



# FRC Torbotics 2080

## Team Handbook

**Mission:** Inspiring the students and the community to engage in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math by providing programs that expand their interest and knowledge in these fields.

**Vision:** Continuing to inspire future generations to learn the STEM skills today that will benefit the world tomorrow.

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# Welcome!

CONGRATULATIONS! You have decided to be a part of Hammond High Magnet School's (HHMS) *FIRST* Robotics Team 2080, Torbotics. We think you will find *FIRST* Robotics a fun and rewarding experience. This handbook will be your guide to the life of a HHMS Torbotics team member. In the following pages, you will find information on our team history, team rules and guidelines, behavior guidelines for events, participations, and much more.

Please read the handbook carefully, and if you have any questions consult a mentor or coach.

We encourage you to share this information with your parents/guardians and keep it for future reference.

## ***What is FIRST Robotics?***

Team 2080 is a part of the *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition. The *FIRST* program was founded by Dean Kamen, a man with a vision "to transform our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of becoming science and technology leaders." Their mission is "to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership." For more information visit [www.firstinspires.org](http://www.firstinspires.org).

## **Torbotics FRC Team 2080**

*FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 2080 Torbotics possesses a long-standing history of developing quality STEM opportunities for youth and families throughout our region. This commitment is at the core of the Torbotics culture and is often the reason students first develop an interest in the team. Over the past 17 years, Torbotics has directly impacted more than 250,000 youth throughout Tangipahoa Parish and beyond, logging thousands of hours of community service and development. Our team has also established a 4-year engineering program at Hammond High Magnet School that is endorsed by the LSU STEM Pathways.

## **Opportunities**

Being a part of Torbotics is a great way to explore the exciting career of engineering! Though we realize that not all students will go into STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) careers, it is our goal to expose all robotics students to careers in technology. The skills you will learn go beyond just mechanics. Our goal is to prepare the students for their future in the workplace. Professionalism is a vital skill that is emphasized, expected, and taught to all team members. Torbotics members have the opportunity to participate in both *FIRST* Robotics Competition and *FIRST* Tech Challenge.

# Behavior

**As a part of Team 2080, we rely on each other for the success of the group and the robot. Everyone is expected to demonstrate their best behavior. The subsequent behaviors must be followed:**

1. Good Judgment and Positive Behavior! Each group member represents the team as a whole. They should be role models for other students to look up to. Good, positive behavior should be demonstrated at all times whether it is during team activities or not.
2. Commit to a Project! When you start a project, be sure to follow through with it until the end. Make sure you dedicate yourself and do not get side-tracked or discouraged. And if you need help, do NOT be afraid to ask!
3. Ability to Work! You should be able to work as both a team player and independently. Being a team player means helping your team and doing what is needed for the team. Working independently shows dedication and a willingness to learn.
4. Honesty and Integrity! Always be honest and show integrity in things that you do while working with the robotics team.
5. Time! The team requires many hours of your free time. Be careful when you plan and schedule so you can stay actively involved. In certain cases, you will need to discuss choices as to what you will do involving other activities with your teachers and mentors.
6. School! Your behavior in school, especially in the classroom, represents the team. You are looked upon as role models and examples of the best students the school has to offer. You are expected to be polite and respectful to all staff members and to refrain from disruptive activities.
7. Events! At events we are observed by both judges and other teams and held to a standard of a veteran team. Your behavior directly reflects yourself and the team.
8. Co-operation! If a mentor or teacher requests that you do something, you should do this to the best of your ability. Disrespect toward any teacher or mentor will not be tolerated, repeat offenses of this rule can result in removal from the team.
9. Relationships! We realize that dating on the team will happen. However, inappropriate public displays of affection will not be tolerated. This behavior will result in a meeting between individuals involved and coaches and mentors and possible suspension from team/events if inappropriate behavior continues. The expression of feelings of affection toward others is a personal concern between two individuals and not of others surrounding them. Therefore, good taste and respect for others is the guideline for appropriate behavior.

