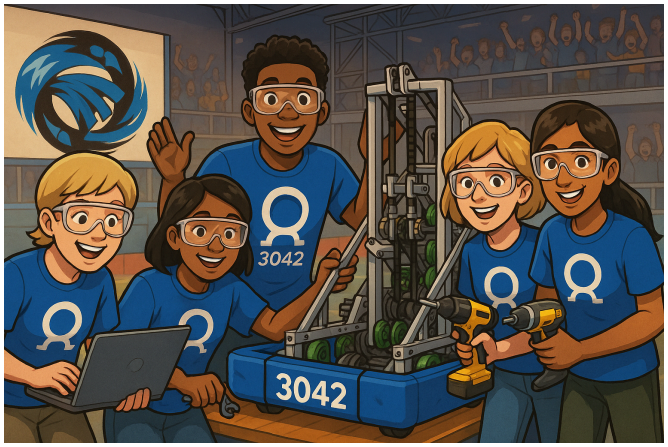

Eastview Lightning Robotics (FTC/FRC)

Team Handbook: FTC: 24453 Big Red Button

27259 Loose Bolts

31924 Cobalt Colliders

FRC: 3042 Cobalt Catalysts

Eastview High School
6200 140th Street
Apple Valley, MN, 55124

Last Updated: August 2025 [AC]

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What is competitive high school robotics?

Competitive high-school robotics is a part of a large (and amazing) international organization called FIRST. Here is a little bit about how high school robotics is structured and run.

About FIRST

FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a global nonprofit organization founded in 1989 by inventor Dean Kamen and educator Woodie Flowers. Its mission is to inspire young people to become leaders in science and technology by engaging them in mentor-based, hands-on programs that build engineering and technical skills, foster innovation, and cultivate self-confidence, communication, and leadership.

Through its progression of robotics-based STEM programs—including FIRST Robotics Competition, FIRST Tech Challenge, and FIRST LEGO League—FIRST serves hundreds of thousands of students and mentors worldwide. Guided by its core values of Gracious Professionalism® and Coopertition®, the organization empowers students to work as teams, tackle real-world challenges, and develop the skills, confidence, and resilience needed to thrive as future innovators.

FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC)

In the FIRST® Tech Challenge, students collaborate with mentors to design, build, and program robots that compete in an exciting annual challenge unveiled each September. Teams create classroom-scale robots capable of running autonomous routines before student drivers take over for fast-paced two-on-two matches.

Beyond competition, participants gain hands-on STEM experience, lead community outreach efforts, explore engineering solutions, and grow the confidence and skills needed for future success.

The FTC season kicks off each **September** with a global event where teams receive the new game rules and challenge details. Teams typically have about seven weeks to design, build, and program their robot before their first ranked league meet. Around Week 5, a non-ranked "Week Zero" scrimmage gives teams a chance to test their robots in a friendly setting. Throughout the season, teams participate in three league meets, followed by a state qualifier and, if eligible, the Minnesota State Championship in February. The season concludes in April at the FIRST World Championship in Houston, Texas, where top teams from around the world compete across all FIRST programs—FLL, FTC, and FRC.

FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC)

FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) is an international high school robotics competition designed to inspire students to become science and technology leaders in an exciting annual challenge unveiled each **January.** Students collaborate with mentors and professionals to build robots that compete in exciting challenges, emphasizing innovation, teamwork, and gracious professionalism.

Each FRC season begins with the Kickoff event in **January**, where teams worldwide receive the competition details and rules. Teams then have **six weeks** to design, build, and program their robots. Competitions occur at local and regional levels, culminating in the FRC Championship, where teams from around the globe compete for the title of World Champion in Houston, TX in **April** across all FIRST programs—FLL, FTC, and FRC.

Today, FRC reaches millions of students in more than 50 countries through four age-based programs. In the 2024-25 season, the flagship FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) fielded 3,731 registered high-school teams that played at 185 district and regional events worldwide. From those qualifiers, 601 teams advanced to the FRC Championship in Houston, joining roughly 50,000 attendees for the world's largest celebration of youth STEM talent.

Our Team Philosophy

- We approach every season with curiosity, effort, and integrity.
- We value progress over perfection, and people over points.
- Our team is a place where students and mentors belong, can try new things, take risks, and grow together as thinkers, makers, and leaders.

Our Principles

- Student Led: Students lead, build, and drive the learning experience.
- Mentor Support: Mentors guide, teach, and enable safe, high-impact growth.
- Ask, don't wait: If you don't know, ask—and you will get help.
- Gracious Professionalism: We compete fiercely, help generously, and respect every team we meet.
- Continuous Learning: Every win, loss, and failure is a lesson toward our future.

