

## FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Torbotics Team 2080

Hammond High Magnet School

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Dear Potential Sponsor:

We are proud to announce that Hammond High Magnet School's FIRST Robotics Competition team Torbotics is entering its nineteenth competitive season. During the past thirteen seasons, we have been fortunate to win the prestigious Chairman's/Impact Award seven times; most recently as the 2024 Orlando Regional FIRST Impact Award winner, and 2025 Bayou Regional Engineering Inspiration winner bringing the team to 5 such championship wins in four back-to-back years. This is a recognition that only Torbotics holds in comparison to the other 41 FRC teams across our state and is an honor that has given us notoriety internationally. On the robot side, we were previously named the overall robot game winner at the 2019 Arkansas Rock City Regional and 2023 Bayou Regional. Over the years, these honors have allowed us to compete with teams globally at the *FIRST* World Championship nine different times - five times in back to back years of competition.

*FIRST*, an acronym for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology", is a robotics competition founded by inventor, Dean Kamen. It is an international phenomenon that pairs high school students with professional mentors. Together, students and their mentors build a robot that competes in a sports-like event, while also learning to run their team like a business and placing a strong value on developing measures to aid in community development. Through providing students with hands-on experiences working alongside knowledgeable engineering, business professionals, and scientists, these experts are then seen as role models in much the same way professional athletes are regarded. These *FIRST* values and experiences are incorporated in our four-year engineering curriculum and after-school program at Hammond High Magnet School. Our team is also officially recognized as a sport at HHMS.

We are currently seeking financial support for the 2025-2026 competition season. In years past, entry fees alone for all competitions have cost over \$15,000. With your support, we will be providing 87 team members with the opportunity to travel to local competitions, up to 35 of which will travel to out-of-state regional FRC competitions. In addition to our *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) team, we have four *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC) teams that compete in a separate program under the *FIRST* umbrella. Typically comprised of 9th thru 12th-grade students, each of our FTC teams is also mentored exclusively by more experienced FRC team members in addition to our primary FRC mentors. In order to meet the needs of all of our competition robotics teams annually, Torbotics must raise upward of \$50,000 to secure building and electronic materials, software upgrades, pay competition entry fees, cover business and community outreach needs, and to cover the travel expenses for all students.

We are graciously seeking your support in raising funds to assist our students in these endeavors. To quote Dean Kamen in a recent interview, "(We) don't use kids to build robots. (We) use robots to build kids." Your donation will greatly contribute to this overall goal. Torbotics also ensures that each sponsor/donor receives recognition for their contribution. The team will honor your generosity and stewardship in various ways depending on the amount donated; for example, placing your company's name/logo on one of our competition robots or a banner dedicated to your business to display in our pit area at competitions or at one of our many community events.

Your support of our team offers many benefits to the community. Local students will have the chance to learn and develop hands-on STEM skills through our extensive afterschool program. Our students also gain competency in many important transferable skills such as leadership, business, public speaking, communication, and teamwork. We are developing our students into future business and STEM leaders intent to give back to and develop the communities in which they live. Through our efforts to put STEM FIRST throughout our region over the past 18 years, Torbotics has made a significant impact in the lives of over 327,000 youth and families throughout our general area and beyond.

Sincerely,

Jean Williams

Hammond High Magnet School - Engineering Instructor

LSU STEM Pathways Pre-Engineering Instructor

FRC Torbotics Team #2080 - Lead Mentor