# Involvement

There are many things you can get involved in with Torbotics. The many areas that you can be involved include:

- **Programming**
- **CAD**
- **Robot Build**
- **Engineering Design**
- **Batteries**
- **Awards Committee**
- **Media**
- **Finance**
- **Outreach**
- **Franchising**
- **Social Media**
- **Safety**
- **Shop Maintenance and Logistics**
- **Creativity**
- **FTC**

# Participation

Team 2080 requires many hours outside of the normal school day. All team members are expected to participate in events and activities after school, unless a valid reason for the absence is provided. Usually the team will meet every day after school during build season until 5 o'clock. During build season, there will also be mandatory Saturday meetings at varying times. Attendance will be noted and remembered. There will be Tuesdays and Thursdays during the off season in which after-school meetings and activities will be held. Team members will also be expected to complete service projects in the community on their own time, as part of the team's Individual Community Service Project initiative. We understand that team members may be committed to other extracurricular activities, such as other teams or clubs or work, but you have to have a certain amount of participation hours to qualify for Torbotics travel team. Please let your teacher or mentor know of any commitments that may interfere with your participation in robotics in hopes that we may be able to find a way to work around your schedule.

# School Work

As previously mentioned, all team members are expected to maintain their grades and classwork. As part of the Hammond High Torbotics team, you are held to high standards and expectations. These things are one of our strengths as a team. All team members are required to maintain a C average in all courses. Any D's on your report cards/progress reports will immediately place you on probation. F's are NOT allowed and will result in your immediate dismissal from the class. When we travel, you are required to get all class work, assignments, and any other work before we leave. Getting these assignments is your responsibility.

# Uniforms

Our uniforms represent us as a team, and they are an important part of our image. At the events that we attend, you must wear appropriate bottoms and one of your Torbotics team t-shirts that will be specified before each event.

# Fundraising

Fundraising is mandatory for every member of the team. There are many things we do to fundraise. These things include our two week-long summer camps, winter day-camps during Christmas break, family and friends donations, and presentations to businesses. Each member is required to help fundraise, as this is a very important part of what we do. The money accumulated from fundraising is used for travel expenses, entrance fees into competitions, and the materials necessary to build the robot. We have letters available that can be mailed to family and friends, as well as professional portfolios for businesses and corporations. We are thankful for ALL contributions, big or small.

# Competitions

Each year we attend at least two FRC regional events, one of these being the Bayou Regional in New Orleans. The other regional will generally be out of state, depending on location, timing of events and the amount of money raised. There are some things that you must be aware of at all FIRST competitions. The following guidelines should be followed at all times:

1. CHEERING- Enjoy the event and the opportunity you have been chosen to experience at the FIRST robotics competition. Celebrate the excitement of the moment. Stand and cheer to the BEST of your ability at all times during the festivities. High spirit and a positive attitude is something that Team 2080 is known for, and we should do our best to keep this image.
2. AWARD CEREMONY- We will applaud every team that is winning an award during the ceremony. Applaud to show your respect for what they have accomplished.
3. LITTER- If you see a mess or trash, make an effort to pick it up. Be sure to clean up, not only in your pit area, but also other locations around the arena.
4. THINGS WE DO NOT DO AT AN EVENT:
  - Wear personal music devices.
  - Alter uniforms in an inappropriate manner.
  - Take focus off of actively competing teams by being disruptive.
  - Engage in rude behavior toward any other team or team member.
  - Use inappropriate language.

# Communication

Communication between team members and mentors will take place in several ways. It is essential that phone numbers and email addresses are kept updated and accurate. Forms of team communication include phone calls, text messaging and emails. Communication is mostly done through text messages and emails. Team members who have Facebook can be a member of the HHMS Torbotics closed group.

## THANK YOU

Finally, we would like to thank everyone for joining Hammond High Magnet School FRC Team 2080. We hope you enjoy the upcoming year, and we are glad to have you as part of our team! We know that you will be an active hard-working member. We're looking forward to an awesome year!