

TEAM HANDBOOK

CREATING STRONG FIRST IMPRESSIONS, AND A
LASTING IMPACT SINCE 1992

FIRST® ROBOTICS COMPETITION

UPDATED FALL, 2025



Table of Contents

Purpose.....	4
A Student-Led Team.....	4
Community Partnership	4
Sponsorship Opportunities.....	4
<i>FIRST</i>	5
FIRST's Vision	5
FIRST's Mission.....	5
TechnoKats' Mission	5
Team Goals	5
History of TechnoKats	6
Awards	7
Team Projects.....	10
Competition Season	11
Schedule.....	11
Finances	13
Team Benefits	14
Team Leadership.....	14
Leadership Cabinet	15
Technical Manager.....	15
Strategy Manager	15
Business Manager	15
Team Captain	15
Shop Rules	16
Travel Requirements.....	16
Student Travel Eligibility.....	16
Academic Requirements	16
Travel Credits.....	17
Competition Roles	18
Travel Expectations	19
General Expectations:	19
Bus Expectations:.....	19
Hotel Expectations:	19
Venue Expectations:	19
Relationships.....	19
Travel and Commitment Deadlines	19
Mentor & Volunteer Involvement	20
Technical Mentor Expectations	20
Additional Coach Expectations.....	21
Volunteer Expectations	21
Appendix A: Team Role Descriptions	22
Appendix B: Competition Role Descriptions	33
Appendix C: Application for Competition Roles	36
Appendix D: Drive Team Role Descriptions	37
Appendix E: Application for Drive Team	38

Appendix F: Application for TechnoKats Varsity Letter	40
Appendix G: Student Contract.....	41
Appendix H: Attendance, Reflection, and Travel Credit Form	43
Appendix I: Team Lead Position Expectations and Application	44
Appendix J: Contact Information.....	48

Current team schedule available through Discord

Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to be an information source for members of *FIRST* Team 45, the TechnoKats Robotics Team, its supporters, and their families, and a reference tool for other *FIRST* Robotics teams. It includes information on the team, leadership opportunities, financial information, and team member expectations. Safety training information is included in a separate Safety Manual. Specific Mentor Information is included in a separate Mentor Handbook.

A Student-Led Team

The TechnoKats is a student-led team. This means that students, under the guidance of team coaches, have the responsibility of leadership roles, develop leadership skills, and take part in decision making.

Community Partnership

FIRST Team 45, the TechnoKats, is a Kokomo High School organization which partners with community sponsors and organizations. Coaches, mentors, and team members are expected to uphold the values of *FIRST*.

The Team also partners with our community, Indiana *FIRST*, and the entire *FIRST* community in a variety of ways, including:

- Participating in the Kokomo New Year's Eve Ball Drop
- Participating in KSC events and activities
- Supporting and volunteering and for various community organizations, such as Bona Vista, the Community Foundation of Howard County, Bridges Outreach, the Public Library, Girl Scouts, and other organizations
- Hosting the City of *FIRST*s Lego League Qualifying Tournament
- Hosting and volunteering at FRC Competitions
- Co-hosting of the Indiana Robotics Invitational (IRI) Tournament
- Participating in the Howard County Robotics Coalition
- Providing electrical set-up for Indiana *FIRST* events

Sponsorship Opportunities

There are several levels of sponsorship available, appropriate for both individuals and businesses. For more information on sponsorship opportunities, contact Dr. Dewing at joy.dewing@technokats.org.

FIRST

FIRST was founded in 1989 to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. Based in Manchester, NH, the 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit public charity designs accessible, innovative programs that motivate young people to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math, while building self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills.

FIRST's 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 heroes."
~ Dean Kamen, Founder

FIRST's Mission

Our 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.

Find out more at <http://www.usfirst.org/>

TechnoKats' Mission

TechnoKats is a student-led team dedicated to promoting STEM and life skills, including creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration. Members maintain the legacy of Team 45 with partnerships within the team, within the local community, and within FIRST.

Team Goals

- Inspire students in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math
- Prepare students for leadership roles
- Promote Gracious Professionalism
- Increase community and state awareness of STEM education opportunities
- Promote teamwork
- Mentor students through positive role models
- Boost the level of competition in *FIRST* by providing technical assistance and organizational mentoring to other *FIRST* teams
- Continuously improve

History of TechnoKats

Kokomo High School's robotics team has participated in the *FIRST* Robotics Competition since its inception in 1992. In that year, the Delco Electronics/Kokomo-Center Schools "DEKCS" partnership formed the Science Kats, one of 28 teams to compete in the inaugural *FIRST* competition. Since then, *FIRST* has grown to include over 5,000 high school teams in countries around the world. Today, the TechnoKats are one of six remaining original, or Legacy, teams.

During the past 25 years, the team has grown and developed. The team adopted its current name, the TechnoKats, Delco became a division of Delphi, and other sponsoring partners have joined the team. From 1998 to 2018, the team's shop was provided by Duke Energy. In 2000, the team started the first off-season event, Hoosier Havoc, which later came to be known as the Indiana Robotics Invitational (IRI). In 2004, two team mentors, Andy Baker and Mark Koors, started robotics supplier AndyMark, Inc. In 2011 the team began hosting a FLL Qualifying Tournament, and in 2015 hosted one of the first Indiana District Events. During its 28 year history, the team and has assisted in starting and supporting numerous other FRC teams throughout Indiana and the U.S. Team alumni have gone on to become mentors of teams across the U.S. Through high levels of competition, volunteer activities, and sponsoring new programs and competitions, the TechnoKats have made a name for themselves in Howard County and in the *FIRST* community.

The team is proud of this history. The TechnoKats have a strong tradition of competing at a high level in *FIRST*, while also being a model team by demonstrating gracious professionalism and being innovative within the *FIRST* community. The TechnoKats continually strive to uphold the *FIRST* values and to improve ourselves.

TechnoKats alumni have gone on to work as engineers, scientists, and entrepreneurs in various fields. Alumni work in the automotive industry for such companies as Lockheed Martin, Delphi, and GM. Others work in robotics fields, aerospace, information technology, consumer electronics, and health care. It is certain that being a TechnoKat played a role in their career choices. Since the team began in 1992, over 80% of the team's alumni have studied and/ or worked in STEM-related fields.

The success, stability, and longevity of the team is a direct result of the strong partnerships and support from the community, support from Kokomo school Corporation, and the dedication of mentors, sponsors, parents, and students.

Awards

Although we are proud of our past achievements and awards, the development of character and of skills is much more important. Numerous leadership opportunities are available to TechnoKats team members, and the *real* successes are seen when students succeed in finding how they can make this world a better place through a STEM-related career and working within their communities.

Past Awards:

1992 National Competition Finalist
1992 Ultimate Keeper Award
1994 Chairman's Award Finalist
1995 Chairman's Award Finalist
1998 National Competition Champion
1998 National "Technical Excellence" Award
1998 Great Lakes Regional Runner-Up
1998 Great Lakes Regional "Best Play" Award
1999 National Competition Runner-Up
1999 Midwest Regional "Outstanding Defense"
2000 National "Xerox Creativity" Award
2000 Midwest Regional Champion
2000 Great Lakes Regional Runner-Up
2000 Scholarship: \$20,000 Kettering University, Vinny Cothorn
2001 National Competition #1 Seed & Division Finalist
2001 Midwest Regional GM Industrial Design Award & Finalist
2001 W. Michigan Regional Leadership in Controls Award & Finalist
2001 Scholarship: \$20,000 Kettering University, Philip Lundberg
2002 Championship Competition #4 Seed & Division Semi-Finalist
2002 Championship Autodesk Animation Technical Excellence Award
2002 Midwest Regional Chairman's Award Winner
2002 Midwest Regional Runner-up
2002 Indiana Vocational Education Excellence Award
2003 Championship Competition #3 Seed
2003 Midwest Regional Champion
2003 Midwest Regional Judges Award for Exemplary Sportsmanship
2003 St. Louis Regional Sportsmanship Award
2003 Pittsburgh Regional Sportsmanship Award
2003 Championship Woodie Flowers Award Winner, Andy Baker
2004 Championship Competition, Division Finalist
2004 Midwest Regional Champions
2004 Midwest Regional Sportsmanship Award
2005 Championship Competition, Division Semi-Finalist
2005 Midwest Regional Engineering Inspiration Award
2005 Midwest Regional Safety Award
2005 Boilermaker Regional Judges' Award for Outstanding Excellence
2005 Scholarship: \$30,000 Delphi/Purdue University FIRST 2005 Scholarship, Austin Butler
2005 Scholarship: \$2,000 Boilermaker Regional Scholarship, \$1,000 IRI Scholarship, Greg McCoy,
2006 Boilermaker Regional Chairman's Award
2006 Boilermaker Regional Woodie Flowers Award, Mark Koors
2007 St. Louis Regional Motorola Quality Award
2007 St. Louis Regional Champions

