage Options (you will NEED a toolbox):**
 - Full-sized tool box (the kind on wheels with drawers)
 - Hand-carry tool box
 - You could build your own
 - Try to get something that locks - helps tools from spilling during transport
 - Create a place for all of your tools, so they are returned to the same place each time – this is a GREAT TIME Saver!
 - Great idea - create a 10'x10' pit (like competition) so that the students know where the tools and materials are
- **Tools and students**
 - Once you get your tools, introduce your team to them
 - Not every student (or mentor) will be familiar with the tools
 - Print the attached list of tools, and give it to students, or hang it up where everyone can see
 - Continue to call the tools by their proper name, not the “thingy”
 - Make sure that ALL kids are trained in HOW to use the tool
 - Make sure that you have mentors present when students are using tools (especially large machines - mill, lathe, etc)

FASTENERS

- Create a standard on your robot, so you only use a COUPLE different kinds and sizes of fasteners (1/4-20 and 10-32) - keep them separate so they don't get mixed up
- Keep fasteners sorted in labeled bins or resealable bags
- Bring replacement fasteners with you to competition. You will lose a few fasteners during rounds and need replacements
- Keep a running inventory on all of your fasteners
 - Know where to re-order more
 - Put someone in charge of inventory and re-order procedures
- Make sure you have **nylon lock nuts** in addition to regular fasteners
- Some teams prefer to use rivets, cheap and fast to replace
- Need zip ties! Buy in bulk. 4” and 8” are recommended what you may need.

Sub-teams and team organization

Organizational chart (see attachment)

- It increases productivity and responsibility

- Allows Students and Mentors to specialize in specific areas
- If your team has enough mentors, allow them to pick the area they want to “teach” or lead
- Recruit mentors based on your needs

Sub-Teams

- Team Size depends on the number of sub-teams
 - Large teams are easy to divide into smaller groups
 - Small teams may not need division, and everyone will help with all of the tasks
 - An appropriate number of students for a group depends on what tasks are available for students to participate in
 - Assign tasks to students *and* adults on the team
- Sub-Team Leaders
 - Mentors can manage small groups of students
 - Experienced or responsible students can lead a group of students
 - Ask your parents, teachers, sponsors, co-workers, etc to help

Sample of Sub-teams (<http://www.team2337.com/sections.html>)

- Robot
 - Mechanical: deals with the mechanical parts of the robot
 - Controls: Electrical/Programming of the robot
- Team
 - Business – day to day operations, thank you notes, etc
 - Advertising/media – photo, video recording
 - Communications – website, twitter, etc
 - Community relations – outreach, presentation
 - Awards – to fulfill FIRST awards submissions

Scheduling of Sub-teams

- You could have sub-groups meet on different days
- Have at least one day a week where the whole team is meeting, and everyone is present
- Some teams require a minimum number of hours to participate on the team
- Some teams invite students to come out as often as they can
- Do what fits you and YOUR team! There are no rules here – just suggestions

Q: Where do I find the files (manual) for the encryption code.

A: Encrypted Sections of the 2012 FRC Manual: The encrypted sections of the FRC 2012 Game Manual are available for download. Please find the FRC Game Manual page here: <http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/competition-manual-and-related-documents>. To download the encrypted sections, you will right-click on the .pdf file and select “Save Link/Target As...”. The password for accessing these documents will be available at the end of the Kickoff broadcast.

Prior to Kickoff, make sure that your computer has the proper software by following the instructions for the 2012 Decryption Test found here:

<http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/2012DecryptionTest>

Q: If I don't get the pdf file ahead of time, will I still be able to download it?

A: Yes. There is an advantage to having it downloaded first, however, due to the bandwidth at the FIRST website. You may have to wait to get the files if the FIRST site goes down (has happened before).

Q: As far as programming the robot, what language do I use?

A: You can use either: LabView, Java or C++ If you don't have anyone to help, use LabView.

Q: As a first year - how do you get your hands on LabView

A: You will get it in the kit.

Next meeting:

Thursday, January 5, 2012

6pm – 7pm

Call – in number: 877-251-8582

Pass Code: 8582

Agenda:

Kickoff

- Permission slips
- Broadcast
- Manual
- First Choice
- Kit of Parts
 - Inventory
 - Investigate
 - Game objects

Week 1

Strategy – Auton, Tele-operated Mode, the last 30 seconds

Playing field - look at low cost

Updates - where are they? When do they come out?

How to get started.