Benton Robotics Team
Application Packet for 2019-2020

Thank you for your interest in the Benton Middle School Robotics Team. The Robotics team is a competition based extracurricular activity. Students will work in small teams to design, build and program a robot using the VEX Robotics platform to compete in tournaments against other middle and high schools. Robotics is a sport for the mind; it blends applied physics, mathematics, programming, prototyping and design, integrated problem solving, teamwork and leadership. Students who are successful in robotics must work well under pressure and work well with others.

Students may apply to the Robotics Team only at the beginning of the school year. As with any team, space is extremely limited and highly competitive. It is my deep regret that we cannot accommodate all the students who wish to participate in Robotics.

I ask all prospective Robotics students and their parents to review the information below and on the website before they decide to apply for Robotics. Please be aware that this is a big commitment. The robotics season will run from October through February and sometimes into May.

The applications (pages 2-6 of this packet) must be turned in by 3pm on Friday, September 13, 2019 to the Benton Front Office. Attn: Mrs. Cinnamon, Robotics Coach. Late applications will not be accepted.

Students need one teacher or coach recommendation. If they have been on a robotics team in the past, please ask your previous coach otherwise ask a STEM or SIGNET teacher.

Tryouts will be held on Monday, September 16th from 3-5pm in the Benton Lecture Hall. You must turn in an application in order to participate in tryouts. Students do not need any prior robotics knowledge to try out for the team. Students should know the basics of this year’s challenge, Tower Takeover.

Important Information about Benton Robotics:

- Practices will be held from 3-5pm on Wednesdays and Fridays at Benton in the Lecture Hall. All students must be picked up at 5:00pm. Practices will begin on Wednesday, September 25th.

Required items:
- **Activity Fee $100** – To help cover the cost of equipment and registration fees for competitions. The activity fee will be collected once the team is formed, DO NOT SEND IN with application.
- **Safety Glasses** - Robotics members must wear safety glasses during competitions!
- **Benton Robotics T-shirt** - Will be the required team uniform for all external events, cost ~$15.

Important Websites

- **VEX Robotics Tower Takeover Game Manual**: Students should be familiar with the game rules and watch the game video, [http://www.vexrobotics.com/vexedr/competition/competition-resources](http://www.vexrobotics.com/vexedr/competition/competition-resources)
- VEX Robotics: [http://www.vexrobotics.com](http://www.vexrobotics.com)
- Benton Robotics Page: [https://bentonms.pwcs.edu/student_activities/clubs/robotics_team_](https://bentonms.pwcs.edu/student_activities/clubs/robotics_team_)

Important Dates – (Dates are subject to change and additional events will be added) December and January TBD – Regional competitions 3/6/2020-3/7/2020 – State Championship in Doswell, VA (for qualifying teams) 4/22/2020-4/25/2020 – World Championships in Louisville, Kentucky (for qualifying teams)
Benton Robotics
Student Information Form

**Student Information**

Name (First Last) ________________________________________________________________

Student Email (pwcs account): _____________________________________________________

Grade 2019-2020 School Year (Circle One): 6th 7th 8th

Homeroom/First Period Teacher: ______________________ Room #: ____________

**Parents/Legal Guardian**

Name: __________________________________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________________________

Relationship to Student: ___________________________ Home Phone: ___________________

Cell Phone: ___________________________ Work Phone: _____________________________

Email:___________________________________________________________________________

........................................................................................................................................

Name: __________________________________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________________________

Relationship to Student: ___________________________ Home Phone: ___________________

Cell Phone: ___________________________ Work Phone: _____________________________

Email: __________________________________________________________________________

........................................................................................................................................

In case of emergency, what is the best number to call?

Parent/Guardian Name: ______________________ Phone: _____________________________

**Email Distribution List:**

We maintain an email list to disseminate information to the team regarding announcements and events. Please list the preferred email address(s) for team announcements:

_________________________________________

_________________________________________
Name:_______________________________________

Please answer the following: Feel free to use the back of the paper to further explain your answers if needed.

What is your favorite class? _________________________
Why?

What do you like to do in your free time?

Have you participated in VEX or VEX IQ Robotics before? YES / NO
If yes, # of years _______ what school? ____________________________

Have you participated in FIRST LEGO League before? YES / NO
If yes, # of years _______ what school? ____________________________

Do you have any programming experience? YES / NO
If yes, which languages?