2007 Boilermaker Regional Motorola Quality Award
 2007 Championship Volunteer of the year award, Mark Koors
 2008 St. Louis Regional Finalist
 2008 St. Louis Regional Engineering Inspiration Award
 2008 Boilermaker Regional Finalist
 2008 Boilermaker Regional Industrial Design Award
 2009 Washington DC Regional General Motors Industrial Design Award
 2009 Washington DC Regional Winner
 2009 Boilermaker Regional Chairman's Award
 2009 Boilermaker Regional Finalist
 2009 Boilermaker Regional Xerox Creativity Award
 2010 Boilermaker Regional Champions
 2010 Boilermaker Regional Motorola Quality Award
 2011 CAGE Match, \$1,000 Art Anderson Memorial Scholarship winner, Glenda Hernandez
 2012 Boilermaker Regional Website Award
 2012 Queen City Regional Winner
 2013 Regional Woodie Flowers Winner, Mike Carmain
 2013 CAGE AndyMark Award for Awesomeness, Alan Anderson
 2014 Boilermaker Regional Innovation and Control Award
 2014 Arkansas Regional Safety Star of the Day Award, Cameron Ellison
 2015 Kokomo District Gracious Professionalism Award
 2015 Kokomo District Underwriters Laboratory Hard Hat Safety Award
 2015 Dean's List Semi-Finalist, Kyle Heaton
 2015 Boilermaker District Team Spirit Award
 2015 Indiana State Finals Underwriter Laboratory Hard Hat Safety Award
 2015 Indiana State Finals Woodie Flowers Winner, Alan Anderson
 2016 Tippecanoe District Champion
 2016 Perry Meridian District Champion
 2016 Indiana State 4th Seed and Semifinalist
 2016 Indiana State Underwriters Laboratories Hard Hat Safety Award
 2016 World Championships – 7th Seed and Quarterfinalist in Archimedes Division
 2016 Indiana Robotics Invitational – 7th Seed and Quarterfinalists
 2019 Tippecanoe District Creativity in Design Award, sponsored by Xerox
 2019 Tippecanoe District 8th seed alliance captain
 2019 World Championship 17th seed in Carson division
 2021 Imagery Award for Game Design Challenge entry: Barnstorm!
 2022 Northwestern District Creativity in Design Award for robot intake
 2022 State Finals qualified
 2023 St. Joseph District – 7th seed alliance captain
 2023 Innovation in Design Award
 2024 St. Joseph District – 3rd seed alliance captain
 2024 St. Joseph District - Team Spirit Award
 2024 Columbus District Champions
 2024 State Championship – ranked 6th
 2024 Ranked 11th in Indiana, overall
 2025 Mishawaka District - 6th seed alliance captain
 Excellence in Engineering Award
 2025 Kokomo District – Finalists
 Creativity Award sponsored by Rockwell Automation
 2025 State Finals – 5th seed alliance captain
 Imagery Award

Ranked 7th in Indiana
2025 World Championship, Houston, TX – 8th seed alliance captain
Ranked 10 of 75 teams in Johnson Division

Team Projects

RECENT OFF SEASON PROJECTS

Discount card sales
Other fundraising activities
Developing sponsor relationships and new sponsors
Howard County Relay for Life
Indiana Robotics Regional (IRI) Host
Kokomomentum Summer Camp and/ or TechnoKittens Summer Robotics Camp (as available)
Shop cleaning and equipment training
Shop organization and inventory
CAD, electrical, and software training
C.A.G.E. Match offseason competition
FLL Qualifying Tournament Host and Organizers
New Year's Eve Ball Drop/ Markland Mall display
Safety & CPR Training
Volunteer partnership with Cedar Lake Ministries

PAST PROJECTS

1994-1997: Pop Can Regatta
1998-2000: TechnoKat Challenge
1998-2000: Haynes-Apperson Parade
1999-present: New Year's Eve Ball Drop
1999: KHS Technical Library
2000: Haynes Car Turntable
2000-2003: TechKnowFest (Ivy Tech)
2000-present: Indiana Robotics Invitational (IRI)
2001-2003: Delphi Technical Forums
2001: FIRST Lego League team sponsorship & startup
2001: ChiefDelphi Invitational Robot Build
2002: Bona Vista TechnoBox
2002- Presented Indiana FIRST Workshops & Leaders Meetings
2003: Tinkertoy Challenge
2003-2004: RibFest Pig Drop
2003-2009: RoboEducators (Ivy Tech)
2003-2008: Bona Vista putt-putt course construction and participation
2004: United Way Donation Tracking with Lighted Ball
2004: Woodie Flowers Award mobius assembly
2005: FIRST Lego League Mentoring
2005-2009: IRI Vex Challenge (Ivy Tech & Team 447)
2005-2009: Boilermaker Regional Planning Committee
2006: All Girls Vex Team
2006-present: American Cancer Society Relay for Life team
2006-2007: TechnoKats History Project
2007: Bona Vista Playground Cad Model
2007-present: Relay for Life Lumanaria Ceremony video display
2008-2009: *FIRST* President's Circle
2009-2013: Built trailer for Tearwood Medical Clinic in Guinea
2011- present: Host FIRST Lego League Qualifying Tournament
2012: Partnered with Green Alternatives to use collected solar energy to power New Year's Eve ball
2012: Began midnight Dodgeball Game during Relay for Life
2013: Bona Vista Robot Room
2013: Fall Robotics Game: Not in My House

2014: Fall Robotics Game: Skee Bowl
 2014: Began working with Kokomomentum Summer Camp & after school program
 2015: Developed Team Safety Manual and Training Program
 2016: TechnoKittens Summer Robotics Camp
 2016-2019: Designed and built new ball for the Kokomo New Year's Eve Ball Drop
 2024: Demo and Municipal Stadium for Eclipse Party
 2024: Built glass elevator for Curtain Call's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
 2024: Co-hosted and competed at IRI
 2025: Supported Kokomo High School Winter Guard new mat purchase
 2025: Volunteer projects at Cedar Lake Ministries; supported pavilion fundraising project
 2025: Co-hosted and competed at IRI

Many team projects focus on training students, preparing for the season, and improving the Kokomo, Howard County, and *FIRST* communities. These projects prepare the team not only in technical aspects of completing a project, but also in being prepared to work together.

Competition Season

The competition season begins the weekend following the Stop-Build in late February or early March and runs through World Championships at the end of April. All team members who meet the expectations are eligible for travel.

Schedule

Year Round:

Tuesday Team Meetings 5:30-6:00; work sessions 6:00-7:30

Fall:

Sept.: Student/ Parent Kick-off Meeting, KHS Cafeteria

Work on awards

Safety Animation video

Fall Robotics Game, project, or competitions

Homecoming Spirit Sheet

Various Projects and events

Machine and Safety Training

CPR Training

HoCoRoCO Training Sessions

Oct.: Boiler Bot Battle

Nov.: FIRST Lego League Tournament host

Winter:

Dec.: NYE Ball Drop

Jan.:

First Saturday in January: Season kick-off webcast,
Meet and plan strategy

Kick-off – Spring Break: (tentative - finalized schedule will be announced at kick-off)

Study Tables: KHS 2:30-3:30

Days and location TBA in January

Shop Sessions: 5:30-8:00 (clean-up at 7:45)

Days TBA in January (typically 3 days per week)

Saturday Shop Sessions: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (clean up at 2:45)

Lunch will be served (sign-up sheet in January)

Feb.:

Shop sessions continue

March & April:

During March and April, the team will compete in at least 2 district competitions within Indiana. The team is responsible for electrical set-up and tear-down at all Indiana district competitions and at Indiana State Finals. Dates of events we will be competing at will be available in November, and posted on the team website and in team meeting minutes.

Shop sessions will continue as needed – schedule will be posted

May:

Senior and Sponsor Recognition Dinner

Summer:

Indiana Robotics Invitational (date TBA)

Tuesdays: Shop Sessions 5:30-7:30 (as scheduled)

Other activities TBA

For other events and the most current schedule, see the team website at www.technokats.org

- The team will follow the school schedule for closures due to weather. If school is closed, the shop will also be closed.

Finances

Annual Student/ Family Costs:

- ☐ \$45.00 – Team Participation Fee
- ☐ \$400-\$850 – World Championship Travel Fee (covers hotel and travel – price depends on location and travel costs)
 - ☐ \$100 deposit due by first Tuesday in February
 - ☐ \$100 due by first Tuesday in March
 - ☐ \$150 due by last Tuesday in March
- ☐ Individual meals at events
- ☐ Additional, optional team activities
- ☐ \$30-40 (optional)– team sweatshirt or other team gear

All team members will receive:

- ☐ 1 pair of safety glasses for their (up to) 4 years on the team
- ☐ Bag/ Case for safety glasses
- ☐ Team uniform shirts each year
- ☐ Training on machines, software, safety, etc.

Fundraising Opportunities

- ☐ Fall semester: optional work sessions at AndyMark, as scheduled. Students earn \$11 per hour for their team account
- ☐ Ongoing: Discount Card Sales -\$10. Students earn \$8 for their team account for each discount card sold
- ☐ Other fundraisers organized by the parent committee
- ☐ Students may apply for a need-based travel scholarship for World Championships once during their time on the team

Costs covered by Kokomo School Corporation:

- ◆ Teacher coach contracts
- ◆ Bus transportation
- ◆ Substitute teachers during team travel

Costs covered by TechnoKats not-for-profit “club fund” (funded by sponsors, grants, donations, and fundraising) include:

- ◆ *FIRST* Competition entry fees
- ◆ Robot parts and materials
- ◆ Playing field costs
- ◆ District & State competition travel
- ◆ Senior scholarships
- ◆ Non-*FIRST* competition costs
- ◆ Various materials and supplies
- ◆ Team Open House
- ◆ Team uniforms
- ◆ Travel expenses
- ◆ Hotels for district events
- ◆ Special projects

Team Benefits

There are many potential rewards for TechnoKats members.

Scholarships

- Each graduating senior who applies for will receive a TechnoKats college scholarship of \$100 per full year of team membership. An application will be available each spring and is due by the third Tuesday in May
- More than 16 million dollars in other scholarships were available for *FIRST* Team members last year. Check out the list on the *FIRST* web site: <http://www.usfirst.org/scholarships>

Internships

- Experienced TechnoKats are exposed to and preferred for internships with local companies.
- Delphi, FCA, and AndyMark have hired college-aged, former TechnoKats as interns at their Kokomo facilities.

Experience

- Many corporations across the nation participate in *FIRST* and want to hire *FIRST* students. Being on a *FIRST* team exposes students to these corporations, and also helps teach the skills that these companies look for in employees.

High School Varsity Letter

- Students who meet travel requirements, are active members for 2 years, participate in at least 50% of off-season activities, attend at least 50% of meetings, attend at least 3 competitions per year, and take a lead role on a special project can earn a KHS TechnoKats varsity letter. See application in Appendix F.

Team Leadership

The TechnoKats offer many leadership opportunities for both students and mentors. The chart on the following pages show the current leadership opportunities, as updated by a student committee in November, 2018. A more detailed list of expectations for these roles and an application is in Appendix I.

The TechnoKats encourage students to take on leadership roles throughout their time on the team. The TechnoKats is a Student-Led Team. This means that students, under the guidance of team coaches and mentors, have the responsibility of leadership roles, develop leadership skills, and take part in team decision making. A working flow-chart of responsibilities and coaches overseeing responsibilities for each role is included in Appendix A.

