

Westfield High School

SHAM-ROCK-BOTICS Team Handbook



SHAM-ROCK-BOTICS is creating a tight-knit community of passionate problem solvers that will graduate from high school ready to take on the world. We do this through hands-on training, community outreach, and intense competitions.

Community

The reach of this program far outstretches the students and mentors that will fill the roster. The reach extends into the school as students recruit their friends and classmates. The reach extends further into the community as the team organizes demonstrations of their robot. The reach extends beyond that to the business centers as the team makes connections and builds partnerships. A FIRST team isn't just the 30 names on a roster but the hundreds of people supporting them along the way.

Passion

This team is so much more than students learning from mentors how to twist a wrench and build a robot. This team was started by no less than 6 veteran mentors, 5 of which are alumni of the FIRST program, which shows this team is built on a foundation of passion for the FIRST program. A FIRST team is a wildly vast endeavor; from designing a robot - to designing a logo, from reaching for a game piece - to reaching into the community. Our goal is to give students with all manner of passions the opportunity to hone their craft, learning from the sharpest minds around.

Fun

The only things people truly commit to are things that bring them joy, that bring them satisfaction, the things that they find...FUN. Fun is the ultimate motivator, a fun reward can drive a team through all manner of challenging situations.

We know that if we can create a community of friends, who are all chasing their collective passions, they will have fun along the way. We know that if our students graduate from our program having fun solving big, tough problems, then they will be ready to take on anything that comes their way.

This is how we will build the next generation of problem solvers.

Participation

Participation on the Westfield High School SHAM-ROCK-BOTICS Team is a privilege which should elicit great pride in both the student and his/her family. Standards of behavior are necessarily high and a willingness to live up to them is a condition for participation. The following set of rules and regulations have been adopted to cover the conduct of students and adults. The intention of the rules is to help ensure the safety and security of all students, parents, chaperones and mentors. An individual's signature, along with that of his/her parent/guardian (as required), indicates they both recognize and understand this responsibility and that the individual agrees to adhere to the basic concepts of good citizenship, and those positive examples with which each participant should be identified.

Behavior

General Expected Conduct:

- All students will exhibit gracious professionalism and act as an ambassador for SHAM-ROCK-BOTICS at all times.
- The team will share reminders for meetings and upcoming events **via Remind**. All important & detailed updates will be communicated **via email**. Students are expected to regularly check their e-mail and respond to team communications.
- Students will remain in the shop or PLTW rooms for the duration of the meetings or in an area designated by an adult. **Wandering around undesignated meeting areas in the school during meetings is prohibited.**
- Students are expected to be on-time and productive at team meetings by working on team projects. There is always something to be done. If you are not sure of a task that needs completed, please ask someone.
- Students must attend required team events to travel including: FRC Kickoff and the FRC Open House.
- Adhere to all school rules and policies at all times, regardless of location, day of week and time.
- Excused absences will be allowed for students who communicate their need to miss a meeting to a mentor at least 8 hours prior to the start of the meeting. Excused absences do not count against the percentage of meeting attendance required to travel. Emergencies will be excused. **The key is communicate**, your team is counting on you, and we need to know if you won't be available.
- All student members, mentors, and parents will show respect for every individual. This includes SHAM-ROCK-BOTICS members, mentors, and parents as well as community members and other teams we engage with. (For example: at outreach events).
- Students/Parents/Mentors will show respect for school and team property. Damage or problems must be promptly reported to a mentor.

Prohibited Conduct:

No person, either singly or with others, shall as a member of SHAM-ROCK-BOTICS Team:

- Engage in any unsafe practice, such as running in the hallways, pushing, fighting and shoving, name calling (negative), leaving messes, yelling, stealing, inappropriate use of technology such as Internet, use of personal gaming devices, and any other activities that reflect negatively on the team and team performance.
- Engage in any type of bullying, including cyber bullying.
- Use, possess or distribute alcoholic beverages or tobacco and other substances.
- Use or possess, without authorized medical supervision, alcohol, tobacco, and other substances.
- Smoke or vape in any area.
- Willfully engage in theft of, damage, deface, or destroy property such as hotel rooms, transporting vehicles, etc. Students and their parents/guardians will be held financially responsible for any damage that their student incurs. Hotel rooms will be inspected by the chaperone and the occupants of each room prior to occupying each room and again before checkout.
- Gamble in any way.
- Use language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar, or abrasive.
- Willfully incite others to commit any of the acts herein prohibited with specific intent to procure them to do so.
- Discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender identity or expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

