



Team Handbook

Mission: To be an inspiration and catalyst for opportunities through Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

Vision: To ensure opportunities for all youth through Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

Core Values: Gracious Professionalism, Creativity, Teamwork, Inspiration, Opportunity, and Safety

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

Please read the handbook carefully, and if you have any questions consult one of our team mentors or a team captain.

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

Team Summary: FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Torbotics, Team 2080, was founded in 2006 by Shelly Gaydos, a former physics teacher at Hammond High Magnet IB World School (HHMS). She served as the lead mentor of the team until 2015 following her promotion to Vice Principal and now Principal of HHMS. The team first participated in the 2007 “Rack n’ Roll” competition season. Our principle sponsorship that year came from H. Rocker Electric.

The 2018 - 2019 Torbotics team consists of 44 students. Over 60% of team members reside outside of the HHMS attendance zone, with these students choosing to commute and attend HHMS in order to be a part of Torbotics and the school’s established four-year engineering program. Membership in Torbotics represents 71% of the school districts in Tangipahoa Parish. Primary supervision of Torbotics falls under the direction of HHMS engineering teacher, Danny Thomasson (Lead Mentor) and HYPE Robotics founder, Jean Williams. The team is currently supported by four, additional active mentors, Tim Hicks (Intralox), John de St. Germain (Intralox), Donnie Carter (retired) and Ben Williams (HYPE Robotics). We are always open to the inclusion of additional technical mentorship.

Program Summary: Team 2080 is a part of the *FIRST* Robotics Competition. *FIRST* is an acronym that means *For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology*. It was founded by inventor, Dean Kamen, in 1989 to inspire young people’s interest and participation in science and technology. *FIRST* designs accessible, innovative mentor-based programs that motivate young people (ages 6-18) to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), while also building skills in communication, team building, problem-solving, self-confidence, and leadership. For more information visit www.usfirst.org.

Recent Sponsors: SPAWAR (DOD), Lockheed Martin, Intralox, Intuitive Surgical, Entergy, Modern Woodman Financial, DOW, Shell: Laurie Guidroz, RDF, Raising Cane’s, Dan Wrinkles Plumbing, Pierce Aviation, H. Rocker Electric, Explore & Learn Early Learning Center Incorporated, First Guaranty Bank and HYPE Robotics.

Team Impact/Outreach: At our core, Torbotics is devoted to sharing our experiences with others; infusing our passion for robotics and STEM to inspire others. We strive to be a driving force for meaningful STEM experiences and robotics throughout our parish, which is 50% rural, with 22% of the population under the age of 20. As the only FRC team in our area, we believe it is our responsibility to create possibilities for underserved communities, construct new programs and challenge the perceptions of STEM in our region. During the previous competition season, we participated in over 3,000 hours of community outreach and service projects as a team, and individually. We currently mentor 10 FLLJr teams (ages 6-10), 5 FLL teams (ages 9-14), and 4 FTC teams (ages 12-18). As founding members of the Tangi STEM Coalition, we host numerous workshops and experiential STEM events year-round throughout our area. We are currently working in collaboration with them to assist in the implementation of a Mobile STEM Lab for use by teachers throughout our region. The team is also one of the select few asked by *FIRST* to submit a full proposal for the STEM Equity grant enabling us to start a *FIRST* team in every school in our parish with support and training throughout their rookie year and beyond. We are routinely called on to provide demonstrations for local and state government and community leaders and participate in interviews. With well over 200,000 youth and families served over the past 12 years, we are transforming our area and impacting lives.

Opportunities: Being a part of Torbotics is a great way to explore the exciting career of engineering! Though we realize not all students will go into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, 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.

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:

- 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.
- 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!
- 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.
- Honesty and Integrity
 - Always be honest and show integrity in things that you do while working with the robotics team.
- Time
 - The team requires many hours of your free time (especially during build & competition season). 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.
- School
 - Your behavior in school, especially in the classroom, represents the team. As a Torbotics member, you are seen as a role model and an example 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.
- Events
 - At events, you are constantly being watched either by judges or by your peers. Your behavior directly reflects yourself and the team.
- 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, and you will receive subsequent consequences and possibly be removed from the team.
- Relationships
 - We realize that you will date whoever you want to, but as a member of the team, in the event that a relationship develops or is ongoing, there are certain rules that must be adhered to at all times during team activities, local and away. Hand-holding, hugging, kissing, and other public

displays of affection (PDA) are prohibited at all times. The couple must also travel in a group at all times; they may NOT wander or sit alone. In other words, they should not appear as a couple but as part of the team.