Student lead roles are assigned through an application and voting process, an application and appointment process, or on a volunteer bases. Additional information on applying for leadership roles is included in this handbook and will be provided during team meetings. Leadership roles may vary slightly from year to year, based on team needs.

Leadership Cabinet

A Leadership Cabinet made up of coaches and mentors makes recommendations for the team.

The responsibilities of the Leadership Cabinet include:

- recruiting and overseeing mentors
- recruiting new sponsors
- making recommendations for the running of the team
- providing a sounding board for team members
- managing team projects and programs and making project recommendations to the team

Technical Manager

- oversees team shop and building projects
- assigns team members jobs
- oversees workflow of technical projects
- works with team captain
- travels to all competitions
- other duties as required/ needed

Strategy Manager

- oversees team strategy/ planning for robot game
- develops strategy program for pit and match scouting
- oversees team safety training
- oversees team safety implementation
- oversees robot software
- works with business manager to plan safety video, awards, and planning for judges
- works with spirit team
- works with Safety Captain
- works with coaches to develop game test and safety test
- travels to all competitions
- other duties as required/ needed

Business Manager

- oversees team awards submissions
- works with coaches to take photos and video
- works with coaches to develop sponsor relationships and increase sponsorships
- oversees team marketing and publications, including website and social media
- works with parent committee and coaches on button design
- travels to all competitions
- other duties and required/ needed

Team Captain

- one of the managers also holds this position
- oversees and runs team meetings
- works with coaches to set meeting agenda and make agenda and meeting minutes available to team
- oversees projects and team managers
- supports team managers
- sends team updates regularly
- travels to all competitions
- other duties and required/ needed

Shop Rules

While at the shop, students are expected to follow the rules below, as well as all instructions from coaches and mentors.

- Students should not enter the shop without at least one coach or mentor present.
- Wear closed-toe shoes at all times.
- Safety glasses must be worn when in the shop, regardless of the activity.
 - o Students will be provided with their own safety glasses and case their first year on the team, after all paperwork has been submitted.
 - o Safety glasses will have the student's name on them.
 - o Students are expected to be responsible for their own safety glasses, including having them in the shop at each work session, and bringing them to all competitions and events.
 - o If students lose or damage their safety glasses, they may purchase a replacement pair for \$5.00
- Only students with completed permission slips and proper machine training, signed off by a mentor, will be permitted to use tools and machines.
- Food and drinks are not permitted in the shop.
- Work in a safe, courteous way. Follow all safety rules.
- Demonstrate Gracious Professionalism.
- Clean up your work area in the shop and in teachers' classrooms before leaving. Put away tools and materials, and complete shop checklist at end of every shop session. Don't assume someone else will do it.
- Students working in an unsafe way or not following instructions of coaches or mentors will be asked to leave for the remainder of the day.

Travel Requirements

Student Travel Eligibility

Recognizing that students are involved in other activities, the TechnoKats accommodate various levels of student participation. In order to be eligible for travel, a student must meet these requirements:

- Meet team Academic Requirements
- Earn the required number of Travel Credits
- Be productive on the team and comply with TechnoKats shop rules
- Pass game test with at least 70% (90% for drive team, strategist, and other team leads)
- Complete all required forms and registrations (field trip form, FIRST forms, Student Contract, etc.)
- Complete safety training and pass Safety Test with at least 70%

Academic Requirements

Participation in TechnoKats provides students with many opportunities not available to other students. This includes travel throughout the state and country. According to the student contract (see Appendix G) each student must maintain a C- (70%) or better in *each* course with *no missing assignments* in order to be eligible for team travel. This grade policy applies to all courses, including IB and AP courses, and to all students. This grade requirement is firm. Schoolwork is a greater priority than team activities.

Students who do not meet grade requirements will be contacted individually by a coach. They may have the opportunity to travel with the team on non-school days if they meet individual "grade recovery" requirements.

These students will be permitted to ride the bus and sit in the stands with the team, but will not be eligible to serve in a leadership role or on drive team at the event.

Students are expected to be proactive regarding their grades, and utilize study table and tutoring opportunities prior to grade checks. Students who are struggling with their grades should approach a coach for grade assistance in advance of grade checks.

Grade Checks

- Student grades will be checked regularly throughout the school year.
- Study tables and tutoring sessions will be available regularly during the build and competition season.
- A coach will contact students whose grades do not meet the requirements.
- A grade check deadline will be set in advance of each competition (both on and off-season)
- The final grade check deadline is firm. Grades must be maintained from the grade check deadline until the team leaves for an event.
- The TechnoKats expect students to demonstrate gracious professionalism on and off the competition field. This includes demonstrating gracious professionalism towards teachers and using class time appropriately.
- Negative reports from teachers may impact travel eligibility.

Grade Assistance

In order to help the students meet the grade requirement, study tables and tutoring are available for students who are in need of help. Students should work with coaches for personal tutoring assistance if needed.

- Study tables will be offered after school during the build and competition season
- Students attending study tables are expected to use the time to study.
- Students will earn travel credits (see below) for time spent studying.
- Students who do not use the time to study or to work on a specific assigned team task will be asked to leave and will not earn study credits.
- Individual tutoring may be arranged upon request. Tutoring hours should be arranged with a coach, and may earn travel credits.

Travel Credits

Students can earn travel credits through activities that benefit the team including working on awards, participating in team study table, working on robot design and build, and attending team meetings during the season. To earn travel credits, students will complete a Google Form, e to document attendance and shop hours (see form in Appendix H). The form must be completed within 24 hours. Coaches will check the document and assign travel credits each week.

Unless otherwise noted, students will earn 1 Travel Credit for every 30 minutes of work in the shop, beginning with kick-off in January.

Activity

Awards Work*+

Contacting Sponsors*+

Interviews, Media Work+

Kick-off Meeting

Robot Design & Build

Robot Programming & Testing

Scouting Work (outside of competitions)+

Shop Organization/ Inventory/ Cleaning
 Study Table+
 Team Meeting (per full meeting attendance)
 Tutoring+ (arranged with coach)
 Video or photography+
 Website*+
 Other activities assigned by coaches+

* May begin earning these credits during the fall semester.

+May be earned at location outside of the shop

Required Credits			Event
Rookies	Veterans	Team Leaders	
30	30	30	Earn team uniform shirts
60	75	75	1st District Event
75	90	90	All District Events & State Championships
80	100	100	Other Competitions/ Events during School
100	125	125	World Championships

Coaches will keep track of earned travel credits in PowerSchool.

Competition Roles

In addition to the year-long leadership roles, there are a variety of ways students can take on leadership and participation roles during the competition season. These include:

- Scouting Assistant Manager/ strategist
- Scouting Team (12 people, plus 2 leads)
- Mo Team Mascot (2 people)
- Spirit Lead (1-2 people)
- Spirit Team (as many people as available; may overlap other roles)
- Pit Design & Inventory Lead (1 person)
- Pit crew (2-5 people)
- Drive Team (3 people)
- Safety Captain (1 person)
- Other positions as needed

These roles require the completion of an application (See Appendix C) and are selected by team coaches and mentors. Applications for competition roles must be submitted to the head coach by the **last Tuesday in January**. Roles will be selected before the end of build season. Descriptions of the roles are included in Appendix B.

The Drive Team consists of the robot driver, operator, human player, and a drive coach. Descriptions of each role can be found in Appendix D. Drive team members are expected to put in more hours during the competition season than any other role, maintain grades, and attend all competitions. Drive team members must complete an application (See Appendix E), as well as participate in drive team try outs. The application must be turned in to the head coach by the **last Tuesday in January**.

Travel Expectations

Our goal is to travel with 24-32 students for each competition.

General Expectations:

Students should always be in groups of 2 or more (minimum of three if there are mixed genders).

Be alert! If there is anything suspicious, report it to a mentor.

Bus Expectations:

Every seat on the bus will be all-male or all-female – no co-ed seating. The only exception to this is family.

Hotel Expectations:

Students are not allowed to be in the hotel room of someone of the opposite gender.

Bed checks will occur each night, according to the schedule.

After bed checks, students are expected to stay in the room (no ice or vending machine runs). The student doors will be taped.

The tape will be removed a half hour before breakfast.

Be respectful of other hotel guests by walking in the halls, and keeping a low voice level in the hallways and rooms.

Keep track of and move your own luggage. All luggage should have a tag on it.

Keep hotel rooms clean. The coaches will check room cleanliness at check-out.

Venue Expectations:

Students should report to the coach or mentor in charge of their sub-group (scouting, pits, and drive team) before leaving that area.

Relationships

As the team travels, as well as in the shop and at all team activities, school rules expressed in the Lens will be followed:

- Students are expected to refrain from Public Displays of Affection (PDA) including hand-holding, kissing, back massages, etc.
- Students who are dating will be expected to meet with the head coach prior to and as a condition of travel, to review expectations.

Travel and Commitment Deadlines

Only active team members are permitted to travel with the team and participate in team competitions. Students must also meet the team grade requirements in order to be active, as described in this handbook.

While traveling with the team, students will stay in hotels. There will be up to four students in each room, sharing two double or queen beds. Students need to communicate any special needs regarding travel to the head coach at least a week in advance of the trip.

Family members are encouraged to attend competitions with the team. They can either plan their own travel or work through the head coach for travel arrangements. If parents are using team arrangements, they must abide by team guidelines will be responsible for all costs associated with travel.

Any person traveling to World Championships with the team must commit by meeting the payment deadlines. The initial \$100 down-payment is due on or before **the first Tuesday in February**, and can be paid either through money fundraised and in your individual team account, or by writing a check to TechnoKats and giving it to the head coach. This is a commitment deadline for **all** team members. This applies to students, parents, mentors, volunteers, siblings, and anyone else traveling with the team. All adults traveling with the team must pass the Kokomo School Corporation background check and the *FIRST* background check before traveling.

Final payment for Championships, for everyone, is due on **the last Tuesday in March**.

During the 2020 competition season, we plan to attend at least two District Competitions, the Indiana State Championships, and the *FIRST* World Championship. We are fortunate to be pre-qualified for World Championships as one of six remaining Legacy Teams who have been active in the *FIRST* Robotics Competition each year since it began in 1992. World Championships are in Detroit, Michigan this year.

