



SWLA Tech Pirates – Team 8808

2023-2024 Student Application – Part I

Welcome!

We're thrilled that you're considering joining the SWLA Tech Pirates FIRST Robotics Competition Team at the Region 5 STEM Center. Founded in 1992, FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) began with a modest 28 teams and has now expanded to a remarkable 3,600 teams across 40 countries.

Our competition is not merely about robots—it's a global event where students and professionals collaborate to solve an engineering challenge in a dynamic learning atmosphere. At FIRST, the primary victory isn't just amassing points. It's about fostering excellence in design, embracing team spirit, nurturing gracious professionalism, and surmounting challenges. Ultimately, our competition is centered around forging enduring partnerships.

Robots, for us, are the conduit to lifelong learning. We immerse ourselves in the ethos of “Gracious Professionalism,” underscoring the value of collective effort. This endeavor draws not only students but also industry mentors, parents, and sponsors, amalgamating everyone's strengths.

Commitment and Expectations

Much like any high-achieving extracurricular team, we expect dedication, effort, and time. Our success is buoyed by the tireless commitment of engineers, business professionals, parent volunteers, and community enthusiasts. And we hope for a mirrored dedication from you.

As a primarily volunteer-driven initiative, our program is active post-school hours, on weekends, and spans the entire year. Every January heralds a fresh competition challenge, providing teams a mere six weeks to devise strategies, design, construct, and code a robot. This journey accentuates the real-world application of science, math, and technology, culminating in the creation of a 125-pound marvel.

Schedule At A Glance

Off-season (May – December):

- Regular training sessions, specifics to be announced.
- Expect a minimum of one day a week (two-hour sessions).
- Possible additional sessions for fundraisers or special occasions.

Build Season (January – April):

- An exhilarating phase, this is when we actualize our robot designs post the competition announcement.
- Commit to at least 8 hours weekly.
- Typical meetings: Mondays (5:00 - 8:00 pm), Fridays (5:00 – 9:00 pm), and Saturdays (10:00 – 5:30 pm).

Competition Season:

- We usually partake in two regional events from late February to early April.
- If qualified and funded, we aim for the FIRST World Championship in Houston, Texas, in late April.

Upcoming Competition Dates:

- March 13-16, 2024 at South Mississippi Fairgrounds, Laurel, MS.
- April 3-6, 2024 at Pontchartrain Center, Kenner, LA.
- April 16-21, 2024 at George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, TX.

Membership Insights

Membership is discerned by our selection committee. Technical prowess isn't mandatory. Our team thrives with varied skills, from marketing and CAD to safety and programming. A membership fee of \$175 ensures a team T-shirt and Saturday meals during the build season, with other expenses borne by members.

As a team member, you commit to:

- Attend all meetings (barring valid exceptions).
- Adhere to the minimum weekly hours during build season.
- Punctuality and active participation.
- A proactive and diligent approach to tasks.
- Respecting mentors and peers.

We convene at the Robotics Lab in the Region 5 STEM Center, opening our doors to students from diverse schools and even homeschoolers.

Our Team Handbook is your go-to guide, elucidating the program and your role. Do familiarize yourself and discuss it with your guardians.

Join us at FRC Team 8808 - SWLA Tech Pirates for an enriching journey.

Application Notice: Submit a fully filled application within 7 days. We uphold the right to modify or end memberships based on academic integrity, attendance, and decorum.



SWLA Tech Pirates – Team 8808
2023-2024 Student Application – Part II
Student Information

Student's Name:	
Sex (circle one):	Male Female
Date of Birth:	
Age:	
Grade:	
Address 1:	
Address 2:	
City:	
State:	
Zip:	
Student Shirt Size (circle one):	XS S M L XL 2XL 3XL
Parent / Guardian Name 1:	
Relationship:	
Address 1:	
Address 2:	
City:	
State:	
Zip:	
Parent / Guardian Name 2:	
Relationship:	
Address 1:	
Address 2:	
City:	
State:	
Zip:	

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____



SWLA Tech Pirates – Team 8808

2023-2024 Student Application – Part III

Student and Parent Contract

To ensure that parents and students understand the responsibility and commitment needed by each FRC member, please take the time to read over and sign this contract with your child.

Please initial each item to confirm your understanding and agreement.

_____ I understand that FRC aims to provide a fun learning experience in STEM, business, teamwork, and leadership.

_____ I am committed to giving my best effort to learn and support my team at every meeting.

_____ I pledge to treat everyone—teammates, materials, coaches, mentors, and other teams—with respect and professionalism.