Why We Compete

FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) and FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) are more than after-school activities—they are immersive, student-driven experiences that function like small startups, not clubs.

In both programs, students face authentic deadlines, real-world pressure, and the challenge of solving open-ended engineering problems on a global stage. They own deliverables, manage budgets, iterate designs, evaluate strategic gameplay, and work side-by-side with mentors, sponsors, judges, and community partners.

Along the way, they develop deep technical expertise in areas like CAD, machining, coding, and data analysis, while also cultivating essential life skills such as leadership, collaboration, project management, communication, and gracious professionalism.

By competing in FRC and FTC, students live through the full product-development cycle, learning to thrive under constraints while producing tangible results and polished portfolios that colleges and employers recognize and value. Most importantly, we take pride in building not just robots, but leaders, innovators, and positive change-makers who carry the spirit of District 196, Eastview High School, and FIRST into our community and across the globe.

Our FTC Teams: Big Red Button (24453), Loose Bolts (27259), and Cobalt Colliders (31924)

Big Red Button was founded in 2023, followed by the formation of **Loose Bolts** in 2024, **Cobalt Colliders** are our newest team founded in 2025. All teams compete in the Pepin/Mille Lacs combined league, organized by High Tech Kids. In the 2024 season, Big Red Button included 12 student members, while Loose Bolts had a tight-knit group of 5.

Throughout last season, both teams demonstrated strong potential on the field, completing engineering portfolios and serving as youth mentor ambassadors to a local middle school with an established FIRST LEGO League (FLL) team. Their commitment extended beyond competition—students from both teams actively participated in community outreach events, showcasing their robots at the Science Museum and engaging with senior residents at local living communities. Their enthusiasm for robotics and STEM was matched by their dedication to inspiring others.

Our FRC team: Cobalt Catalysts - Team 3042

The **Cobalt Catalysts** (Team 3042) trace their roots to the school's participation in the HTK High-School Robotics competition (2002-2008). When that program ended, the students pivoted to FIRST and founded Team 3042 for the 2009 "Lunacy" season. Many original LEGO League alumni formed the nucleus of the new squad, which quickly built a culture of teamwork, student-led workshops, and community outreach.

Their early breakthrough came in 2014, when the Cobalt Catalysts won the Minnesota North Star Regional with their Aerial Assist robot, earning their first trip to the FIRST FRC Championship in St. Louis. They parlayed that success into back-to-back Championship appearances in 2015 (Recycle Rush) and 2016 (Stronghold) and expanded their program by launching multiple FTC teams to nurture incoming freshmen. In 2019, longtime coach Mike Carter (a mentor for the 2026 season!!!) was honored with the prestigious Woodie Flowers Finalist Award during "Destination: Deep Space," underscoring the team's commitment to mentorship and student growth.

Competitively, the Cobalt Catalysts have been a steady presence on the Upper-Midwest circuit since their 2009 rookie campaign. Over 17 seasons they have entered 35 official FRC events, collecting a pair of regional wins, a dozen judged awards (including Innovation in Control and multiple Team Spirit honors), and four total trips to the FIRST Championship—most recently in 2023's "Charged Up" season, where they represented Minnesota on the Galileo Field in Houston. The team averages two events per year and continues to qualify Dean's List students and technical award recipients, demonstrating both on-field competitiveness and off-field leadership.

Our mission aligns closely with the philosophy of District 196 and Eastview High School, focusing on comprehensive education, excellence, respect, integrity, and collaboration. We aim to cultivate skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), promote team spirit, and positively impact our community through outreach and education.

We are a collaborative, inclusive community where all students are welcome—regardless of experience level—to learn, participate, and compete in a supportive team environment.

Team Goals 2025-2026

Our team is in the third year of a broader "build-back cycle," focused on teaching students the fundamentals of creating a team that functions like a business centered on a competitive robot.

Through both FTC and FRC, students take on a wide range of roles—from engineering and design to communication, leadership, and project management—that bring the team and robots to life. This year, we are especially focused on building the skills of our first- and second-year students while continuing to strengthen and grow our mentor base to ensure long-term sustainability. Throughout the season, we aim to apply sound engineering practices to design and build robots that perform consistently and reliably while also prioritizing student development.

Newer students will receive hands-on training in build fundamentals, safe tool use, and collaborative problem-solving, supported by mentors and peers who foster growth and confidence.

Team Culture Goals

- Shift from coach-led to student-led operations in the day-to-day.
- Run engaging and organized Wednesday offseason sessions, led by mentors.
- Support and grow the mentor team with clear tools and expectations.