Mentor & Volunteer Involvement

There are many ways for adults to be involved with the TechnoKats based on their interests:

Coaches: Team coaches are employed by Kokomo School Corporation.

Technical Mentors: Technical Mentors have an expertise in a specific work area in the shop. They teach students specific technical skills.

Volunteers/ Parent Volunteers: Volunteers and Parents are always welcome in the shop and at team events, but do not necessarily have a specified lead role with the team.

Technical Mentor Expectations

A team mentor is expected to commit to the following:

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS:

- Complete Kokomo Schools and *FIRST* background checks
- Assist the team
- Remain student-focused
- Promote Gracious Professionalism and the ideals of *FIRST*
- Promote the team within the community
- Work with and teach students skills and leadership qualities
- Follow all team and shop rules
- Promote safety

OFF SEASON:

- Attend team meetings regularly (at least 2 per month)
- Attend scheduled mentor meetings (apx. 2 per year)
- Plan/ organize activities or projects in your area
- Train students in your area
- Complete projects/ meet deadlines

- Participate in team activities and events regularly

BUILD & COMPETITIONS SEASON: (JANUARY-APRIL)

- Attend Kick-off (first Saturday in January)
- Attend and lead shop work sessions at least two weekdays per week
- Attend Saturday work sessions as available (at least 4 during season)
- Monitor progress in area of responsibility
- Attend competitions (as available)

Additional Coach Expectations

- Monitor student grades & behaviors
- Monitor student accounts
- Monitor student Travel Credits
- Maintain student paperwork
- Communicate between team, school, and parents
- Coordinate school policies and expectations
- Coordinate travel and events
- Complete requirements of specific coaching area
- Other duties as needed

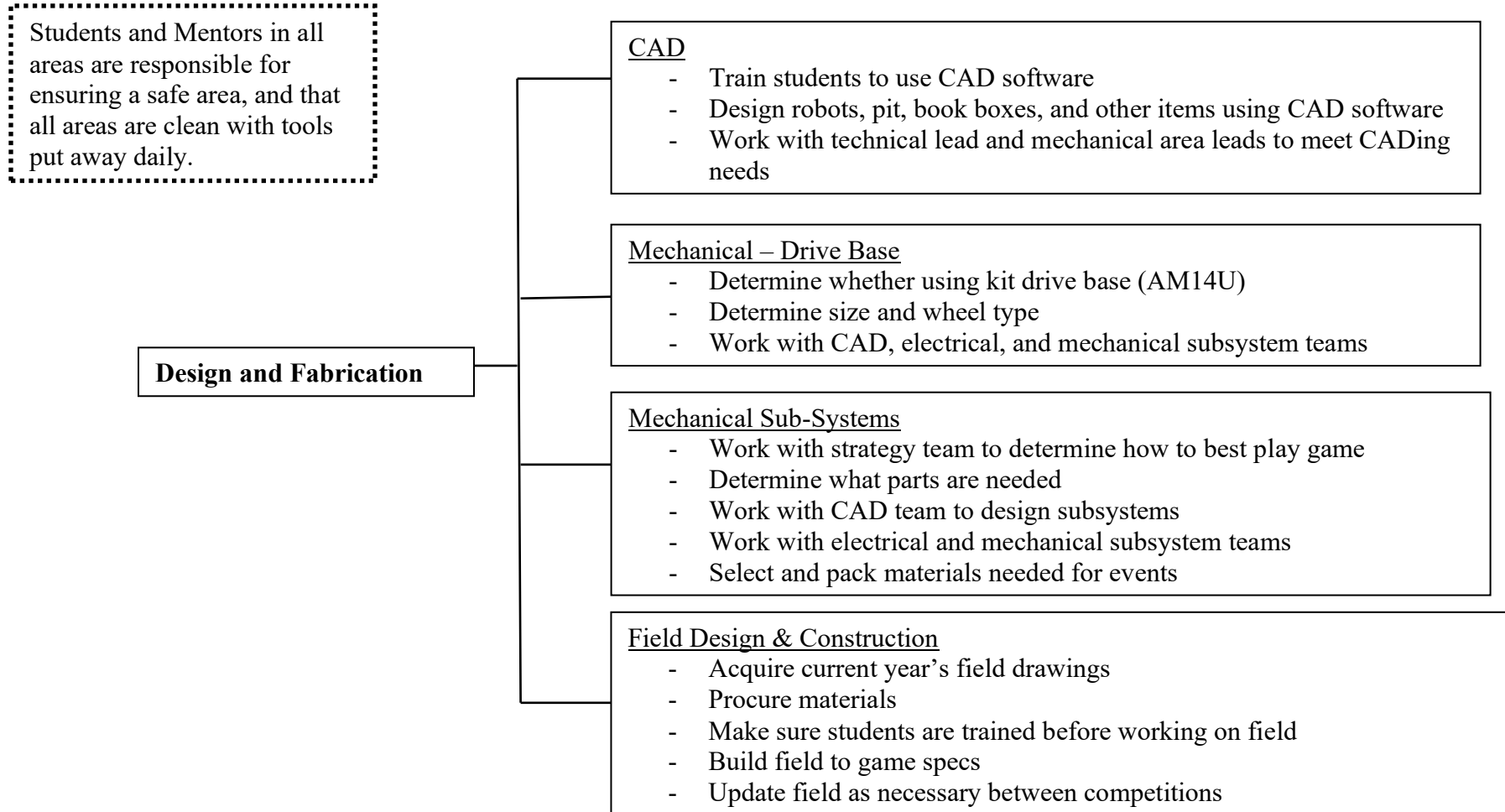
Volunteer Expectations

- Complete Kokomo Schools and *FIRST* background checks
- Work with Coaches and Mentors
- Assist the team as needed
- Remain student-focused
- Promote Gracious Professionalism and the ideals of *FIRST*
- Follow all team and shop rules
- Promote safety

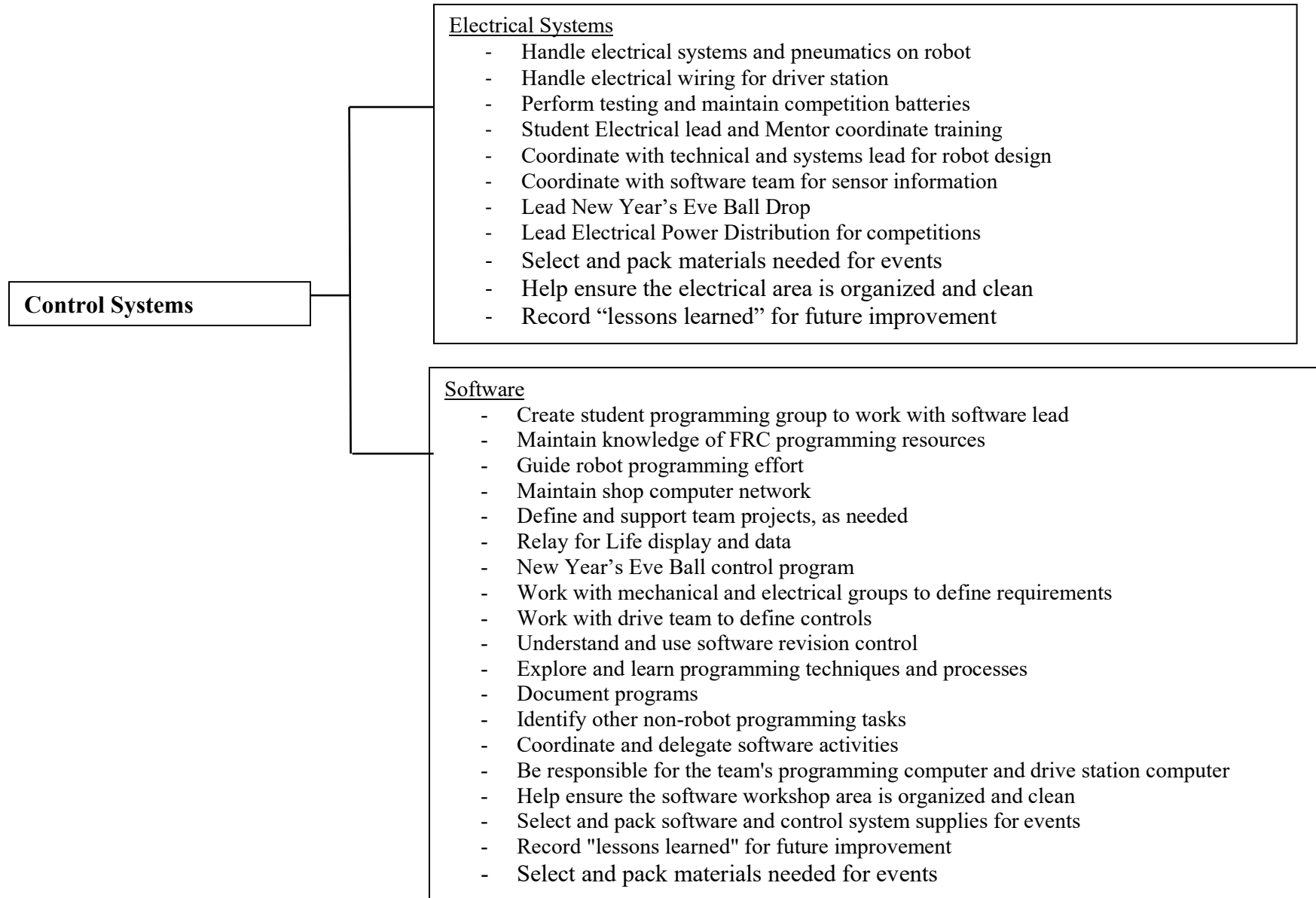
Appendix A: Team Role Descriptions

Appendix A includes the work areas on the team. Students and mentors are needed in all areas, and many include leadership opportunities.