Boyfriend/Girlfriend/Couples

In the event that a relationship develops or is ongoing, there are certain guidelines that must be adhered to at all times when engaged in team activities locally and away. Disciplinary actions will be taken against students who refuse to cooperate. **Students with a significant other are expected to act as a member of the team and not as a couple at all times.** The couple should not appear as a couple but, rather, as a part of the team. Hugging, kissing, sitting on laps, pet names and all other expressions of affection are prohibited at all times. Handholding is strongly discouraged. Couples must travel in a group. Couples may not wander off alone or sit together alone.

Team Uniforms and Attire:

- The team uniform is a team shirt, which is designed by the team and worn on designated and competition days. The shirts will be worn at all functions in which the robotics team participates. If members are not wearing their team shirts on designated days, they will be asked to change clothes.
- When the team participates in functions where team shirts are not required, the school dress code must be followed. For safety reasons a sleeved t-shirt (no tank tops) and closed toed shoes must be worn at practice. If inappropriate clothing is worn, the student will be asked to change into a t-shirt provided by the team or the student will be asked to go home.
- Each student member will be provided **2 current team shirts** prior to the start of competition season. Additional shirts are available to purchase.
- Students will exhibit exemplary behavior while wearing any SHAM-ROCK-BOTICS apparel. Your actions reflect not only on yourself and your team, but the adults, mentors and sponsors as well.

Workshop Expectations

- Students/Mentors/Parents/Guardians will exhibit safe and cautious behavior at all times in the workshop.
- Safety glasses will be worn at all times in the workshop, unless specifically stated by a mentor.
- Students/Mentors/Parents/Guardians will be asked to pass a simple safety course and quiz prior to being allowed to work in the workshop. Student leaders or mentors may ask for the safety quiz to be repeated if unsafe behaviours are observed.
- No food/eating is allowed in the workshop. Water is permitted in a container with a lip that closes securely. Water will remain in the designated “water spot” to avoid accidental spills in work areas.
- Goofing off and/or distracting others will not be tolerated. These actions create a potentially dangerous situation and may result in suspension of workshop privileges.
- Students will be issued a pair of safety glasses at the beginning of the year and asked to label them. Each student is responsible for his/her own safety glasses. Loss of safety glasses will result in a \$5 fee. Students may provide their own safety glasses.

Student Leaders

Student leaders are an important part of SHAM-ROCK-BOTICS. Student leaders are expected to act with integrity and exemplary behavior at all times. They are expected to be communicative with all team members and mentors about activities within their assigned group. Failure by student leaders to attend leadership or team meetings, to provide timely updates of group activities, or to exhibit appropriate behavior could result in the loss of their leadership position. Students, leaders, and mentors may express concerns about Student Leaders at any time to the coaches or other mentors. Leaders will be given the opportunity to learn and change their behavior, if required, prior to the loss of their leadership position.

Mentors

The mentors for SHAM-ROCK-BOTICS are a group of dedicated professionals who are taking on the responsibility of providing you with the best professional training and education today. Quite a few hours of planning are required to coordinate all the activities for our team. Many of their efforts are behind the scenes pre- and post- season.

The mentors are in many cases professionals at a community business. These dedicated team members spend many hours of their free-time on this project and serve as role models for our students. Their expertise allows the dreams and ideas of the students to be transformed into reality.

They are committing time to get to know and help you, so please take the time to communicate and get to know these very talented and generous people. Do not hesitate to ask them for advice, for they have a wealth of knowledge. **They are also a valuable resource for tutoring.**

When traveling, all mentors are considered your “guardians”—looking out for your welfare and safekeeping. They take seriously the confidence your parents have placed in them. Their decisions are always aimed at

what is best for the student first and the team second. Please be aware that decisions regarding team rules and procedures are based upon experience, school district, and mentor input. Students are expected to honor a request by any mentor. Students shall treat mentors with respect at all times.