Do you play or plan to try out for a sport for Benton? YES / NO
If yes, what sport(s)?

Are you involved in any other clubs/activities (in or out of school)? YES / NO
If yes, which one(s)?

Have you attended any STEM or Robotics Camps? YES / NO
If yes, which one(s)?

There are many roles and areas of responsibility on a robotics team, what areas are of the greatest interest to you? Please only select 5 areas and label them 1 thru 5 for most important to least important.

Robot:
_____ Mechanical
_____ Design
_____ Programming
_____ Engineering Notebook

Digital Arts:
_____ Web site
_____ Online Challenges
_____ Videography
_____ Photography
_____ CAD (Autodesk Inventor)

Business Administration:
_____ Student Leadership
_____ Marketing
_____ Community Outreach

Competition:
_____ Drive Team
_____ Pit Crew
_____ Scouting
_____ Team Spirit

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Name:_______________________________________

Students please write in your answer (do not type) to the following questions. You may use the back if necessary.

Why are you interested in joining the Robotics team?

Explain why you think you would be a good fit for the Benton Robotics team and what you would contribute to the team.

What do you hope to gain from this experience?

If you have any previous robotics experience (including summer camps or workshops), tell us about it. Be as specific as you can, including your past roles on the team. If you don’t have any, that’s OK, you have to start somewhere!
Robotics Team Parent/Student Contract

- I understand that as a member of the Benton Robotics team, I represent the team and Benton Middle School at all events and my conduct and language must be appropriate and I will adhere to the PWCS Code of Conduct.

- Attendance at practice is mandatory. In the event that a student must miss a meeting Mrs. Cinnamon should be contacted, preferably in advance. Students with repeated unexcused absences may be dismissed from the team. Robotics requires commitment and discipline and dedication from all involved. Students who do miss a practice have no say in decisions made while they were absent.

- Extended practices or additional workdays will be scheduled as needed to ensure robots are ready for competitions. Details of such events will be posted in advance and discussed at team meetings.

- I understand school is my top priority. Students are expected to maintain ALL grades at no lower than a C, with at least an S in conduct and work habits. Any student with a grade lower than a C, or a conduct/work habits grade of U or who has been suspended may be dismissed from the team.

- Team members will show respect to their teammates, coaches, mentors and equipment at all times. Any team member that causes willful destruction to robotics equipment, who have difficulty working cooperatively with teammates or mistreats another student or adult through verbal or physical altercations will be dismissed from the team.

- I understand that while Robotics team build sessions are fun, participation requires a high level of mental focus and energy. I will contribute at the highest level even after a long day at school.

- I understand that there are many roles on the team and that I may not have “hands-on” the robot every day, especially during my first year on the team.

- Robotics’ members must wear safety glasses at all competitions!

- Students are not to be using their cell phones during practice except for robotics related activities such as photos, research, and team communication. Excessive texting, watching videos or playing games is not permitted during robotics.

- Competitions occur at various locations on Saturdays. Students/Parents will need to provide transportation to and from these events. We recognize that students have many obligations; however, students who make the team are expected to attend these events.

- The program will be extended for Teams that qualify for the State and/or World Championships.
  - Virginia State Championship will be held March 6-7 in Doswell, VA
  - World Championships will be held April 22-25, 2020 in Louisville, Kentucky.

- If the team earns a spot to the World Championships, each student is responsible for paying for their trip costs (travel, hotel and food). A reasonable estimate is $1200 per student.

- Activity fees are $100 per year; this will go towards the registration fees for competitions and materials needed to support the team. Members will also need to purchase a team t-shirt ~$15 which is required for all events. The activity fees and t-shirt sales will be collected in the fall and are non-refundable if the student leaves the team for any reason.

- Students and adults to expected to adhere to the VEX Robotics Code of Conduct and the following behavior and ethical standards at all REC Foundation sanctioned events:
  - Act with integrity, honesty, and reliability
  - Behave in a respectful and professional manner with event staff, volunteers, and fellow competitors
  - Exhibit maturity and class when dealing with difficult and stressful situations
  - Respect individual differences
  - Follow all rules as listed in the current game manual(s)
  - Student-centered teams with limited adult assistance
  - Safety as a top priority
  - Good sportsmanship, which includes supporting your alliance partners

These expectations apply to all team members and all adults associated with a team including, but not limited to, teachers, mentors and parents.