Educational Goals

- Equip every student (and mentor) with a baseline understanding of the season, competitions, safety, tools, and robot basics.
- Train students in rapid prototyping and design refinement.
- Build student leadership depth with understudy roles and mentorship.
- **Stretch Goal:** Develop an onboarding training program for all subteams (mentor-led).

Outreach & Impact

- Build a Pep Bot to drive robotics excitement, sponsorship, school, and community engagement.
- Increase visibility via our website, social media, and outreach to 5 new businesses.
- **Stretch Goal:** Host or attend at least one off-season robotics event

Organization

- Maintain inventory awareness: know what parts and tools we have and where they are.
- Keep our Robotics closet clean and organized.
- Maintain tidy parts and tool carts every week.

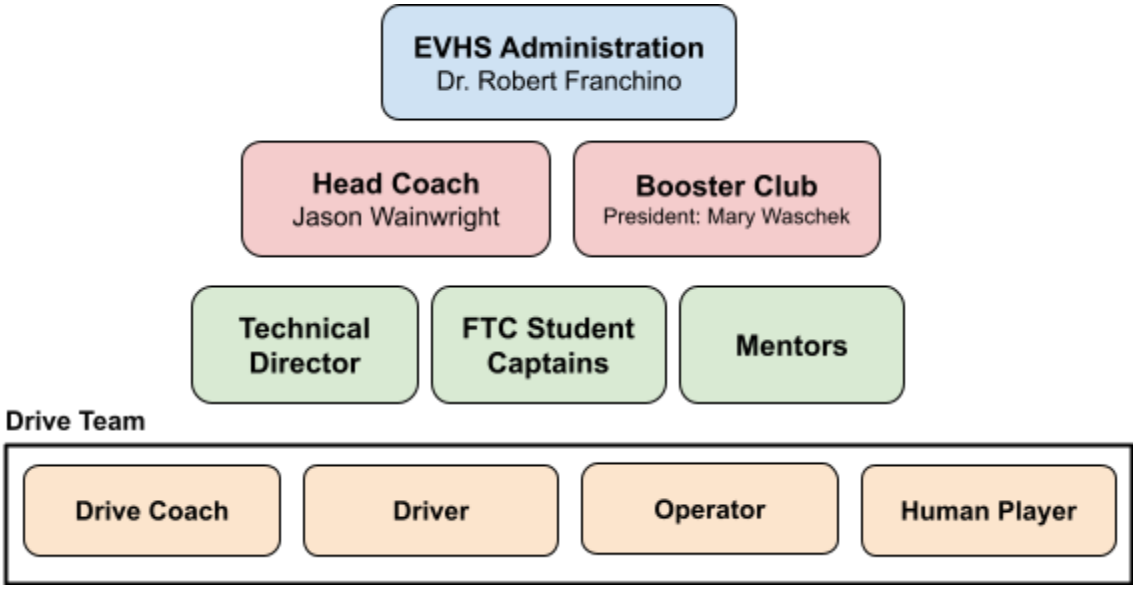
Technical

- Build a well-documented control system.
- Master wiring fundamentals: clean, labeled, and reliable.
- **Stretch Goal:** Run a functional autonomous routine at every event that scores.
- **Stretch Goal:** FRC Implement visual status LEDs or an LED board.

