

# INTERSTATE 35'S ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL ROBOTICS CLUB

Parents/Guardians and Student,

We have a new club starting at Interstate 35. It is the Robotics Club and Mrs. Lathrop will coach it. The Robotics Club is open to 4th-8th graders. While the elementary and middle school Robotics club is new this year, previous students have participated in the robotics competitions and loved it! Additionally, a high school Robotics Club has been around for a few years.

## Information

**Competitions:** The I-35 Robotics Club will participate in First Lego League. This begins as a regional competition somewhere in the metro area (past locations: Des Moines, Osceola, and Ankeny). This will occur on a Saturday in November or December. You can find more information here:

<https://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/fli>

Students will be required to attend and participate in the competition. The date will not be known until October. If the students place and advance, they will participate in State which will be on a Saturday or Sunday in January.

**Practices:** Practice will be held every Tuesday and Thursday right after school until 5:00pm. Meetings will take place in the elementary. As the competition gets closer, additional practices will be scheduled. No practices will occur during the school day. Some optional practices will take place prior to school start as the competition gets closer. Practices begin September 26th and run until regionals (or later if they advance to State). Students are required to attend practices. A schedule of practices and updates will be sent to members of the Robotics Club as issues may arise. Parents/Guardians are responsible for transporting students after practices and need to arrive on time.

**First Lego League:** When teams compete in First Lego League, they compete in four different areas. One is researching to solve a problem in a specific area and create a *project*. The team will need to research and come up with a solution together. All team members are expected to participate. Additionally, the team

will need to present their findings to a panel of judges at the competition. The next area is *robot design*. The team will need to build a robot using Lego pieces and a motor. Another area is the *robot game*. The team will need to program the robot to move around and complete tasks to receive points. The final area is *core values*. The team needs to work together throughout the season. At the competition, the team will do a task they did not prepare for that will show how well they work together.

**Number of available spots:** 20

**Parent Volunteers:** Parents who are interested in volunteering to work with the Robotics Club are welcome!

As stated above, there are only 20 spots available. Teams hold 10 students each and there will only be two teams total grades 4-8. Not all students who apply for the Robotics Club may be able to join due a maximum capacity of 20.

In order to be eligible for participation, all sections of the application must be filled out and turned in by Wednesday September 20th. **No applications will be accepted after Wednesday September 20th at 3:30pm. Teacher recommendation forms need to be turned in by the teacher by Wednesday September 20th at 4:00pm.** Notification will occur via email on Friday September 22nd.

The following application items must be turned in: short essay questions, teacher recommendation form, and rules and expectations form.

\*\*While this club is run by the ELP teacher, it is in no way affiliated with the Extended Learning Program. Therefore, Mrs. Lathrop's ELP students will not have an advantage in participating in the club. Students who participated in First Lego League in the past do not hold an advantage in participating either. Additionally, participating in the Robotics Club will not increase the need for ELP services for any student.

# **Application for Interstate 35's Elementary & Middle School Robotics Club**

\*To be completed by the student interested in participating\*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer the following short essay questions using full sentences. Additional paper may be used.

What skills do you have that would make you a good fit for the Robotics Club?

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Why do you want to be a part of the Robotics Club?

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Describe a time you had to work as a team to solve a difficult problem. Be sure to tell how the group made sure that people's ideas were listened to. Include ways you were a good leader and ways you were a good listener.

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# Teacher Recommendation Form

(This may be a current teacher or one from last year)

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please rank the student candidate on the following attributes by circling the appropriate number. (1=poor, 2=below average, 3 = average, 4=good, 5=outstanding)

Attribute	Rank
Responsibility	1 2 3 4 5
Persistence/Determination	1 2 3 4 5
Cooperativeness	1 2 3 4 5
Creativity	1 2 3 4 5
Willing to try new things	1 2 3 4 5

Please describe the strengths and/or weaknesses this candidate would bring to the Robotics Club:

Please return to Mrs. Lathrop's mailbox by Wednesday September 20th. Your recommendation will remain confidential. Please respond as accurately as possibly.

# Rules and Expectations

This form must be signed by both the student and the parent/guardian. This form states what is expected of students and parents/guardians for the Robotics Club.

- ❖ Students must treat each other and themselves with kindness and respect at all times.
- ❖ Students must respectfully obey coaches.
- ❖ Students may only use designated areas and equipment.
- ❖ Students may only use materials as authorized by their coach.
- ❖ Students will attend all practices (unless excused from school or by Mrs. Lathrop)
- ❖ Students and parents will participate in fundraising to support the Robotics Club
- ❖ Students agree to work as a part of the team, remembering that what is best for the team may outweigh what is best for an individual member.
- ❖ Parents must coordinate student's transportation promptly from practice.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian email for notification: \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact [mlathrop@i-35.k12.ia.us](mailto:mlathrop@i-35.k12.ia.us) with any questions.