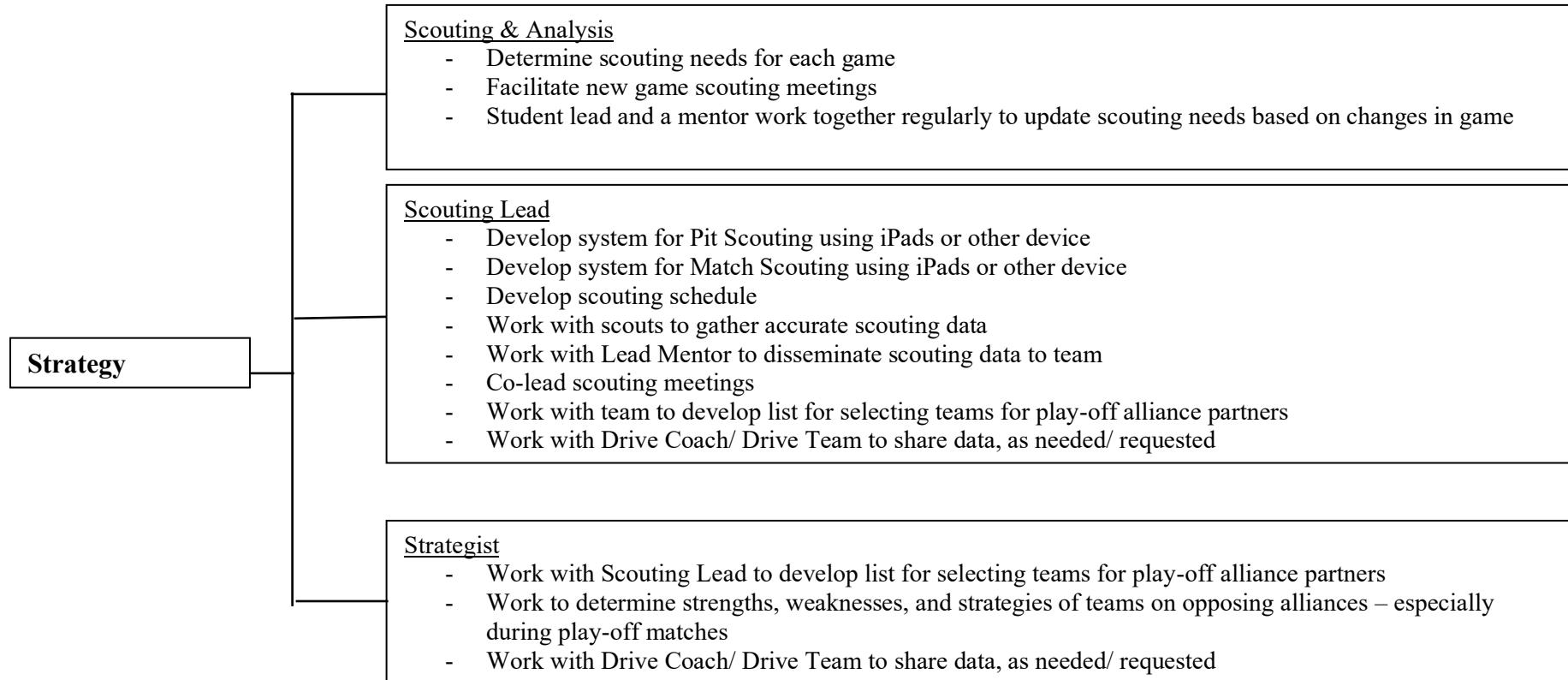
Shop & Safety Coach/ Technical Manager



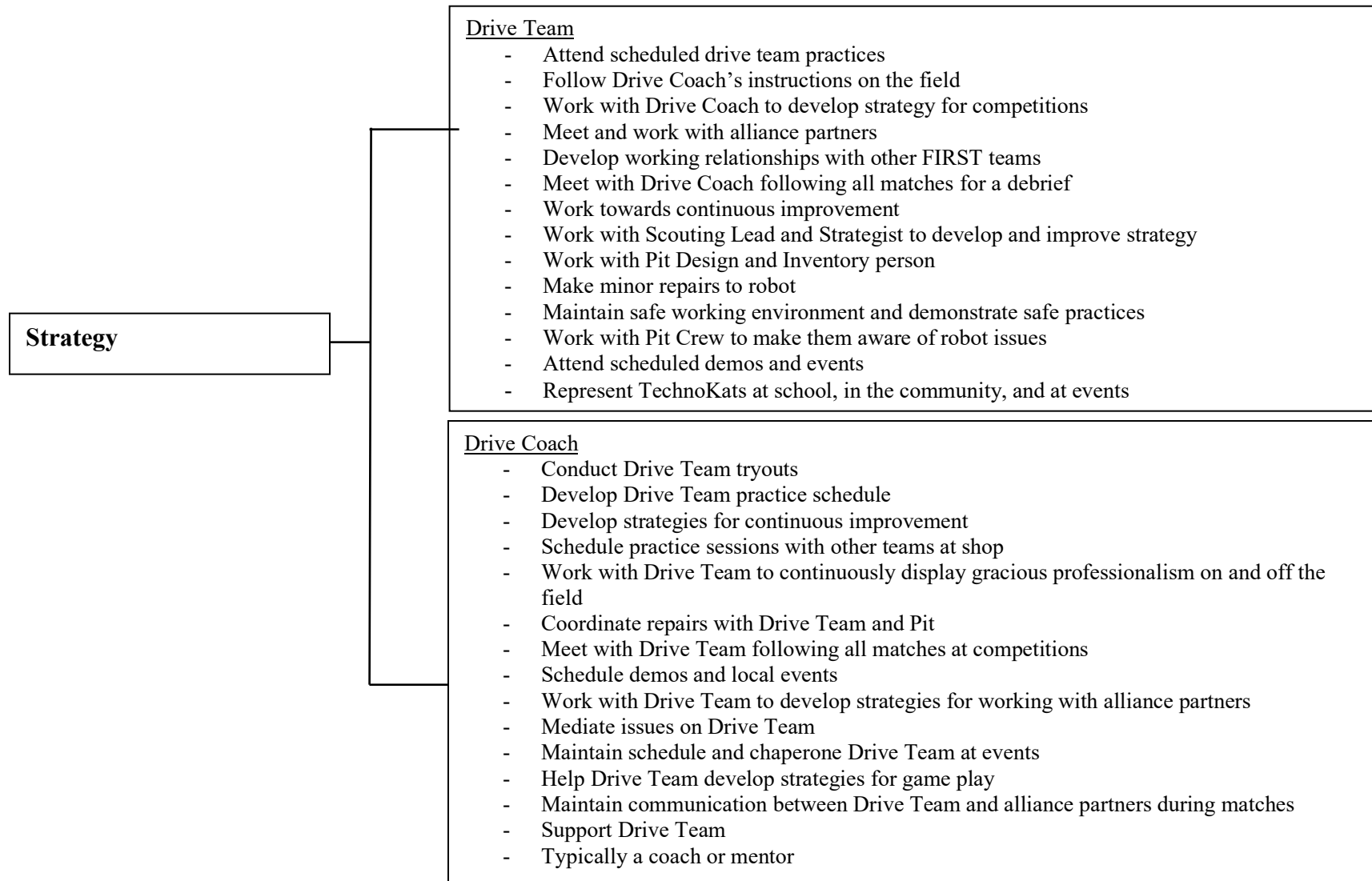
Shop & Safety Coach/ Strategy Manager



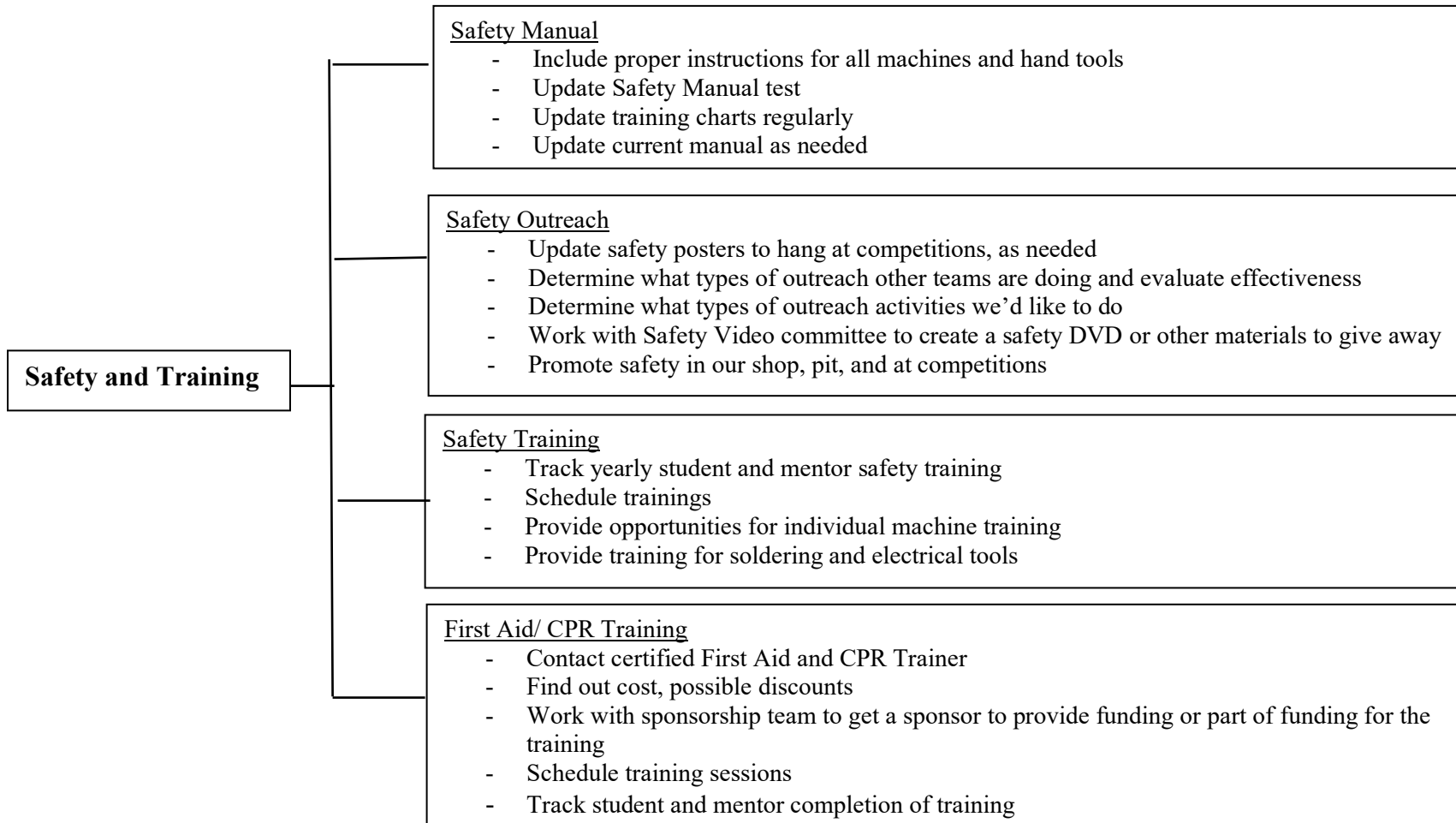
Students & Parents Coach/ Strategy Manager