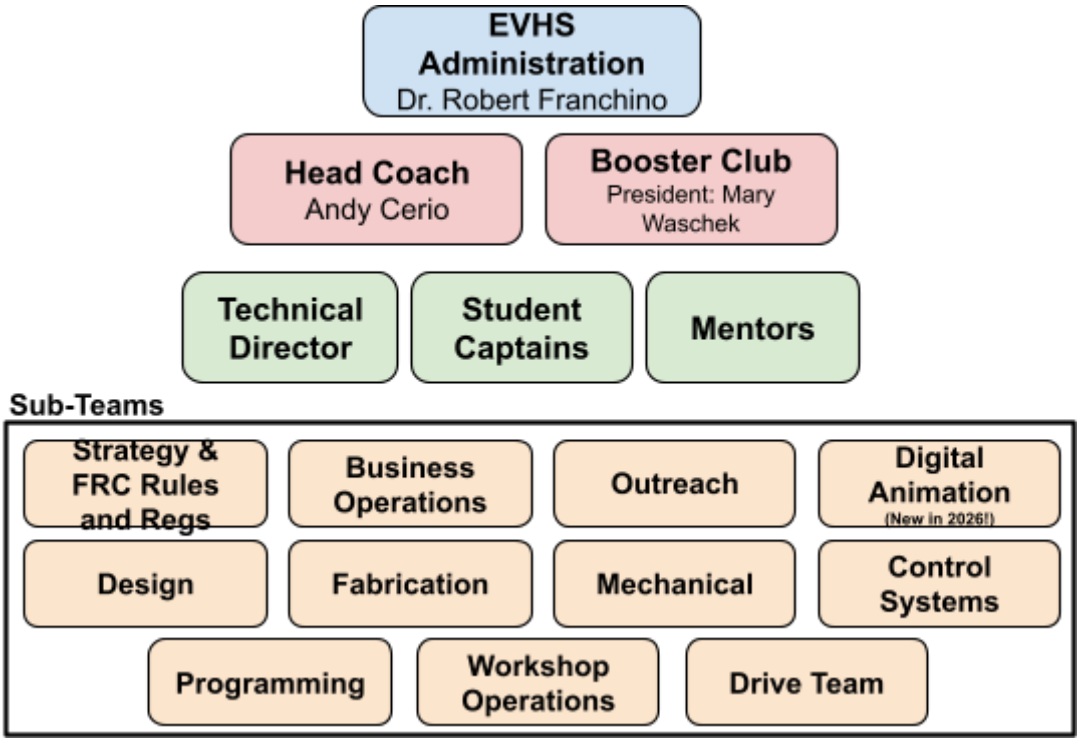
Competitions

- Complete the Pep Bot as a full training build by late October 2025.
- Ensure a moving robot in every match.
- Improve event rankings compared to last season.
- **Stretch Goal:** FRC: Participate in 1 alliance at a competition.

FTC Team structure



FRC Team structure



2025-2026 Leadership Team

EVHS Administration	Dr. Robert Franchino
Head Coaches	Jason Wainwright (FTC), Tom Taintor (FTC) Andy Cerio (FRC)
Booster Club President	Mary Waschek
Booster Club	Vaishali Mahajan (Vice President) OPEN (Treasurer) Jessica Casique (Secretary) Vijay Madhavan (Booster Member) Jeffrey Little (Booster Member)
Technical Director	OPEN
Student Captains	TBD (Big Red Button) TBD (Loose Bolts) TBD (Cobalt Colliders) Charlene (FRC Business Operations) Matthew (FRC Build and Drive Team)

FRC Sub Teams	FRC Student Lead	FRC Mentors
Strategy / FRC Rules & Regs	Max	Mike
Business Operations	Charlene	Ronda / Jason
Outreach	Advika	Geeti / Jason
Digital Animation	Khiem	Jason
Design	Nathan	Tom L., Nick
Fabrication	Isa	Tom L., Nick, Max
Mechanical	Madhav	OPEN, Max
Control Systems	Abby	Tom L.
Programming	Chanvis	Tom T. / Sunitha
Workshop Ops & Safety	Nishanth	Andrew
Drive Team	Matthew	Mike
Project Management		Keith

Team Roles and Responsibilities

EVHS Administration	Serves as the foundational support system for the team, ensuring that all robotics activities align with school and district guidelines. They provide access to facilities, approve travel, and act as a liaison between the team and broader school operations. The administration supports coaches and booster leadership in facilitating a safe, inclusive, and high-quality extracurricular experience for all students. Engaged on an as needed basis.
Head Coach	Acts as the primary adult leader and liaison between the team, school, and FIRST. The head coach ensures compliance with safety, registration, and travel regulations. Coordinates mentor engagement, facilitates communication among all stakeholders, and upholds the team's educational goals and culture. Coaches typically invest 4–10 hours per week, scaling up during build season and competitions.
Booster Club President	Leads the Booster Club in overseeing team fundraising, budgeting, and financial reporting. They coordinate logistics for travel, meals, and merchandise, manage nonprofit compliance for the 501(c)(3) organization, and facilitate communication between parents, mentors, and coaches. Their role is pivotal to sustaining team operations and long-term planning. Most Presidents commit 2–6 hours per week, with higher engagement during key events.
Booster Club	**Our Booster club has 5 roles:** President (above), Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the broader board. The Vice President: Supports the president and steps in as needed. Often oversees specific areas such as volunteer coordination or event logistics. The Treasurer: Manages all team finances, including budgeting, tracking income and expenses, preparing financial reports, and ensuring compliance with 501(c)(3) requirements. The Secretary: takes meeting minutes, maintains records, manages communication (e.g., newsletters, emails), and assists with documentation for grant or audit purposes. The broader board helps with these activities as they are able. Our board meets one time per month for about 2 hours and the Head Coach also sits on the board.
Technical Director	Oversees robot construction and integration during the build season and typically coordinates workshops and learning sessions with students and mentors on various aspects of the build process during the off-season. Technical Director time commitment can vary from 3 hours per week in the offseason to 15-25 hours a week during the 6 week build-season.
Student Captains	They run and maintain the day-to-day of the seasons, they organize sub-team meetings, facilitate communication across teams, drive deadlines and make team decisions, as needed, related to the direction of the build or competitive strategy. The time commitment varies: student leaders typically dedicate 3-6 hours per week during preseason, rising to 12–20 hours during build season.
Drive Team	Operates the robot during competition matches (driver, operator, coach, human player); practices frequently to refine performance and provide feedback for improvement to the Technical Director.
Mentors	Our mentors serve as the subject matter experts—engineers, alumni, professionals—who assist in technical development, project planning, and leadership training of the students throughout the season. Mentors commit 3–8 hours weekly, depending on project load.
Sub-Team Leads & Sub Teams	Subteam Leads generally commit 3–6 hours per week in preseason, with time increasing to 12-15 hours weekly during the build season, depending on their role, competition proximity, and personal initiative. Sub-Team members generally commit 6-15 hours per week based on the season and phase of a build

Sub-Team Responsibilities

Sub Team	Role
Strategy / FRC Rules & Regs	Develops game strategies, robot scoring strategies, and max point scenarios. Interprets official rules, leads scouting efforts, and advises alliance decisions.
Business Operations	Manages fundraising, budgeting, sponsor relations, branding, and award submissions.
Outreach	Plans and conducts STEM events, sets up and drives community engagement, school demonstrations, and promotional initiatives.
Digital Animation	Creates promotional videos, visual storytelling assets, and animations for award submissions or outreach content.
Design	Uses CAD tools to model robot parts and systems, collaborating closely with fabrication and mechanical teams, generates parts lists and needs based on finalized designs
Fabrication	Transforms CAD designs into physical parts using tools like CNC machines, saws, drills, and various tools in our workshop.
Mechanical	Assembles and maintains the robot's moving parts (manipulators) and ensures the robot's structural integrity.
Control Systems	Focuses on the robots wiring, sensors, cameras, visual LED, pneumatics, power distribution, and compliance with FRC electrical standards.
Programming	Develops the code for the operations and movement of the robot including but not limited to, autonomous code and related routines, teleop controls, vision systems, and robot behaviors such as LED lights using programming languages such as Java
Workshop Ops & Safety	Oversees tool usage, robot parts inventory and ordering timelines, the building and management of practice field elements, workshop and cleanliness, and ensures compliance with safety protocols.
Drive Team	Operates the robot during competition matches (driver, operator, coach, human player); practices frequently to refine performance and provide feedback for improvement to the Technical Director and various sub-teams.

Our Robotics Season

Timeframe	FTC Season Activities	FRC Season Activities
June - July	**Offseason:** Logistics and Prep	**Offseason:** Logistics and Prep
August	**Preseason** Recruitment, training (e.g. CAD, wiring), fundraising, sponsorship outreach, and community engagement **2025 project:** Pep Bot	**Preseason** Recruitment, training (e.g. CAD, wiring), fundraising, sponsorship outreach, and community engagement **2025 project:** Pep Bot
Sept – Dec	**Build & Qualifier Play** **Kickoff: Saturday, September 6:** New game is revealed worldwide; teams receive rulebook and parts kit. Six-week build cycle **Saturday, October 11**: Week Zero scrimmage **Saturday, Nov 1:** Ranked meet **Saturday, Nov 22:** Ranked meet **Saturday, Dec 13:** Ranked meet	**Preseason** Recruitment, training (e.g. CAD, wiring), fundraising, sponsorship outreach, and community engagement **2025 Projects:** Pep Bot **Mini-Mini Competition:** November 22nd
Jan - Feb	**State Qualifier:** January 10-11 **State Championship:** February 14-15 (advancing teams) For advancing teams, FTC overlaps with FRC, students may participate in both if desired.	**Build & Qualifier Play** **Kickoff: Saturday, January 10:** New game is revealed worldwide; teams receive rulebook and parts kit. Six-week build cycle **Saturday, February 21**: Week Zero scrimmage
Mar	For advancing teams, FTC overlaps with FRC, students may participate in both if desired.	**Regional competitions** **Mar 4-7:** Ranked meet - Duluth **Apr 1-4:** Ranked Meet - Minneapolis
April	FTC teams advancing from State compete at the FIRST Championship in Houston.	FRC teams advancing from Regionals compete at FIRST Championship in Houston
May	**Robotics Banquet:** May 6 Well-earned break!	**Robotics Banquet:** May 6 Well-earned break!

How the seasons progress: Path to Worlds (Houston in April):

FTC

League & Qualifier Play Schedule (October - January): Robots compete in one-day league meets, typically held on Saturdays or Sundays. In the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC), teams are ranked throughout the regular season using a system that factors in both Ranking Points (RP) and TieBreaker Points (TBP).

