

2017-2018 Application for FIRST ViperBots Robotics – NEW MEMBER

ViperBots Robotics, provides students the opportunity to engage in engineering, science, technology, marketing, and business skills in a high-energy, highly competitive environment. ViperBots Robotics motivates students from all walks of life to develop skills through participating in a real life, hands-on experience. ViperBots Robotics has competed in FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Tech Challenge Competition (FTC) for 7years. FTC exposes students to engineering, fabrication, programming, web design, photography, presentations, writing, marketing, business processes, and much more. Studies have shown that participants in FTC are:

- Three times more likely to major in engineering.
- Ten times more likely to have had an internship or co-op in their freshman year of college.
- More than twice as likely to pursue a career in science or technology
- More than twice as likely to volunteer in their communities.

ViperBots Robotics is like any other highly competitive high school extracurricular activity. It requires commitment, dedication, time, and energy.

ViperBots Robotics depends on funding provided by students and sponsors to cover team expenses such as travel costs, registration fees, and building components. Although we receive funds through grants, corporate donations, and sponsorship, students will be assessed an activity fee to cover the costs of registration fees, travel, t-shirts, snacks, meals and build components. Furthermore, the activity fee will cover the cost of participation in league events and the Alamo Regional Championship. ViperBots Robotics will not refund or credit any part of the fee if a student does not attend events or travel. ViperBots Robotics will not refund or credit any part of the fee if a student is on team that does not qualify for the Alamo Championships. If a student's team qualifies for the Super Regional Championships and/or World Championships, additional travel costs will be assessed to cover the cost of the trip.

The participation fee of \$400 is fixed. Travel fees beyond the Alamo Regional Championships will be determined based on grants awarded, fundraising, and actual travel costs. Payment plans and need based scholarships are available on a case by case basis. Please see ViperBots faculty sponsors for more information.

Applications with missing or inaccurate information, students with a most recent un-weighted GPA of less than 3.0, excessive absences, or disciplinary issues deemed to be unbecoming of FIRST, and/or ViperBots Robotics will be excluded from eligibility. Applications submitted by incoming freshman will be evaluated based on a GPA calculation from records provided by the middle schools. The remaining applications will be reviewed by a selection committee consisting of adult faculty sponsors and Vandegrift HS administrators. Based on this review, the best applicants will be selected and notified by email on **4/7/2017**.

ViperBots Robotics participation is limited by facilities capacity and team size. Hard decisions must be made and ultimately not everyone that applies will be accepted. **Each student is required to complete an application, including returning members. Being a previous ViperBots team member is no guarantee of future membership.**

All responses to essay questions should be submitted on a separate page and must be typed. Handwritten responses will be ignored. Do not write responses to essay questions on the application. Please limit your response to each question to no more than a half-page and include your name.

Completed applications must be submitted electronically or hand delivered to Mr. Allen in Room 1620 or Mrs. Wendel in Room 1614. Please do not leave applications at the Vandegrift HS front desk/office. Please submit all parts of the application together. **Late applications will not be accepted.**

Questions about the application and admissions process may be directed to irad.allen@leanderisd.org.

Application Deadline 3/31/2017, 4:00 pm

Application Submission

Electronic Submission: PDF e-mail attachment to irad.allen@leanderisd.org.

Hand Submit: Room 1620 or Room 1614

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Information and Guidelines for Parents / Guardians

Membership on the ViperBots Robotics team is a wonderful opportunity for your student. This activity offers high school students the chance to work with engineers, programmers, and business professionals to receive “hands-on” experience in engineering problem solving, programming, and running a business. It will open doors to new ways of thinking, opportunity for advancement, and a better understanding of their future.

Membership on a FIRST FTC Robotics Competition team demands a serious commitment. It is of utmost importance to safeguard the valuable time of our professional mentors and parent mentors as well as our dedicated students. Team members who miss meetings or team build time disrupt the flow of activities and fail to receive critical information.

If accepted, your child will be placed on a team of up to 12 members. ViperBots is NOT a “club,” it is a highly competitive team. ViperBots Robotics has 8 teams that all have regular practice times just like any other sport or competitive activity at Vandegrift HS. We require a serious weekly commitment that may not be the best fit for all applicants. Applicants who are heavily involved with other extra-curricular activities should consider carefully if ViperBots Robotics is the right program for them. We expect our ViperBots to give the same commitment as they would to Band, Athletics, or other heavily time consuming activities. In order for the teams to be successful, each member of the team must be a contributing member. ViperBots that treat robotics as a low priority or a “drop in when convenient” activity will be dismissed from the program.