Mentors are required to sign this Code of Conduct, which is enforced by the other mentors and coaches. If you have any concerns with the activities of a mentor or their behavior toward you or others, please talk to the Head Coach or another mentor immediately

Travel

Traveling, as a team, is very exciting and rewarding and often the highlight of a student's memories. A great deal of planning and organization is required to coordinate all the associated activities. A strong effort is made to make the travel be an educational/cultural experience as well as the basic competition. Safety is always the major concern.

All team members are expected to travel to all events unless otherwise exempted. A student may be exempted from travel due to a prior commitment approved by the coaches in advance or disciplinary reasons from the coaches, or school administration. The first day of district competitions will be limited to a skeleton crew.

In order to travel, students must successfully pass multiple tests regarding safety, team outreach, game rules, and the robot.

When the team travels, students are to remain with the team for the duration of the event. Should a student leave the main body of the team at any time, they must clear this with a supervising adult first and travel in a group. **A SUPERVISING ADULT SHOULD KNOW WHERE ALL STUDENTS ARE AT ALL TIMES.** Because we have signed the students out of school and are responsible for their safety, we encourage parents who can travel to join in team activities rather than separate their student from the group. In the event that a parent would like their student to participate in a non-team activity during the scheduled competition time the activity must be cleared by the Head Coach prior to the student leaving the group. A student may not be released from the competition venue to any party without prior written authorization from their parents/guardians.

Travel Requirements:

Students:

- Students must attend a minimum of 60% of team meetings.
- Students must have paid their student dues (\$300) and help contribute towards the team's total fundraising campaign through sponsorship donations and fundraisers.
 - At least \$150 of student dues need to be submitted to the team by **December 15th**.
 - The full \$300 of student dues need to be submitted to the team by **February 1st**.
 - Student dues can include in-kind donations of food, equipment, etc.
 - If you are also a member of the VEX team, you receive a \$50 credit towards student dues for SHAM-ROCK-BOTICS.

- Students must maintain a C or better in **all classes (not an average)** to qualify for all trips, whether it necessitates a school absence or not. Some trips may require absences on school days. We want to ensure all students are putting their academics first.
- Students must be active in the team's Community outreach efforts and contribute to volunteering in the team's annual outreach event goals. The current team goal is to volunteer at 12 events per year for a total of 120 hours of community service. Each student should do their part to help the team achieve its outreach goals.

Hotel:

When we travel we often stay at a hotel. Students will be organized into room groups of either three or four students, depending on quantity of students and room availability. There are no co-ed rooms. Students are not permitted to be in a room they are not assigned to. If students would like to hang out they must do so in a public area. While in the public areas students will be respectful of all staff and other guests at the hotel. We will have room checks periodically by the mentors/parent chaperones. After curfew, the hotel room doors will be taped to ensure student safety. Taping the door allows adults to conduct late night room checks without disturbing the students. If the tape is dislodged, adults know students have left their room.

When we enter the hotel, students will go to a designated location to wait for keys. At that location students need to be very quiet so as to not disturb the other guests. Students will proceed to the rooms as soon as key distribution is complete.

Health/Medications:

Students taking any medication while we are traveling need to have the list of these medications on file with the designated mentor. The designated mentor will keep all medication in a locked medication case. Also, students who have a medical condition such as diabetes, asthma, or allergies must inform the designated mentor of their condition. This is so that if the student needs to seek medical help mentors can provide the best care possible. This information will be kept confidential. A copy of every student's insurance card will be requested before they can travel.

In the event a student becomes ill on a trip, parent/guardian contact will be made. If transportation home is necessary, it will be at the parent's expense. Parents may also come and pick up their child, if needed.

Competitions

Team Pride

Cheering is more than yelling at the top of your lungs. True cheering is enjoying the event and celebrating the excitement of the moment. Organization is the key to this being a powerful tool. Your Spirit Team will give you direction and guidance for spirit. You are not expected to be cheering 100% of the time, however, when we are cheering, all team members are expected to stand and cheer to the best of their ability. Sitting in the stands looking bored, jeering, or carrying on personal conversations while others are cheering is not good for the team image and is not permitted.