Student Signature_______________________________________  Date: __________________

Parent Signature   _______________________________________  Date: ________________
VEX® ROBOTICS COMPETITION EVENT
CONSENT, RELEASE, HOLD HARMLESS
AND AUTHORIZATION TO REPRODUCE PHYSICAL LIKENESS

This is a Consent, Release of Rights, Hold Harmless and Authorization Agreement ("Agreement") between the VEX® Robotics Competition, the Robotics Education and Competition Foundation, Inc., ("REC Foundation"), VEX Robotics, Inc., and officers, directors, employees and Designees of each (collectively, "VEX"), and Participant (collectively referred to herein as "I", "me", "my" and "Participant"). "Designees" includes those persons or entities (including third-parties not affiliated with VEX) managing, contracting, sponsoring, hosting, conducting, evaluating or publicizing (including individuals and third-party entities working with VEX in print, publication, television, broadcast or video media) the VEX Robotics Competition. As used in this Agreement, Participant shall mean any individual, Parent of Guardian of a Participant under 18 years of age, student, mentor, teacher, volunteer, or other person or entity involved in a VEX Robotics Competition event, including, without limitation, the VEX World Championship Event ("Event" or "Events").

In consideration of my participation in one or more Events, I agree to the following:

I recognize that there may be risks associated with attending and/or participating in an Event, including, without limitation, risks inherent in the construction and/or operation of robots, working with electrical connections, operating or handling tools or sharp objects, traveling to and from events, and participating in public competitions. These risks include the risk of injury (including without limitation, serious bodily harm and even death) and property damage. Being fully cognizant of the risks in participating in any such Event, I hereby fully and willingly assume those risks. To the fullest extent permitted by applicable laws, I HEREBY WAIVE ANY CLAIMS OR CAUSES OF ACTION which I may now have or hereafter arises against VEX relating to or connected to my participation in any Event (including, without limitation, the VEX World Championship Event), and I will indemnify and hold harmless VEX against any and all claims against any such entity or person resulting from same.

I HEREBY RELEASE VEX and each of its respective employees, officers, directors, successors, assigns, parent companies, licensees, affiliates, parent companies, licensees and agents from any and all claims, demands, liabilities, damages, costs and expenses, attorneys' fees, professional fees and expenses, including, without limitation, negligently failing to adequately investigate or screen coaches, mentors, volunteers, etc., any claims for compensation, defamation, or invasion of privacy, or other infringements or violations of personal or property rights of any sort whatsoever that I may now have or hereafter may arise against VEX in connection with my participation in any Event.

In the event I should sustain any injuries or illness while attending and/or participating in an Event, I hereby authorize VEX to administer, or cause to be administered, such first aid or other treatment and such medications as I may possess, as reasonably necessary under the circumstances, including, without limitation, treatment by a physician or hospital of VEX's choice.

Participant understands that photographs, videotapes, and other recordings will be made of participants at such Events, including the Participant. Participant consents to those photographs, videotapes, and other recordings and the use thereof (i) as part of a record of the Event and (ii) in promotion of VEX, the REC Foundation and other Events. I further acknowledge that any works made by or for VEX ("Works") to be "works made for hire," under applicable copyright laws, and to the extent I have or may claim any rights in or to such Works, I hereby grant to VEX any and all such rights, including, without limitation, the right to use or sub-license these Works in any and all media, now known or later discovered or developed, and in all forms and for all purposes, including without limitation, advertising and other promotions for any VEX Events, without any further consideration due to me or any limitation whatsoever.

This Release shall be binding upon my heirs, personal representatives, and me. THIS RELEASE SHALL BE GOVERNED BY AND CONSTRUED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, WITHOUT REGARD TO CONFLICT OF LAWS PRINCIPLES. VENUE FOR ANY LEGAL ACTION SHALL BE IN HUNT COUNTY, TEXAS. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement among the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes any and all previous agreements among the parties, whether written or oral, with respect to such subject matter.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS FORM INVOLVES A RELEASE OF LEGAL RIGHTS.