As a parent of a ViperBots Robotics member, you have a responsibility to stay informed via the parent email group, attend meetings, volunteer for fundraisers, sign and submit required forms on time (including FIRST online consent forms), and pay all necessary team dues and travel expenses. If you would like to be a parent mentor, please make the faculty sponsors aware of your interest. Mentoring does not necessitate a technical background since many of the required tasks are non-technical. There are many areas in which you could support the team.

The majority of our funding comes from businesses that recognize the value of supporting an engineering program in our increasingly technical world. If you know anyone in your company with financial responsibility or a business owner of some other company, please share with them the importance of our program and see if they would be willing to be a sponsor. We also have fund raising events during the year with which we need your help. In the event that we are unable to find sufficient funding, it will be necessary for you to provide a percentage of the travel expenses for your student if they are to participate in competitions.

While we encourage you to give your student as much leeway as possible, some of the larger machinery and equipment we use, though under supervision by a mentor, can be quite dangerous if misused and may not be appropriate for your student’s maturity level. Please carefully read and consider your child before signing the “Parent Consent for Participation” form, which also includes your commitment to support your student in this program.

If your student has a medical condition that might require attention or prescriptions, you must inform the team coach in writing of the condition, emergency contacts, doctor’s contact information, etc.

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ViperBots Robotics New Member Application

Name: _____

Last Name,

First Name

Grade Level: 9th _____ 10th _____ 11th _____ 12th _____

(2017– 2018 School Year)

TO BE COMPLETED BY VIPERBOTS FACULTY MEMBERS

Most Current un-weighted GPA: _____

**For your application to be considered,
you must fill out the applicant information form at <https://goo.gl/Fo5TRM>**

IMPORTANT REQUIREMENT

All new applicants must submit **one** recommendation based on the following criteria:

FTC Experience (MS, HS):	<i>must be from your FTC Head Coach</i>
Middle School Gateway Applicant:	<i>must be from your Gateway Teacher</i>
High School w/ STEM coursework:	<i>must be from any of your STEM Teachers</i>
No FTC, Gateway, or STEM experience:	<i>can be from any teacher that it is very familiar with you</i>

Applicants with previous FTC Participation, send this link to your coach, <https://goo.gl/V86AG1>

All other applicants, send this link to your teacher, <https://goo.gl/5gm4MG>

Please be kind to your teacher/coach and give them enough time to fill out the recommendation (at least 4 or 5 days). You can ask them to fill out the recommendation before you turn in this application, but **both** the recommendation and the application are due at the same time: **3/31/2017, 4:00 pm.**

Please answer the following questions:

Type your answers on paper separate from the application. Limit your responses to ½ page per question.

- What do you hope to get out of your participation in ViperBots?
- Tell us about yourself and your passions: (Interests, Hobbies, Experience, etc.)
- Describe the skills and experience that will make you a valuable ViperBot member
- Describe yourself as a leader. Include roles and responsibilities.
- Describe your experiences in working on a team? What does it mean to be part of a team?

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List 2017-2018 extracurricular activities, school related and non-school related:

(Failure to report any potential time conflicts could result in dismissal from the program.)

Activity (ex. Work)	Day/s and Time involved (ex. Mondays & Wednesdays 4:00 – 7:00)	Time required in hours (per week)

Do you have any experience with (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CAD Software | <input type="checkbox"/> Electronics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3D Studio Max | <input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animation Software | <input type="checkbox"/> R/C (radio controlled) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Machine Tools | <input type="checkbox"/> Robotics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Programming | <input type="checkbox"/> Budget/Finance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Welding | <input type="checkbox"/> Video Productions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Web Page Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Hardware (Building Things) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Journalism | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking |

What aspect of the team are you interested in (rank your preference 1-8, 1 is most interested)

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NOTE: This will not lock you into a work area. We just want to be aware of your interests.

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| _____ Hardware | _____ Marketing/Public Relations |
| _____ CAD | _____ Web Site |
| _____ Software/Programming | _____ Video/Photographic Media |
| _____ Computer Animation | _____ Mobile App Development |

In order for an application to be considered, applicants must satisfy a minimum of 2 prerequisites. Prerequisites can be prior experience in FIRST robotics, completed or enrolled coursework, or related experience in camps or other programs.

Previous FIRST Robotics Experience:

List most recent grade involved and team# (ex. 4th grade-FLL 2445, 8th grade-FTC 8424)

FLL: _____

FTC: _____

FRC: _____

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Mark courses as

D = “Done or Taking it now”

E = “Enrolled next year”

STEM	
	Middle School Gateway Program
	Computer Science Principles AP
	Computer Science I Pre-AP
	Computer Science II AP
	Computer Science III
	Mobile Application Development
	Digital Forensics
	Digital Electronics
	Introduction to Engineering Design
	Principles of Engineering, Engineering Science
	Aerospace Engineering
	Engineering Design & Development
Marketing, Business & Shop Technology	
	Graphic Design & Illustration
	Digital Art & Animation, Digital Graphics & Animation
	Graphic Design II, Animation II
	Principles of Business Marketing & Finance
	Advertising & Sales Promotion, Social Media Marketing
	Entrepreneurship
	Yearbook, Newspaper, Journalism (Includes Broadcast and Photo)
	Audio Video Production
	Ag. Mechanics & Metal Tech
	Ag. Equipment Design, Ag. Structures Design

List any other relevant STEM workshops, STEM camps, or STEM programs that you feel should satisfy a prerequisite (please do not list math and science classes):

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Student Consent Form

I understand by its very nature, competitive Robotics (including the use of tools) may put me in a situation in which serious or perhaps fatal accidents may occur. I agree to adhere to the instruction I receive from my adult mentors and teachers regarding the proper techniques to be used in robot construction and competition, and in the proper utilization of all equipment worn or used in lab work, construction, and at competition. I further agree that I will refrain from improper uses and techniques of equipment. Acknowledging such conditions and risks, I choose to participate in the FIRST FTC Robotics Competition as part of ViperBots Robotics.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

I understand that participation on a ViperBots Robotics team is a privilege that can provide me with knowledge and skills that will benefit me for a lifetime. I agree with the philosophy FIRST upholds; “FIRST inspires in young people, their schools and communities an appreciation of science and technology, and of how mastering these can enrich the lives of all.” I understand that, as a member of FIRST and ViperBots Robotics, my actions reflect on my team, school, sponsors, and other supporters of the team. I also understand and agree that as a member of FIRST and ViperBots Robotics, I am to maintain an 80 or better in all my classes. I also agree to refrain from using illegal drugs, alcohol, and/or tobacco while participating in ViperBots activities. I also understand that, at the very least, I will be disciplined and/or dismissed from the robotics team if I participate in the use of illegal drugs, alcohol and/or tobacco, if I let my grades drop below acceptable levels, or act inappropriately.

I promise my fellow team members and mentors that I will try new things, learn all that I can, at all times do what is best for the good of the team, and I agree to act with Gracious Professionalism in all that I do while a member of FIRST and ViperBots Robotics.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

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Parent Consent to Participate Form

Commitment

(Parental Permission)

I/We, the undersigned parent(s) or guardian(s) of _____, understand that he/she wants to participate in and become a member of FIRST and a ViperBots Robotics team. I/We understand that costs are involved and the time commitment required to be a member of the team are extensive. I/We also recognize that by its very nature, and its involvement with the use of tools, competitive Robotics may put students in situations in which serious and perhaps fatal accidents may occur. I/We further realize that no amount of instruction, precaution, or supervision will totally eliminate all risk of injury.

ViperBots Robotics holds regularly scheduled meeting times just like any other sport at VHS. ViperBots require a serious weekly commitment. ViperBots are expected to give the same commitment as they would to Band, Athletics, or any other heavily time consuming activities such as DECA, Theatre, Destination Imagination, Choir, Legacies, Vision and Dance, Yearbook, FFA, etc. By accepting a position in ViperBots Robotics, I/We will honor the commitment to ViperBots Robotics by attending regularly scheduled meetings, events, and competitions. In the event of a scheduling conflict, I/We will communicate the conflict immediately to the sponsors of both conflicting organizations, and will do my best to resolve the conflict in such a manner that is best for both organizations.

I understand that ViperBots that treat robotics as a low priority or a “drop in when convenient” activity will be dismissed from the program.

Acknowledging the costs, commitments, and risks exist, I/we grant permission for our child to participate in FIRST and ViperBots Robotics.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____