Consequences: In response to multiple infractions of misbehavior in the shop, during outreach and/or at competitions, one should anticipate for it such to result in one of the following depending on the nature of the offence:

- Suspension of power tools
- Suspension from team meetings and/or special occasions
- Banned from off-season competitions
- Removal from the team

Involvement Areas: There are many areas you can become involved in through Torbotics. These areas of involvement include:

Year-Round Operation	Build Season (Jan - Feb)	Competition Season (March - April)	Off-Season (May - Dec)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chairman’s Award development ● Finance ● Safety Team ● Community outreach as a team ● Individual community service ● Developing community & industry connections ● Development & mentorship of other FIRST teams ● Public relations & media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Drive System ● Electronics ● Programming ● End-effector (developing the mechanical means for scoring points during the robot game) ● Submission of Chairman’s Award documentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Drive team ● Chairman’s team ● FRC Ambassadors ● Pit Crew ● Safety team ● Scouting/Strategy ● Spirit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work on development of build & programming skills ● Work on review and updates of all safety procedures ● Work on different build projects for community outreach ● Run engineering and science summer camps

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 everyday after school during build season (Jan-Feb) until 5 o’clock. During build season, there will also be mandatory Saturday meetings at varying times. Attendance will be noted and remembered. Additionally, there will be many days 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, clubs, or work, but you are expected to have the necessary amount of time needed for Torbotics. 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 Robotics team, you are held to high standards and expectations. This is 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 team. 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 events that we attend, you must wear jeans or khakis with no holes, closed-toe shoes, and one of your Robotics team t-shirts. The uniform will be specified before each event. If planning to enter the pit or competition field area, you are required to wear safety glasses and long hair must be pulled back.

Fundraising/Sponsorship: Fundraising is an extremely important part of team participation as we are a student-funded, student-organized team. HHMS provides us with a place to meet, a well-equipped machine shop, and a 4-year engineering program. All of the money needed for build materials, electrical & software components, travel team expenses, competition entrance fees, and business/community outreach material is reliant on student-initiated funding. As a result, participation in fundraising and the acquisition of sponsorship is mandatory for every member of the team. There are many things we do to fundraise. Such endeavors include facilitating week-long summer camps, writing grants, presenting to local businesses and service groups, creating handcrafted items in the shop to sell, hosting local FIRST robotics events, and donations from family and friends. We have letters available that can be mailed to family and friends, as well as professional portfolios for businesses and corporations. We welcome ALL contributions, big or small.

Competitions: Each year we attend two FRC regional events, one of these being the Bayou Regional in New Orleans (typically the 3rd weekend of March). The other regional event is generally out of state, and depends on location, event timing, 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. GRACIOUS PROFESSIONALISM- Gracious Professionalism is at the very heart of FIRST. It involves a way of doing things that promotes high-quality work, encourages the value of collaboration among team members and between teams, and above all respects individuals and the inclusion of the community. Through gracious professionalism, FIRST honors that "fierce competition and mutual gain are not separate notions." Our goal should always be to do our best and to promote and bring out the best in others. We must always avoid treating other team members or teams as being less-than, but instead look to what we can do to help others also succeed. While we will not engage in purposefully putting others down, we will also engage in the genuine support of others because that is the right thing to do. Per FIRST: "In the long run, Gracious Professionalism is a part of pursuing a meaningful life. One can add to society and enjoy the satisfaction of knowing one has acted with integrity and sensitivity."

2. **CHEERING-** Enjoy the event and the opportunity that you have been given to experience 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 maintain this image.
3. **AWARD CEREMONY-** We will applaud every team that is winning an award during the ceremony. Applaud and stand to show your respect for what they have accomplished.
4. **LITTER-** If you see a mess or trash, make an effort to pick it up. Be sure to clean up, not only in our pit area, but also other locations around the arena.

THINGS WE DO NOT DO AT EVENTS:

- Wear personal music devices.
- Alter or wear uniforms in an inappropriate manner.
- Play cards or any other games.
- Engage in rude behavior toward any other team or team member.
- Use profanity or negative remarks.

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, emails, and “group me” updates. We also try to maintain an up-to-date calendar of events to include meetings on the team’s website.

THANK YOU!

Finally, we would like to thank everyone for joining the 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 look forward to an awesome year!

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