____________________________________________________________
Participant Release Form

Signature of Participant if 18 years of age or older or Parent/Guardian if Participant under 18 years

Printed name of person signing

Date

Participant Name (full legal name):

If Participant is under 18 years of age, Parent/Guardian (full legal name):

Participant Date of Birth if under 18 years of age [MM/DD/YYYY]:

Participant Address:

Participant Email (If Participant is under 18 years of age, Parent/Guardian Email):

Revised February 7, 2018
STEM or SIGNET Teacher Recommendation Form for Benton Robotics Team

Student: __________________________     Class Taught: __________________________

This student is applying for the Benton Robotics team. Successful students are those who are innovators, critical thinkers, relish a challenge, are able to focus for extended periods of time, and are willing to work collaboratively on tough problems.

Thank you for your time in evaluating the student. Please evaluate this student based on the following assessment by circling 10 indicating the student is very much like this down to 1 indicating the student is not at all like this.

Recommendations may be sent directly to Mrs. Karen Cinnamon, Robotics Coach at Benton MS via the Benton Front Office, the Courier, or placed in a sealed envelope given to the student signed across the seal by the recommending teacher. Recommendations are due back by September 16th. You may also scan or take a picture of the form and email it to bentonbots@gmail.com.

Very much like this (high)    Not at all like this (low)

1. Respectful: shows respect towards adults, students and equipment.

   10  9  8  7  6  5  4  3  2  1

2. Problem solver: Interested in and intrigued by solving problems.

   10  9  8  7  6  5  4  3  2  1

3. Communication skills: verbal, writing and public speaking.

   10  9  8  7  6  5  4  3  2  1

4. Curious mind: wants to learn, wants to know why and how.

   10  9  8  7  6  5  4  3  2  1

5. Self-controlled: able to maintain focus and attention.

   10  9  8  7  6  5  4  3  2  1

6. Reliable and Organized: completes assignments in a timely manner; doesn’t need to be “baby-sat.”

   10  9  8  7  6  5  4  3  2  1

7. Collaborative: willing to contribute ideas, and willing to listen to and consider ideas from others.

   10  9  8  7  6  5  4  3  2  1


   10  9  8  7  6  5  4  3  2  1

Please write any additional thoughts that will give more insight into how this student thinks and performs:

Teacher name (printed): _____________________________ School: __________________________

Signed: _____________________________ Date: __________________________
Robotics Coach Recommendation Form for Benton Robotics Team

Student: ________________________ Robotics Team/School: ______________ Platform: ______

This student is applying for the Benton Robotics team. We would like to learn more about this student from their former Robotics coach. Please evaluate this student based on the following assessment by circling 10 indicating the student is very much like this down to 1 indicating the student is not at all like this. Thank you for your time in evaluating the student!

Recommendations may be sent directly to Mrs. Karen Cinnamon at Benton MS via the Courier, or placed in a sealed envelope given to the student signed across the seal by the recommending coach. You may also scan the form and email it to bentonbots@gmail.com.
Recommendations are due back by September 16th.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very much like this (high)</th>
<th>Not at all like this (low)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Respectful: shows respect towards adults, students and equipment.</td>
<td>1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Problem solver: Interested in and intrigued by solving problems.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Communication skills: verbal, writing and public speaking.</td>
<td>1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10</td>
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<td>4. Competitive: wants their team to do their best, willing to put in the time and effort.</td>
<td>1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10</td>
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<td>5. Self-controlled: able to maintain focus and attention, does not need to be baby-sat.</td>
<td>1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Reliable and Organized: good attendance at practices and competitions, completes tasks on time.</td>
<td>1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Collaborative: willing to contribute ideas, and willing to listen to and consider ideas from others.</td>
<td>1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10</td>
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<td>8. Initiative and Motivation: self-starter, wants to get things done, did they have an active role on the team.</td>
<td>1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10</td>
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What Role(s) did this student have on the team?
__________________________________________________________________________________

Please write any additional thoughts that will give more insight into how you think this student will perform on a middle school robotics team or on their past performance. Feel free to use the back as well.

Robotics Coach (printed): ____________________________________ School: ____________________
Signed: __________________________________________________ Date: __________________________