



Stuyvesant Robotics

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2007-2008 Season

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Dear Robotics Team Parents,

We believe the robotics team is one of the very best learning experiences offered at Stuyvesant. This extracurricular program offers extraordinary opportunities for students to learn engineering design, computer programming, business skills, electronics, leadership, and much, much more. The robotics team truly is a family. We warmly welcome all of you. Students and adults alike will long remember the fun we all shared.

We sincerely hope you will join us in making the 2007-2008 season an extraordinary experience for our children. To do that, we need your help.

There are many, many ways you can contribute to the team. Some are large, some are small, but they are all very important. Each parent can find some time to help. Here's a short list of our most pressing needs:

MENTORS

Do you know how to create a circuit board, work a lathe, or operate a drill? Can you program computers? Are you a marketing guru? Are you an engineer? Is your colleague or retired neighbor an engineer?

The FIRST Robotics program is built on volunteers. Mentors (with a capital "M" out of respect and gratitude) work side-by-side with students. Mentors often remark that *they* enjoy and benefit from the experience just as much as the kids do.

FOOD

Typically during the 6-week build season (early January through February) students stay after school almost every day until 7 or 8 pm. They work all day in the robotics lab on Saturdays and Sundays. These eager teenagers (and very kind Mentors!) need meals. Taking turns, we all share the job of providing sustenance for the team during this very fun, busy period. The many shared meals are a wonderful bonding experience for the team.

We will be asking each team member to arrange for one meal during the build season. The team enjoys sandwiches, birthday party celebrations, home-cooked food, ethnic specialties, and all kinds of takeout. The process can be as simple as calling the local pizzeria for delivery. Any kind of food is terrific, so long as the team is nourished during the long hours of fun and work ahead.

TRANSPORTATION

The team periodically needs to transport the 5-ft., 120-lb. robot to events. Do you have a van or truck or SUV?

FUNDRAISING

Robotics is an extremely expensive extracurricular program. Stuyvesant is a public school, so we cannot rely solely on school funding. The team must raise thousands of dollars yearly. Because we don't want to initiate a membership fee, we work very hard to raise the necessary money from external sources.

How can you help? We are open to any and all ideas and assistance. Do you have connections to corporate funding? Can you drive to Costco to pick up candy for the candy sale? Are you able to proofread students' grant proposals and correspondence? Do you have a way to help the team save money? Will you lend a hand at the book sales? Can you help the team find donations of robot components and building supplies?

●● There are many, many ways to help your child take advantage of the extraordinary robotics team at Stuyvesant. Every single person has something valuable to contribute to this team. We welcome your assistance and companionship as we embark on another great year. We'll be in touch.

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