Eastview Lightning Robotics proudly recognizes High Tech Kids as our regional partner and participates in one of their competitive leagues, which includes three league meets (October–December), one qualifier tournament in January, and the Minnesota State Championship in February for teams that qualify.

Championship Qualification: FTC teams advance based on point rankings and awards, and may qualify to attend the FIRST Championship at the end of the regular season.

FIRST Championship | Houston (mid-April): At the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) World Championship, qualifying teams compete in a high-stakes, double-elimination playoff bracket to determine the overall winner. In 2025, a total of 256 FTC teams from around the world were invited to participate in this prestigious event.

FRC

1. **Kickoff (early January):** The new game is revealed simultaneously **worldwide**; teams receive a digital rulebook and parts kit.
2. **Build Season (~6 weeks):** Teams design, prototype, fabricate, wire, and program a 125 lb. robot that meets the new game's unique challenges!
3. **District/Regional Events (Feb-Apr):** Robots compete in two-day tournaments (with a day of prep for some students). District teams accrue ranking points toward their District Championship, while regional teams vie directly for awards and automatic bids. Eastiview Lightning Robotics generally competes in 1 training and 2 competitive tournaments per year.
4. **Championship Qualification:** District teams advance based on point rankings and awards, regional teams qualify by winning the event, the Impact Award, Engineering Inspiration, or via Wildcards.
5. **FIRST Championship | Houston (mid-April):** ~600 robots are divided into eight subdivisions; subdivision winners form alliances for the Einstein playoff bracket that crowns the World Champion.

This progression ensures that every team—rookie or veteran—has a clear, merit-based pathway from local play all the way to the global stage in Houston.

Our practice schedule

As we progress through our season, we aim to ensure students can maximize their participation in robotics while also engaging in other activities they are interested in.

The pre-season is largely focused on training and development, while the respective build seasons are focused on specific elements of the robot build and competitions.

Timeframe	FTC Season Activities	FRC Season Activities
June - July	**No practice**	**No Practice**
August	**Wednesdays: 4:30-7:30** Soft and hard skill training for students and mentors, training kits, and side projects	
Sept – Dec	**Tuesdays and Thursdays:** 2:40-4:30	**Wednesdays:** 4:30-7:30
Jan - Apr	**Tuesdays and Thursdays:** 2:40-4:30, for advancing teams	**Monday-Thursday:** 4:30-8:30 **Saturdays:** 9:00-4:30 (as needed)

2025-2026 Team Calendar

EVLR 2025 - 2026 Calendar

June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- Workshop Wednesdays: 4:30 - 7:30pm
- Freshman night / First day of school: 8/25 & 8/27
- FTC Kickoff Weekend: Saturday, September 6
- FTC Practices: 2:40 - 4:30pm
- FTC Competitons: 10/11, 11/1, 11/22, 12/13
- FRC Minnie Minni Competition: Sat, Nov. 22nd
- FRC Kickoff Weekend: January 10th & 11th
- FRC Practices: See detail schedule
- FRC Competitions: 2/21, 3/5-3/7, 4/2-4/4
- MEA/Spring Break: 10/16-10/17, 3/23 - 3/27
- Robotics Banquet, Wed, May 6th

Considerations

- Marching Band: Mon, Tues, Thurs - 5-9PM >> July 7th to August 27th
- During School: Marching Band: Tues & Thurs 5:30-8:30 until mid-October
- Band Trip to Spain over Spring Break 2026: March 20th- March 28th

Robotics participation fee

The participation fee for **FTC is $100 and FRC is $500.** If your student participates in both seasons, we only require $500 for both FTC and FRC. These fees are in addition to a $55 co-curricular fee (paid via EduTrak).

Due to the up front registration costs associated to FIRST competitions, arranging hotels and transportation for travel (FRC), we appreciate the **$500 as early as September 19th** but also offer a **payment plan of $100 (September 19th) and $400 by (October 31st).**

We want every student to participate in robotics, so please contact Andy Cerio or Jason Wainwright should you be interested in a payment plan or a Robotics Scholarship.

For your information, here are the typical costs associated a robotics season, we try and keep our participation fee as competitive as possible.

Category	FRC
FIRST Registration and competitions	$12,000 - $13,000
Team Travel (buses, hotels, meals for full team)	$30,000 - $35,000
Feeding students (non-travel)	$2,000
Robot build, materials, and practice field	$7,000–$9,000
Tools & Equipment (refresh some tools annually)	$1,000–$2,000
Software and Computer Equipment (refresh some annually)	$1,000 - $2,000
Front office, marketing costs, swag, community giveaways	$2,000
Grand Total**	$55,000 - $65,000

We have wonderful support and sponsorship from District 196, EVHS, and Dr. Franchino. Together, they cover our registration and competition fees every year bringing our student fee, sponsorship, and fundraising costs to cover roughly $43,000 - $40,000 of these costs.

Roughly 25% of our support comes from EVHS, 25% from student fees, and the rest from sponsorships, grants, and private donations.

**Should the team qualify for Worlds in any given year, these costs climb roughly $50,000 due to flight, hotel, and robot transportation costs to Houston, TX. *(assuming all students travel and pay nothing out of pocket)*

Paying your participation fee

While we do take checks for paying your participation fee, we prefer Zelle to pay your student's participation fee for ease of tracking

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Communications

We try and keep communications timely and clear, and we will do so through two primary methods:

- **Email!** Parents, make sure we have your email and that we have it correct, you will get a summary of events from the coaches every few weeks.
- **Slack!** Slack is a wonderful communication and collaboration tool, we will use this **exclusively** with the **students and mentors**, but parents are welcome too! Slack will be used to:
    - Communicate and coordinate with the students and mentors.
    - Track our build progress and tasks.
    - Link to important learning and competition materials.

If you want to stay really close to the day-to-day and not miss any fun events or accomplishments, (or maybe see if your student is staying on top of their tasks!) please download Slack on your phone or in your computer browser, following these instructions:

- **Provide your preferred contact email address** to a coach so we can send you an invitation.
- **Check your inbox** for an email invitation from Slack (it may appear in your spam or promotions folder).
- **Click "Join Now"** in the invitation email.
- **Enter your full name** when prompted, then click **Continue** to complete your setup.

Once you've joined, parents will automatically be connected to the **#parent-communications** channel in our EVLR workspace: **elr-team.slack.com**.

Slack is also available as a free mobile app for easy access on the go (iOS and Android).

P.S. Students! If you read this far, details matter in robotics, the first 3 people that come to the coaches and report the 3 things that were wrong in this document, you get a $10 GC!

Student / Parent contract

2025-2026 EASTVIEW LIGHTNING ROBOTICS TEAM MEMBER CONTRACT

RETURN TO COACHES

Code of Conduct

"Gracious professionalism," one of the founding precepts of FIRST, is essential to team participation. "It's a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community" (www.firstinspires.org).

1. Students will display "Gracious Professionalism"–the motto of FIRST–at all times and promote ideals of FIRST.
2. Students will sign an agreement and follow the same rules as dictated by Eastview High School and the Minnesota State High School League, including those in regard to alcohol and chemical substances.
3. Students will not violate the racial / religious / harassment / violence / and hazing bylaws of the Minnesota State High School League (http://www.mshsl.org/mshsl/index.asp).
4. Students are expected to behave in a courteous and cooperative manner.
5. Students are expected to be respectful of others and behave in a way that protects the health and safety of themselves and others.
6. Students shall be respectful of the facilities, tools, equipment and all things being used by the team.
7. Students shall not use profane, obscene or vulgar language in written, gestured, or verbal form.
8. Eastview Robotics abides by Eastview High School's Acceptable Use Policy for all communications, including all social media and Internet usage. Students' internet/social media/online communications are team communications and will be regarded as such.
9. Students visiting or working at corporate sites are guests of the corporations and must be courteous and respectful. While at a corporate site, students are expected to follow the general rules and safety rules posted at the site.

Student Eligibility

1. Team members must be a high school student in good standing at Eastview High School, or pre-approved Middle School students.
2. Team members must maintain a minimum of a **C average.**

Team Member Expectations

1. Students are expected to make a significant time commitment to the team, actively participating in meetings, workshops, and events. Commitment to the team increases significantly during the build season.

2. Students are expected to be reliable: on-time, prepared to work, help with clean up, show a positive attitude, assist newer members, be responsive to mentors and other adult volunteers and to assist with team administrative tasks.
3. At meetings, students are expected to volunteer for available tasks. Students should be proactive in keeping busy by asking mentors or team leads how they can help if they are not busy.
4. Students are expected to keep socializing to a minimum at team meetings.
5. Students dating other students on the team should not display couples' behavior at any team meetings or robotics sponsored events.
6. Students will not play video or computer games or surf the internet during meetings.
7. Students and parents must complete the necessary paperwork and pay the required fees including the annual registration fee, and other associated costs to be determined.
8. Students will not build any non-team related projects at meetings or by using any team resources.
9. Students are expected to keep current with team activities, requirements and schedule by checking the identified team communication vehicles frequently, especially during the build season.