Head Coach



Shop & Safety Coach/ Strategy Manager



Shop & Safety Coach/ Strategy Manager

Safety and Training

Safety Captain

- Year-round role
- Work with Shop & Safety Coach to maintain safety manual
- Maintain safe practices in the shop and pit
- Make sure all students have their own pair of safety glasses
- Work with Shop & Safety Coach and Delphi to maintain safety equipment: fire extinguishers, gloves, first aid kit, eye wash station, etc.
- Work on safety outreach activities and safety video
- Train students on safety
- Make sure all students know safety expectations, have read safety manual, and have passed safety test
- Share safety tips with team
- Encourage safety among team members
- Work with mentor to inventory First Aid Kit and keep it maintained
- Work with Shop & Safety Coach to maintain MSDS binder and pack binder to competitions
- Work with Shop & Safety Coach to maintain eye wash station
- Maintain binder with safety manual, etc. and pack for events
- Share team safety activities with judges at competitions
- Represent the team, and always demonstrate safe practices

Machine Training

- Students must be trained by a mentor and demonstrate usage of each machine
- Students must pass Safety Test
- Makes sure that students read safety instructions for each machine prior to use
- Maintains training lists
- Maintains training and safety signage in shop

HoCoRoCo

- Work with business and mechanical leads to determine training sessions
- Communicate with other teams to organize events and trainings
- Organize and find leader for each training
- Help update group Facebook page

Media & Awards Coach/ Business Manager

Marketing and Publications

Team Outreach

- Mentors and students work together to determine best outreach/ volunteer activities for team to participate in
- Schedule event with relevant organization and plan event/ activities
- Share event with team and establish list of participants

Website

- Work with head coach to meet expectations and school policy
- Update regularly
- Update countdown timers on website
- Mentor students in maintaining website
- Update photos using team Dropbox
- Maintain Google drive
- Update all handbooks, calendar, etc. on website

Social Media

- Currently have Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts
- Remember that what you post represents the team
- Demonstrate Gracious Professionalism
- Post interesting things frequently during build and competition season; off season as appropriate

Photography

- Take pictures at major events
- Good quality photos that capture essence of event are better than lots of pictures to sort
- Think about how photos will be used
- Make sure you photograph the content you'll need
- Share photos on team Dropbox

Media & Awards Coach/ Business Manager

Awards

Chairman's Award Essay & Booklet

- Determine whether or not to apply for Chairman's award each year based on team activities of previous year; may consider Entrepreneurship Award instead some years
- Check deadlines and current year's requirements
- Plan/ create theme
- Create outline of key points
- Make action plan
- Write first draft
- Revise and edit essay
- Submit essay in advance, as there can be issues with the submission system
- Find photos to support the essay. Make sure photos are formatted according to the guidelines
- Create booklet(s) to support presentation
- Revise and edit booklet
- Send booklet for professional printing and binding before first competition

Chairman's Presentation

- Review online resources for ideas
- Follow instructions online
- Coordinate presentation with written essay
- 3 member team
- Plan chairman's presentation
- Practice, practice, practice
- Dress well
- Present to judges at competitions

Chairman's Video

- Check deadline and current year's requirements
- Video should capture what you're trying to convey in essay
- Find a quiet location/ good backdrop/ microphones
- Plan in advance
- Videotape events throughout the year
- Use theme from essay
- Write script
- Practice
- May want to work with KACC video productions classes
- Plan and tape well in advance
- Videotape, edit, burn to DVD or flash drive
- Complete prior to first competition

Media & Awards Coach/ Business Manager

Awards

Woodie Flowers Award

- Check deadline and current year's requirements
- Work with student team members to select a mentor
- Write essay about the person – be sure to include technical aspects
- Write and edit in advance
- A non-eligible mentor can help with fact collecting and editing, but award is written by students
- Students submit essay and relevant photos online
- May resubmit a previous Woodie Flowers Finalist for World Championships

Safety Animation

- Earliest submitted award (during fall semester)
- Check website for current year's deadline and requirements
- Write script
- Work with KACC to animate video
- Submit

Entrepreneurship Award

- Check website for current requirements and deadlines
- Work to develop documents required for the award
- May determine to complete this award in lieu of Chairman's Award

Students & Parents Coach

Parent Committee

Buttons

- Work with interested students to design buttons and make on computer (6 per page)
- Make sure designs fit with team brand
- Color copy button designs
- Train students and mentors to use button machine
- Make 1000+ buttons per competition; 2000+ for Championships
- Students and parents can help make buttons
- Let Head Coach know when new button parts need to be ordered (this won't be for a while!)

Saturday Meals

- Maintain list of team parents and contact information
- Make sign-up sheet for Saturday meals during build season
- Organize meals to be sure all parts of meal are covered: Main dish, side, fruit, dessert, drink
- TeachnoKats provide plates, cups, napkins, bowls, plastic ware, paper towel, all-purpose cleaner, plastic serving gloves
- At beginning of season, check inventory of paper goods in shop. Purchase needed supplies and turn in receipts to Head Coach
- Contact parents to remind them of food responsibilities
- Organize and serve Saturday meals; parents help with serving the meal
- Enough food for up to 50 people;
- Some parents prefer to give money to bringing in food. Usually use this to buy drinks for season

Meeting Snacks

(optional – based on student interest/ sign-ups)

- Create a sign-up sheet for snacks during meetings
- Remind parents/ students of dates they signed up for
- Snacks should be simple
- Snacks should be served between 5:15 and 5:25 and cleaned up in time for the meeting to begin at 5:30

Students & Parents Coach

Parent Committee

Open House

- Work with head coach and design team to create invitations
- Work with head coach to plan sponsor recognition
- Plan snacks, beverages, paper products for Open House
- Prepare and clean up snack table
- Work with parent committee to coordinate serving
- Prepare and train students for Open House activities (tours of shop, robot driving, etc.)

Scouting/ Pit Awards

- May be given at each FIRST competition
- In 2013 gave:
 - o Best pit award
 - o Furthest traveled
 - o Most spirited team
 - o Best theme
 - o Most creative robot
- Print award before competition and bring with. At competition, write in team name/ number with colored Sharpie
- Put awards in a frame
- Scouts pick teams on first day of tournament, give awards near end of qualifying matches, before alliance selection
- Pick some teams that might not get other awards

Fundraising

- Work with students to raise money for trips
- Organize a variety of fundraising opportunities
- Work with head coach on sponsorship opportunities

Appendix B: Competition Role Descriptions

Scouting Manager/ Strategist (year-round role)

- Work with Scouting Manager
- Determine scouting needs for each game
- Facilitate new game scouting meetings
- Develop system for Pit Scouting using iPads or other device
- Develop system for Match Scouting using iPads or other device
- Develop scouting schedule
- Work with scouts to gather accurate scouting data
- Work with Coaches to disseminate scouting data to team
- Co-lead scouting meetings
- Work with team to develop list for selecting teams for play-off alliance partners
- Work with Scouting Mentor regularly to update scouting needs based on changes in game
- Work with Drive Coach/ Drive Team to share data, as needed/ requested
- Earn at least 90% on game test
- Other duties as required

Assistant Scouting Manager/ Strategist

- Work with Scouting Manager to develop list for selecting teams for play-off alliance partners
- Work to determine strengths, weaknesses, and strategies of teams on opposing alliances – especially during play-off matches
- Work with Drive Coach/ Drive Team to share data, as needed/ requested
- Earn at least 90% on game test
- Other duties as required

Scouting Team (12 people)

- Follow instructions of Scouting Manager and Assistant Manager
- Scout team pits and matches, as assigned
- Collect accurate data
- Support spirit team
- Earn at least 70% on game test
- Other duties as required

Mo – Team Mascot (2 people)

- Wear shorts, t-shirt under suit
- Need a “handler” at events
- Take breaks & stay hydrated
- Be friendly; pose for photos
- Represent the team and demonstrate Gracious Professionalism
- Hand out buttons, etc.
- Help distribute pit awards
- Properly maintain Mo suit
- Pack suit and work with Pit Design & Inventory Lead to be sure suit is packed in trailer for events and has a place in the pit
- Earn at least 70% on game test

Spirit Lead (1-2 people)

- Be friendly to other teams
- Stay “pumped”
- Help Mo, keep Mo hydrated
- Make sure Spirit Tote is packed and ready for competitions; work with Pit Design & Inventory Lead to by sure spirit tote is packed in trailer and has a place in the pit
- Lead team in spirit at competitions and team events
- Participate in or designate team member to participate in spirit activities at events (dance contests, etc.)
- Work with parent committee to design and make team buttons
- Update the Spirit Box and maintain items in the box
- Promote TechnoKats at KHS. This could include, display cases, posters, school announcements, videos for monitors in the foyer, KATV, etc.
- Work with Head Coach for approval of anything posted at school and for help with making purchases, copies, etc.
- Earn at least 70% on game test
- Other duties and required

Pit Design & Inventory Lead (1 person; may serve an additional role during competitions)

- Work with all areas of the team to determine what their pit needs are
- Include area for backpacks and jackets, drive team, button distribution, judging materials, giveaways, spirit team, Mo suit, etc. as well as robot needs
- Design/ Cad pit design
- Revise as needed
- Determine what materials can be reused and what materials need to be built
- Build/ design pit that meets needs and fits in pit area
- Determine how to easily move pit
- Create and maintain packing list for events
- Organize and lead trailer loading and unloading
- Oversee electrical distribution system set-up and tear-down
- Earn at least 70% on game test
- Other duties as required

Pit Crew (2-5 people)

- Know the robot materials, operation, and maintenance
- Develop and update pre-flight check-list
- Maintain and repair robot
- Maintain batteries
- Organize and clean-up pit area daily
- Talk with judges about robot and team
- Work with drive team to repair and improve robot
- Pit crew members should have a variety of specialty areas, including software, electrical, and mechanical
- Earn at least 70% on game test
- Other duties as required

Drive Team (3 people)

- See Appendix D

Safety Captain (1 person; may be part of pit-crew)

- Year-round role

- Work with Assistant Coach for Shop and Safety & Strategy Manager to update and maintain safety manual
- Maintain safe practices in the shop and pit
- Make sure all students and mentors have their own pair of safety glasses
- Work with Assistant Coach for Shop and Safety to maintain safety equipment: fire extinguishers, gloves, first aid kit, eye wash station, etc.
- Work on safety outreach activities and safety video
- Work with Shop & Safety Coach to train students on safety expectations
- Make sure all students know safety expectations, have read safety manual, and have passed safety test
- Share safety tips with team
- Encourage safety among team members
- Work with Assistant Coach for Shop and Safety to inventory First Aid Kit and keep it maintained
- Work with Assistant Coach for Shop and Safety to maintain MSDS and training list binders and pack binder for competitions
- Work with Assistant Coach for Shop and Safety to maintain eye wash station
- Maintain binder with safety manual, etc. and pack for events
- Share team safety activities with judges at competitions
- Earn at least 70% on game test
- Represent the team, and always demonstrate safe practices

Appendix C: Application for Competition Roles

The purpose of this application is to help choose the best students for competition roles on the 2026 TechnoKats Robotics Team.

- 1. Complete and return application to the Head Coach by the **last Tuesday in January**. Late applications will not be considered.
- 2. The coaches will administrate the Game Test to students before the end of build season. All students must earn at least 70% on the Game Test to travel. Scouting Lead, Scouting Assistant Manager, and Strategist must earn at least 90%.

Name: _____

Year in school: ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12

Years in TechnoKats: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

Cumulative GPA: _____ Fall 2025 Semester GPA: _____

Competition Positions:
List your top three choices in order of preference.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

Other after-school activities (January-April 2026):

Current number of travel credits earned ____

Do you plan to attend World Championships? _____

Type your answers to the following questions and turn in with your application:

- 1. Why are you interested in representing the TechnoKats in this position? (150-350 words)
- 2. What skills and abilities do you have that would benefit the team? (200-400 words)
- 3. In your own words, describe "Gracious Professionalism". Use an example, if you wish. (100-200 words)

Appendix D: Drive Team Role Descriptions

Drive Coach

- Typically a KHS teacher
- Conduct Drive Team tryouts
- Develop Drive Team practice schedule
- Develop strategies for continuous improvement
- Schedule practice sessions with other teams
- Schedule field practices
- Work with Drive Team to continuously display gracious professionalism on and off the field
- Coordinate repairs with Drive Team and Pit
- Meet with Drive Team following all matches at competitions for debrief
- Work with Head Coach to schedule demos and local events & schools
- Work with Drive Team to develop strategies for working with alliance partners
- Mediate issues on Drive Team
- Maintain schedule and chaperone Drive Team at events
- Help Drive Team develop strategies for game play
- Maintain communication between Drive Team and alliance partners during matches
- Support Drive Team
- Other duties as required

Drive Team

- Attend scheduled drive team practices
- Follow Drive Coach's instructions on the field
- Work with Drive Coach and Strategy Manager to develop strategy for each match
- Meet and work with alliance partners
- Develop working relationships with other FIRST teams
- Meet with Drive Coach and Head Coach following all matches for debrief
- Work towards continuous improvement
- Work with Scouting Lead and Strategist to develop and improve strategy
- Work with Pit Design and Inventory Lead
- Make minor repairs to robot
- Maintain safe working environment and demonstrate safe practices
- Work with Pit Crew to make them aware of robot issues
- Attend scheduled demos and events
- Represent TechnoKats at school, in the community, and at events
- Attend all competitions
- Maintain grades
- Earn at least 90% on game test
- Other duties as required

Appendix E: Application for Drive Team

The purpose of this application is to help choose the best students for competition roles on the 2026 TechnoKats Robotics Team.

- 1. Complete and return application to the Head Coach by the **last Tuesday in January**. Late applications will not be considered.
- 2. The Coaches will administrate the Game Test to students. All students must earn at least 70% on the Game Test to travel. Drive team members must earn at least 90%.

Name: _____

Year in school: ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12

Years in TechnoKats: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

Cumulative GPA: _____ Fall 2025 Semester GPA: _____

Competition Positions:
Number your choices in order of preference.

- _____ Driver
- _____ Operator
- _____ Human Player

Other after-school activities (January-April 2026):

Type your answers to the following questions and turn in with your application:

- 1. Why are you interested in representing the TechnoKats in this position? (150-350 words)
- 2. What skills and abilities do you have that would benefit the team? (200-400 words)
- 3. In your own words, describe "Gracious Professionalism". Use an example, if you wish. (100-200 words)

Drive Team Application – Page 2

1. The drive team practices in the afternoons and evenings, and many Saturdays from late February – early May. Please list any conflicts you know you may have during this time period. (practices, music lessons, etc.)
-
-

2. Drive Team members are often expected to do basic maintenance on the robot. Rate your current comfort level in assessing problems with the robot.

_____ Very Strong _____ Strong _____ Some Ability to Do This
_____ Little Ability to Do This _____ Willing to Learn _____ Not Interested in This

Rate your current comfort level in fixing problems with the robot.

_____ Very Strong _____ Strong _____ Some Ability to Do This
_____ Little Ability to Do This _____ Willing to Learn _____ Not Interested in This

3. To what extent are you comfortable with and willing to talk to students from other teams and work out strategy with them?

_____ Very Comfortable/ Willing _____ Somewhat Comfortable/ Willing
_____ Not Comfortable _____ Willing to Learn _____ Not Interested in This

Drive Team members represent the team in a very visible way at competitions, at school, in the shop, and in the community. Describe what this means, and how you see this role (100-200 words). Type your answers following your 3 questions from the previous page.

4. Based on this year's game, describe your idea for a drive team game strategy in 100-200 words.
5. Based on this year's game, describe your idea for a drive team practice session in 100-200 words.
6. Based on this year's game and robot design, describe your goal(s) for the Drive Team this year. Be Specific (100-200 words)
7. Drive Team Members sometimes do more travel than other team members. Are you willing to raise up to \$75 more than other team members for additional travel expenses?
_____ Yes _____ No
8. Do you plan to attend all competitions this season?
_____ Yes _____ No

Appendix F: Application for TechnoKats Varsity Letter

(Student copy will be updated to reflect current season’s competitions in March)

Name: _____

Year in school: ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12

Years on TechnoKats: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

Cumulative GPA: _____ Fall 2025 Semester GPA: _____

Which competitions have you attended:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ☐ CAGE, Oct. 2018 | ☐ Tippecanoe District, March, 2019 | ☐ Penn H.S. District, March 2019 |
| | ☐ World Championships, 2019 | ☐ IRI, July 2018 (volunteered at event) |
| ----- | | |
| ☐ CAGE, Oct. 2019 | ☐ Columbus District, March, 2020 | ☐ Penn H.S. District, March 2020 |
| | ☐ World Championships, 2020 | ☐ IRI, July 2019 (volunteered at event) |
| ----- | | |

List other TechnoKats activities you’ve attended/ participated in during the last 2 school years

List any TechnoKats projects on which you have taken the lead position in the last 2 school years

Turn completed application in to Head Coach by the Tuesday following World Championships

Appendix G: Student Contract

By signing below, I acknowledge that I understand and agree to these rules and conditions:

Student Name (please print) _____

Shop and Safety

- ☐ I know that the TechnoKats Team Handbook is posted on the team's website, and that I am responsible for reading it and adhering to all team expectations.
- ☐ I understand that I may not use any machines in the shop until I have passed the team approved training program and a mentor has signed off on this. I will not use machines unless at least 2 mentors are present in the shop.
- ☐ I agree to safely use all tools and equipment while working in the TechnoKats shop. I respect the severity of a possible accident and understand that I may be sent home or dismissed from the team if I don't work safely.
- ☐ I understand that safety in the shop is important. I will not participate in "horseplay" or "messaging around" in the shop, and will follow posted instructions. I will follow coaches' & mentors' instructions.
- ☐ I will follow the no food, drinks, or cell phones in the shop policy. I will leave my backpack, coat, and other personal items outside the shop.
- ☐ I understand that I must maintain an acceptable level of productivity while in the shop and at team activities. I may be asked to leave a shop session if I am not being productive or not following mentor instructions.
- ☐ I understand that all off-season or personal projects must be approved by the head coach before any work on the project begins.
- ☐ I understand that supplies in the shop were purchased through funding from our sponsors specifically for team activities. I will not use the team's materials for personal projects without permission from the head coach.
- ☐ I understand that I am expected to follow all TechnoKats rules, as stated in the team handbook, as well as the policies in the KHS LENS Student Handbook. I understand that if I am asked to leave an event or the shop I am expected to do so. I understand that I may be dismissed from the team immediately if I do not follow the rules.
- ☐ I understand that I must arrange for on-time pick-up from shop sessions and events in advance.
- ☐ I will respect team and school property and will follow TechnoKats Shop rules.
- ☐ Before leaving a shop session or event, I will put away tools, clean up my workspace, and check with a mentor.
- ☐ Before leaving a shop session or team meeting, I will complete the online attendance form and reflection.
- ☐ My parents and I understand that in the shop or at team events, teachers will make any necessary emergency medical decisions and contact parents as soon as possible.

(over, please)

Travel

- ☐ I understand that my photo may be used on the team website and for team promotional materials, and may be used by FIRST or FIRST in Indiana in videos or promotional materials.
- ☐ I understand that I am responsible for arranging my transportation to and from TechnoKats meetings & shop sessions in Kokomo. Being on time is important.

- ☐ I understand that I am responsible for my schoolwork. If any of my grades are below a 70% during the grade check period prior to a team competition or trip, or I am missing any assignments, then I will not travel with the team to the event. AP and IB classes are not an exception to this expectation
- ☐ If I don't meet the grade requirements, then I can only attend an event as a spectator and many not ride the bus or participate in any team activities during the event, including meals and scouting meetings.
- ☐ I understand that I am responsible for all make-up work while absent from school for team travel.
- ☐ I understand that I can seek tutoring and should attend and make use of any offered study table sessions if my grades are low enough to keep me from traveling with the team.
- ☐ I understand that I must pass the season Game Test with at least 70% in order to travel with the team. I understand that I may retake the test up to once per day until one week prior to travel.
- ☐ I understand that in order to be on the Drive Team or to be a team lead, I must pass the Game Test with at least 90%.
- ☐ While traveling, I will stay with a team buddy at all times, and be sure a mentor knows where I am
- ☐ When traveling overnight with the team, I will not enter the room of someone of the opposite gender or someone not on the team. I will keep my assigned room neat and keep track of my own personal items. I understand that my room will be checked by a mentor before leaving the hotel.
- ☐ I may be assigned an airtag to wear at an event. I understand that the purpose of this is to keep all students safe and accounted for. If I am assigned an airtag, I will keep it on at all time during the trip.
- ☐ I understand that if I lose or damage my assigned airtag I will be charged a \$40 replacement fee.
- ☐ My parents and I understand that if I break any team or school rules while traveling, I will be sent home immediately at my family's expense.

A TechnoKats teacher may give my student over-the-counter medicines (aspirin, Advil, etc.) at the shop or while traveling with the team. YES NO

Student's Signature

Parent's Signature

Date

Appendix H: Attendance, Reflection, and Travel Credit Form

Complete the form linked from the QR code posted in shop each time you leave a shop session.

Name _____

Date _____

Start Time _____ Stop Time _____

Reflection:

Something you completed during the shop session to help the team:

Something you learned during this shop session:

Select Activity from Drop Down Menu:

Activity

Awards Work*+

Contacting Sponsors*+

Interviews, Media Work+

Kick-off Meeting (per full day)

Leadership Training Sessions*+

Robot Design & Build

Robot Programming & Testing

Scouting Work (outside competition)

Shop Organization/ Inventory/ Cleaning

Study Table+ (in teacher classrooms)

Team Meeting (per full meeting attendance)

Tutoring+ (arranged with teacher-mentor)

Video and photography

website+

Other activities assigned by lead mentors+

Team Coach/ mentor you primarily worked with

Select from Drop Down Menu:

Appendix I: Team Lead Position Expectations and Application

Team Captain

The Team Captain also serves as one of the managers, and oversees all areas of the team. This student works closely with team coaches, mentors and students, and works to ensure positive relationships within the team, and to maintain the team's positive image at school, in the community, and within FIRST. The Team Captain must apply for a manager position, and is voted for by team members. He or she works with the other team managers and works to ensure that all projects are completed. He or she runs team meetings and regularly sends out meeting minutes and updates. He or she must work to develop a spirit of gracious professionalism within the team.

- Serves in this position in addition to one of the manager positions
- oversees and runs team meetings
- Work with Technical Manager, Business Manager, and Strategy Manager to plan agenda for weekly team meetings, and send to mentors for approval, additions, and updates by Monday morning each week
- works with coaches to set meeting agenda and email to team before the meeting
- oversees projects and team managers
- supports team managers
- sends team minutes and updates regularly
- Begin weekly team meetings on time
- Work with Business Lead to run weekly team meetings
- Organize leadership meetings, as needed
- Communicate with the team regularly via email
- Participate in mentor-led leadership training
- Attend shop sessions regularly
- Plan to attend all events during the season, and most off-season events
- Work with all managers to coordinate loading trailer, pit, and competitions
- Support team at all competitions – both on and off-season – by being available in the pit or with the scouting team.
- Hold brief robot build coordination meetings with all technical area leads during the season
- Earn at least 90% on game test
- Other duties and required/ needed

Technical Manager

The Technical Manager oversees the technical side of the team. This student works closely with team coaches, mentors, and students, and works to ensure positive relationships within the team, and to maintain the team's positive image at school, in the community, and within FIRST. The Technical Lead must apply for the position, and is voted for by team members. He or she oversees other technical leads, and all technical areas of the team. He or she must work to develop a spirit of gracious professionalism within the team.

- Lead by example
- Participate in mentor-led leadership training
- Attend shop sessions regularly
- Plan to attend all events during the season, and most off-season events
- Work with Team Captain for loading trailer, pit, and competitions
- Support team at all competitions – both on and off-season – by being available in the pit or with the scouting team.
- Hold brief robot build coordination meetings with all technical area leads during the season
- Work with Shop and Safety Coach and mentors to develop/monitor progress of robot build schedule; make necessary recovery plans if needed

- Ensure clean shop before leaving each night, and sign off on sheet
- Work with electrical team to ensure New Year's Eve Ball is in working order in time for the ball drop
- Work with Strategy Manager to coordinate mechanical, electrical, and software projects throughout the year
- Work with Strategy Manager to coordinate inventory in mechanical, electrical, and software in the shop
- Work with Mentors to coordinate off season shop equipment training for student
- Earn at least 90% on game test
- Other team tasks, as required

Strategy Manager

The Strategy Manager oversees the strategy and safety side of the team. This student works closely with team coaches, mentors, and students, and works to ensure positive relationships within the team, and to maintain the team's positive image at school, in the community, and within FIRST. The Strategy Manager must apply for the position, and is voted for by team members. He or she must work to develop a spirit of gracious professionalism within the team.

- Lead by example
- Participate in mentor-led leadership training
- Attend shop sessions regularly
- Plan to attend all events during the season, and most off-season events
- Work with Team Captain for loading trailer, pit, and competitions
- Support team at all competitions – both on and off-season – by being coordinating the scouting team in the stands at events.
- Hold brief robot coordination meetings with all strategy area leads during the season
- Work with Shop and Safety Coach and mentors to develop/monitor progress of robot build and software programming schedule; make necessary recovery plans if needed
- Ensure clean shop before leaving each night, and sign off on sheet
- Work with electrical team to ensure New Year's Eve Ball is in working order in time for the ball drop
- Work with Technical Manager to coordinate CAD of parts designed and created to be available for fabrication, references, and problem detection/resolution
- Work with Technical Manager to coordinate mechanical, electrical, and software projects throughout the year
- Work with Technical Manager to coordinate inventory in mechanical, electrical, and software in the shop
- Work with Mentors to coordinate off season shop equipment training for student
- oversees team strategy/ planning for robot game
- Develops strategy program and pit and match scouting program
- Oversees team safety training
- Oversees team safety implementation
- Oversees robot software
- Works with Business Manager to plan safety video, awards, and planning for judges
- Works with spirit team
- Earn at least 90% on game test
- Other duties as required/ needed

Business Manager

The Business Manager oversees the business area of the team. This student works closely with coaches, team mentors, and students, and works to ensure positive relationships within the team, and to maintain the team's positive image at school, in the community, and within FIRST. The Business Manager must apply for the position, and is voted for by team members. He or she oversees other business leads, including the Outreach, Media, and Fundraising. He or she must work to develop a spirit of gracious professionalism within the team.

- Lead by example

- Participate in mentor-led leadership training
- Attend shop sessions regularly
- Plan to attend all events during the season, and most off-season events
- Coordinate team activities during the off-season
- Work with Media & Awards Coach and Head Coach to coordinate brochures, awards, and judge's display
- Work with parent committee to coordinate team giveaways and buttons
- Coordinate Chairman's award submission, booklet, video, and presentation
- Coordinate and delegate Woodie Flowers Award submission
- Work with Strategy Manager to coordinate and delegate Safety Animation Award
- Determine, coordinate and delegate other award submissions
- Meet with judges in the team pit during competitions
- Coordinate fundraising activities; development and motivation.
- Work with Business Mentors to coordinate recruitment including school activities, robot demos, Kick-off, school recruitment, and Open House
- Coordinate student involvement with the New Year's Eve Ball Drop
- Coordinate media contact
- Attend community Relay for Life meetings and coordinate TechnoKats' RFL team
- Coordinate IRI Backpacks
- Maintain Business Manager Student Handbook and pass on to future Business Manager at the end of the year.
- Work with Media & Awards coach to coordinate photos, videos, website, and sponsor outreach
- Work with coaches to develop sponsor relationships
- Work with coaches to increase sponsorships
- Oversees team marketing and publications, including website and social media
- Work with parent committee and coaches on button design
- Earn at least 90% on game test
- Other duties and required/ needed

Lead Position Application

Name: _____

Year in school: ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12

Years in TechnoKats: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

Position you are applying for:

☐ Technical Manager ☐ Strategy Manager ☐ Business Manager

Are you interested in also serving as the team captain? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please type your answers to the following five questions and email an electronic copy to Dr. Dewing. Due _____
Answers should be 50-200 words each, and will be shared with mentors and team members.

1. Why do you want this position?

2. How would you describe a strong leader?

3. How will you benefit the TechnoKats in this role?

4. How will you benefit FIRST in this role?

5. What are some specific experiences you've had (on or off the team) that have prepared you to be a leader?

6. Describe what Gracious Professionalism means to you.

Appendix J: Contact Information

TECHNOKATS ROBOTICS TEAM

Web site	http://www.technokats.org/
Email	TechnoKatsFRC45@gmail.com

Mailing Address	TechnoKats Kokomo High School 2501 S. Berkley Kokomo, IN 46902
-----------------	---

TECHNOKATS COACHES (765-455-8040)

Dr. Dewing	jdewing@kokomo.k12.in.us
Mr. Serra	jserra@kokomo.k12.in.us
TBA	

FIRST

Web site	http://www.firstinspires.org
FIRST Team member Dashboard	www.firstinspires.org