Team members must sit together at all times. You are expected to be in the stands EVERY time the robot is on the field and showing team pride unless you have another assigned obligation. A lot of hard work from a lot of people has gone into making competing possible, TAKE PRIDE IN THAT!

Awards Ceremony

During the ceremony we will applaud the teams that are winning awards. When we applaud we will stand to show our respect for what they have accomplished.

Things We Do Not Do At An Event

- Uniforms may not be altered or worn in any manner not approved by the mentors.
- Students may not play cards or any other games including electronic games at the events.
- Our team will not engage in negative behavior toward another team or team members.
- Our team will not display displeasure over any decision by a referee or judge.
- Team members will not exchange negative remarks to each other, no matter what the situation.
- Team members will not ignore requests for help from your teammates/mentors/chaperones.

Students who are not exhibiting appropriate behavior at competitions may be asked to leave or may be prevented from traveling in the future.

Student Responsibilities During Travel

- Students must use transportation authorized by the team mentors.
- Students will stay in groups when traveling or sightseeing. **STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO WANDER ALONE.**
- Couples may not act as each other's buddy. Couples must always be in a group (more than 3) or have an adult with them if leaving the competition/team area together.
- Students should make sure their chaperones and/or mentors know where they are, who is with them and when they will return when leaving the general area of the competitions.
- Students shall wear Team Shirts at all events. Students are representing team sponsors as well as Westfield High School and the Westfield Washington School District. All actions reflect on these institutions.
- Students shall be formally listed as a member of the team in STIMS/TIMS and will submit their Field Trip Emergency Contact Form, FIRST consent & release form, and the IndianaFIRST consent & release form before the competition season.
- It is the responsibility of all team members to report problems to chaperones and/or mentor in a timely manner.

Coaches/Mentors/Chaperone Responsibilities During Travel:

All coaches, mentors, and chaperones are responsible for:

- Adherence by students to the Team Handbook. Any violation of the Team Handbook shall result in the assignment of immediate consequences.
- All students from the departure point of the trip, until the trip is complete and all students have transportation to their home.
- Accompanying groups of students around a venue when required.
- Setting curfews and room checks and implementing them.
- Inspections of hotel rooms with occupants of each room prior to the first night's stay and room check and inspections of each room after the last night's stay. **Any damage will be the responsibility of the occupants of the room and their parents/guardians.**

- Ensuring that each student has proper meal arrangements throughout the trip.
- Collection and maintenance of all emergency and medical consent forms.
- Notification of proper authorities and parents/guardians in case of serious injury to a student.
- Accompanying an injured student to the hospital. Emergency authorization information should accompany the team representative.
- Completing a background check prior to accompanying the team for any travel.
- Planning free time and group activities for the team.
- Exhibiting appropriate behavior while at team events and/or while supervising students.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

Parents/Guardians are an integral part of our team and are very important to our continued success. Support in all aspects of team involvement is vital to each team member getting the most out of the program. The more help we have, the more we can provide for the students.

SHAM-ROCK-BOTICS parents/guardians have several responsibilities:

- We would like each parent/guardian to volunteer to assist the team in some way. Our need for parent volunteers is ongoing throughout the year, and includes things like assisting with fundraising, helping to plan the annual awards banquet, monitoring students during team meetings, and assisting with community service projects, among many others.
- Parents/Guardians must provide timely transportation for their student, making sure that they are at each team event on time and ready to participate. Often we will leave for a competition very early in the morning and return late at night. Parents are expected to have the student at the designated location at the prescribed time and to pick them up promptly. We are not able to delay transportation for tardy students.
- Parents/Guardians are expected to provide accurate medical information and to keep mentors informed of all changes.
- Parents/Guardians are expected to provide their student with spending money for meals and snacks as necessary for competitions and other events.
- Parents/Guardians are expected to bring issues and concerns to the head coach or mentors immediately. The sooner a problem is identified, the sooner it can be addressed.
- Complete a background check if they intend to attend team meetings and/or travel with the team.
- Parents/Guardians will refrain from foul language, engaging students in disputes, or spreading gossip.
- Ensuring your student is arriving and leaving meetings on time. **DROP OFF AND PICK UP STUDENTS FROM DOOR 34 ENTRANCE ONLY.**
- Parents/Guardians must fill out a FIELD TRIP EMERGENCY CONSENT FORM which must be returned on the day specified prior to the competition trip. This form will ensure that your son/daughter will be able to receive immediate medical treatment if the situation arises.