Parent Expectations

Parent support is vital to the success of the team. Parents can support the team in several ways:

- Helping out at meetings
- Sponsor a meal for the students
- Sponsor tool or equipment needs from our inventory needs list
- Booster club volunteering
- Helping with fundraising both in time and donations

We do expect all parents to attend parent meetings, keep current with team communication, and contribute a minimum amount of volunteer time to the team. Parents are also expected to provide an email address to us so that we may contact you throughout the season.

Lettering policy and school recognition

Adult team leadership, with input from all team mentors, will determine which students receive an Eastview School letter and/or school and team recognition awards. Students must show active participation on the team and engagement by doing the following:

- Making contributions to assigned sub-teams
- Demonstrating a positive, can-do attitude
- Attending the regional competition
- Attending a high percentage of scheduled meetings throughout the year (attendance will be taken at all meetings and events)

First-year team members may still be developing skills and may or may not letter depending on the criteria above.

Our full lettering requirements for robotics immediately follow the signature page.

Disciplinary actions for violations, to be determined by team coaches and EVHS Administration, may include being sent home and contacting parents, suspension from team activities, ineligibility to travel with the team, or removal from the team.

I have read and understand these rules and agree to abide by them.

Liability Waiver

I understand that this is a voluntary activity that involves a risk of injury to my child and I freely and voluntarily assume and accept this risk for myself and my child. In consideration of Eastview High School and the School District allowing my child to take part in this activity, I agree for myself and on behalf of my child, to waive all liability against the School District, its employees and volunteers with respect to any and all injury, disability, or damage to person or property that occurs as a result of my child's participation in the activity. This waiver releases claims based on ordinary negligence, but does NOT release claims based upon gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

Student Signature_____ Date_____

Print Student Name_____

Student Email Address (**print clearly**) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature_____ Date_____

PrintParent/GuardianName _____

Parent/Guardian Email _____

Lettering requirements

Eastview Lightning Robotics (EVLR)
2025-2026 Student Lettering Requirements

Name:_____ Current Grade:_____

To be eligible for a letter you must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Complete Youth Team Member Registration on www.firstinspires.org.
- Active commitment to team meetings and practices.
- Attend a Week Zero, FTC League Meet or FRC regional tournament.
- Participate in at least one Community Outreach Event.
- Accumulate at least 225 Total Participation Points as outlined below.

Total Participation Points Required to Letter: 225

Off-Season & Summer Training	**Mark All That Apply**
FTC Programming with Danny Diaz	10 Points _____
Summer/Fall Workshop Wednesdays (August-December)	
5 Sessions Attended	5 Points _____
10 Sessions Attended	*+ Add 5 Points*
15 Sessions Attended	*+ Add 5 Points*
	Total Points: _____

Invitationals & Tournaments	**Mark All That Apply**
FTC & FRC Participation Bonus	50 Points _____
FTC Week Zero	15 Points _____
FTC League Meet #1	15 Points _____
FTC League Meet #2	15 Points _____
FTC League Meet #3	15 Points _____
FTC League Qualifier	15 Points _____
FRC Week Zero (Eagan)	15 Points _____
FRC Regional Tournament #1 (Duluth)	40 Points _____
FRC Regional Tournament #2 (Mpls)	20 Points _____
	Total Points: _____

Eastview-Hosted Events — **Mark All That Apply**

9th Grade & New Student Orientation Night	15 Points _____
FRC January Kick-Off Meeting	15 Points _____
Home & Garden Show	15 Points _____

Total Points: _____

Community Outreach Events — **Mark All That Apply**

Adopt-A-Highway	(20 Per Event)	Summer 2025 _____
		Fall 2025 _____
Apple Valley Villa Car Show & Bus Fundraiser		20 Points _____
Best Buddies Robot Demonstration		20 Points _____
Cedar Park Elementary STEM Night		20 Points _____
Highland Elementary Engineering Night		20 Points _____
Medtronic Spark Family Day		20 Points _____
Science Museum Robot Day		20 Points _____
Senior Community Robot Demonstration		20 Points _____
Works Museum Robot Day		20 Points _____

Total Points: _____

Miscellaneous Events — **Mark All That Apply**

GF Manufacturing & Experience Center Tour (Spring) — 15 Points _____

FRC Team Scrimmage (15 points each) — 15 x (Total # Scrimmages): _____

(Track Attendance Dates) → _____

Professional Development (10 Points Each) — 10 x (Total # Events): _____

(*Track Attendance Dates*) → _____

Youth Mentoring at FRMS/GLE (5 points per Hour) — 5 x (Total Hours): _____

(Track Your Hours) → _____

Total Points: _____

2025-2026 Total Participation Points Earned (225 Required to Letter): _____

Please submit to EVLR Coaches no later than May 1st, 2026.