_____ I acknowledge that there can be multiple solutions to an FRC problem and will actively collaborate with my team, valuing all contributions.

_____ I will exhibit constructive and respectful behavior during all meetings and competitions.

_____ I recognize the importance of punctuality for FRC meetings. If I'm unable to attend or will be late, I'll inform my coach or lead ahead of time.

_____ I will stow away electronic devices during team meetings to maintain focus.

_____ I will support and cooperate with the team's decisions, even if they differ from my personal preferences.

_____ I understand that all teams participating in FRC tournaments are deemed competitors, and I pledge to interact with them in a spirit of respect and sportsmanship.

_____ I accept that disruptive behavior may result in my being asked to leave a team meeting. Persistent disruptions might lead to my removal from the team.

_____ I confirm that I have read and understood the 2023-2024 Team Handbook for Team 8808.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN CONTRACT

Please initial each item to confirm your understanding and agreement.

_____ I recognize that FRC prioritizes students, focusing on their enjoyment and hands-on learning in STEM, business, teamwork, and leadership.

_____ I appreciate that students drive the work in FRC. They handle programming, research, problem-solving, and building. While adults guide, they do not dictate solutions or decisions.

_____ I will promote and encourage the adherence to FRC Values among team members and supporters, echoing FIRST's mission to inspire positive cultural change.

_____ I commit to respecting the autonomy of the team, ensuring that all creations, ideas, and work originate from the students.

_____ I pledge to ensure my child's punctuality for meetings. In case of conflicts, my child or I will promptly notify the coach. I acknowledge my child's commitment to the team.

_____ I understand the significant voluntary contribution of time and resources by the coach and mentors, and I will actively support the team's endeavors.

_____ I promise to discuss the above expectations and responsibilities with my child.

_____ I confirm having read and comprehended the 2023-2024 Team Handbook for Team 8808.

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____



SWLA Tech Pirates – Team 8808
2023-2024 Student Application – Part IV
Medical Information

Student's Name: _____

Family Doctor: _____ Phone: _____

Other doctors/specialists: _____

Medications which my child takes on a regular basis: _____

Allergies (note if life-threatening): _____

My child has a prescription for an "Epi-Pen": ___ Yes ___ No

My child carries an "Epi-Pen" with them at all times: ___ Yes ___ No

Other Medical Conditions/information:

While traveling with the team, I give permission for my child to take:

___ Tylenol ___ Ibuprofen ___ Benadryl ___ Tums and/or Pepto-Bismol Other: _____

Contact for an emergency if parent/guardian cannot be reached:

Emergency Contact (other than the parent / guardian): _____

Emergency Contact Relationship: _____ Cell# _____

Emergency Contact Email: _____

PRINTED NAME - Parent/Guardian: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____



SWLA Tech Pirates – Team 8808

2023-2024 Student Application – Part V

Permission and Release Form

MEMBERSHIP FEE

Membership is contingent upon a fee for all members. Kindly ensure payment or discuss alternative arrangements by the kickoff date. Payments should be directed to SWLA Tech Pirates. If financial difficulties arise, consult a mentor prior to the payment deadline.

Fee: \$175 (Covers T-Shirt and meals during Build Season meetings that necessitate food)

Deadline: Before Kickoff

PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE

I affirm having reviewed Team 8808's Team Handbook and have diligently completed PART I through PART IV of the student application.

I hereby grant permission for [child's full name] to engage with the FRC Team 8808 – SWLA Tech Pirates during the 2022–2023 FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) season and the ensuing offseason (spanning August 2022 to July 2023). My child commits to adhering to the code of conduct detailed within the application and the Team's Handbook.

Furthermore, I agree to support and protect Team 8808 – SWLA Tech Pirates, including its board members, officers, agents, and employees, from any claims, losses, or damages that may arise due to:

- (a) my child's actions or non-compliance with the Team's Handbook guidelines,
- (b) any harm or damage related to my child's participation, or
- (c) unexpected events involving machinery, vehicles, or acts of nature during team activities.

By agreeing, I acknowledge my responsibility to ensure that the Team and its representatives are safeguarded from any adverse implications related to my child's participation.

My signature below attests to the successful completion of PART V of Team 8808's Student Application.

PRINTED NAME - Parent/Guardian: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

PRINTED NAME - Member: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____