Consequences:

Violators of the Team Handbook will be assigned consequences which include but are not limited to any of the following:

- Immediate warning and reprimand
- Apology either written or verbal to the entire team, mentors, and/or parents/guardians.
- Temporary or permanent removal from a project to assist with other team activities.

- Formal warning resulting in temporary suspension from team activities. The suspension will be lifted once a meeting between the student(s), student(s) guardian(s), and mentors takes place. This is to ensure proper communication between all parties about what happened as well as to maintain an open dialogue of about improvements to behavior and team management.
- If the violation is prior to the competition or event, the student may not be allowed to participate in the competition or future competitions. The Student and Student's parents/guardians will be notified of their disqualification for future participation and any disciplinary action taken at the time of the incident.
- If the violation is during or after the competition, parents/guardians will be notified. The student may not be eligible for the FIRST Robotics membership in the future.
- If a situation becomes intolerable during a club activity and/or competition, the student's parents/guardians will be notified to immediately make arrangements to have their student transported home at the expense and liability of the parents/guardians.

SHAM-ROCK-BOTICS Expectations

SHAM-ROCK-BOTICS are a team; it requires rigorous participation and a serious commitment. This is not a team for casual participants. The mentors are happy to answer any questions that might arise. Please contact Danny Blau at danny@andymark.com or at 262-993-4628 or Michael Marley at MarleyM@wvs.k12.in.us with questions or concerns.

A student wishing to travel/participate in any competition must meet ALL expectations. Not meeting any one single expectation will result in the student's inability to travel.

Parents and students please read the handbook and sign below together to ensure that all parties are aware of the requirements. Mentors please read the handbook and sign below to ensure that all parties are aware of the requirements. This sheet must be returned with all blanks completed correctly within two weeks of receiving this form or before travel to competition.

1. Participation

I have read and agree to participation expectations of a team member of SHAM-ROCK-BOTICS.

2. Behavior

I have read and agree to the conduct expectations of a team member of SHAM-ROCK-BOTICS.

3. Travel Requirements

I have read and agree to the travel requirements for a team member of SHAM-ROCK-BOTICS. Specifically, each student is required to pay their student dues (\$300) as part of his or her membership on the robotics team. There are many fund-raising activities that the students are encouraged to participate in that contribute toward their goal. ***All funds are due by February 1st.***

4. Competitions

I have read and agree to the conduct expectations of a team member of SHAM-ROCK-BOTICS at competitions.

5. Parent Responsibilities

I have read the parent responsibilities section of this handbook and agree to the requirements set forth therein.

6. Consequences

I have read and understand that there are and will be consequences for violations of this Team Handbook.

I have read and agree to all expectations (not just those listed above) in the Team Handbook.

(Student Name—Print)

(Student Signature)

(Date)

(Parent/Guardian Name—Print)

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)

Information Forms:

Students, please fill out the following form: [Student Contact Form](#)

Parents, please fill out the following form: [Parent Contact Form](#)

Please Check Preferred Contact type: Email _____ Text _____ Phone call: _____

Numerous ways parents can help the team:

- Safety, first aid, or other relevant trainings
- Food donation for build season and events
- Organizing and tracking student attendance at meetings and outreach events
- Organizing fundraisers, organize meals or other aspect of team travel
- Team Spirit, marketing material development and multimedia communications
- Chaperoning events
- Monitoring the halls during meetings
- Financial tracking for the team
- Engineer/computer skills for the development of robot (including light woodworking skills)
- Providing transportation or a trailer for the robot to competition

Hobbies and Special Interests:

What areas would you like to help in:
