



4-H
EXPLODING
BACON
ROBOTICS CLUB

HAZARD BOOK

EXPLODINGBACON.COM

Where pigs fly

I. 4-H Exploding Bacon Robotics Club (Bacon)

Section 1: Mission

Our mission is to inspire youth using 4-H principles along with the tenets of gracious professionalism to explore science and technology through a mentor based program, which develops leadership and life skills while encouraging innovation, creative solutions to engineering and technical challenges.

4-H Exploding Bacon Robotics Club is a FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Team(s) based in Orlando, Florida. Adults serve as mentors to guide the student members in team management, engineering, computer programming, and essential leadership skills. The goal is to inspire students to pursue degrees in science, technology, engineering and math while teaching them gracious professionalism.

Section 2: Recognition

Bacon is organized under the Orange County 4-H is the local affiliate of Florida 4-H , a division of University of Florida Extension . The UF/IFAS Extension 4-H Youth Development Program uses a learn-by-doing approach to help youth gain the knowledge and skills they need to be responsible, productive citizens. This mission is accomplished by creating safe and inclusive learning environments, involving caring adults, and utilizing the expertise and resources of the University of Florida and the nationwide land grant university system.

Section 3: History

4-H Exploding Bacon Robotics Club started in November 2005 for the 2006 FRC Competition Season.

Founding Mentors

Wendy Austin, Michael Coleman, Kelly Austin, Jennifer Coleman, Doug Leppard, Sarah Plemmons, Dan Richardson, Mike Walker, George Wallace, Robby Wallace, and Ryan Leitch

Our team grew from 10 FRC students working in a mentor's garage in 2006 to our approximately 80 students covering 8 FIRST Teams from 5 different counties and all walks of life. This came from the students and mentors hard work at demos, fundraising, and supporting our local community in the STEM program.

To date, Bacon manages six FIRST Robotics teams, all of which are competing in the 2013-2014 competition season:

FRC Team 1902 – Exploding Bacon	FLL Team 3210– Return of the Bacon
FLL Team 2825– XplodingBrix	FLL Team 4940– Bacon Builders
FLL Team 3164– BaconAtors	FLL Team 6089– Bacon's Lego Team (BLT's)

Section 4: Goals

- ❖ Enrich the minds of every youth member who joins the club and prepare them for a successful post-secondary school education and career.
- ❖ Assist youth members in earning FIRST-related and other scholarships every year.

- ❖ Promote, encourage, and assist the creation of new FRC, FTC, FLL and Jr. FLL teams in the Central Florida Area.
- ❖ Enlighten the Central Florida community about the rewards and benefits of science, technology, engineering, and math subjects through outreach programs.
- ❖ Promote the mentorship and sponsorship of FIRST teams.
- ❖ Strive to win a programs award by being an exemplary team and a model for other teams.
- ❖ Earn technical awards and win competitive events through exceptional robot performance.
- ❖ Collaborate with and help other local, regional, and international FIRST teams.

II. Robotics Program Descriptions

For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Exploding Bacon Robotics Club currently maintains one FRC and five FLL FIRST Robotics teams for the 2013/2014 Season

Jr. FIRST Lego League (Jr. FLL): (Maximum on a team 6)

We May have a team?

<p>Jr. FLL is focused on building an interest in science and engineering in children grades K-3 (ages 6-9). This is a hands-on program designed to capture young children's inherent curiosity and direct it toward discovering the possibilities of improving the world around them. Just like FLL, this program features a real-world challenge, to be solved by research, critical thinking and imagination. Guided by adult coaches and the Jr.FLL Core Values, students work with LEGO elements and moving parts to build ideas and concepts and present them for review.</p>	<p>Team Members get to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and build challenge solutions using LEGO elements • Apply real-world math and science concept • Research challenges facing today's scientists • Learn team building and presentation skills • Develop Show Me poster
<p>2013-2014 Season ---Disaster Blaster</p>	

FIRST Lego League (FLL): (Maximum on a team 10) ----- Bacon has 5 FLL teams

<p>FLL is focused on building an interest in science and engineering in children grades 4-8 (ages 9 to 14). FLL Introduces younger students to real-world engineering challenges by building LEGO-based robots to complete tasks on a thematic playing surface. FLL teams, guided by their imaginations and adult coaches, discover exciting career possibilities and, through the process, learn to make positive contributions to society.</p>	<p>Elementary and middle-school students get to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design, build, test and program robots using LEGO MINDSTORMS@technology • Apply real-world math and science concepts • Research challenges facing today's scientists • Learn critical thinking, team-building and presentation skills • Participate in tournaments and celebrations
<p>2013-2014 Season ---Nature's Fury</p>	

FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC): (team size determined by the Coach; FIRST suggests 10) Not Available with Bacon for this Season

<p>FTC is focused on building an interest in science and engineering in children grades 7-12 (ages 12 to 18). FTC is designed for those who want to compete head to head, using a sports model. Teams are responsible for designing, building, and programming their robots to compete in an alliance format against other teams. The robot kit is reusable from year-to-year and is programmed using a variety of languages. Teams, including coaches, mentors and volunteers, are required to develop strategy and build robots based on sound engineering principles. Awards are given for the competition as for well as for community outreach, design, and other real-world accomplishments.</p>	<p>Students get to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design, build, and program robots • Apply real-world math and science concepts • Develop problem-solving, organizational, and team-building skills • Compete and cooperate in alliances and tournaments • Earn a place in the World Championship • Qualify for over \$10.4 million in college scholarships
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FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC): FIRST suggests a team size of 25 student members

<p>FRC is focused on building interest in science and engineering in children grades 9-12 (ages 14-18). FRC is "The varsity Sport for the Mind," FRC combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. Under strict rules, limited resources, and time limits, teams of 25 students or more are challenged to raise funds, design a team "brand," hone teamwork skills, and build and program robots to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors. It's as close to "real-world engineering" as a student can get. Volunteer professional mentors lend their time and talents to guide each team.</p>	<p>Students get to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn from professional engineers• Build and compete with a robot of their own design• Learn and use sophisticated software and hardware• Compete and cooperate in alliances and tournaments• Earn a place in the World Championship• Qualify for over \$16 million in college scholarships
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III. Community Impact

Section 1: Events

- End of year dinner – June
- Fall Time – FLL Qualifying Tournament. This tournament helps spread the word of FIRST and shows gracious professionalism.
- Sponsor Dinner – September

Section 2: Partnerships

County Schools

BACON has an understanding with most Central Florida schools whose students are involved in the FIRST programs. This understanding allows youth members to inform teachers in advance of absences due to competition related travel and develop a plan to make up any missed work and/or exams. It is the responsibility of the youth member to initiate and ensure completion of this process. – Although we do have an understanding, it is not guaranteed by any school system.

IV. Organizational Structure

Section 1: Bylaws

Bacon operates according to the 4-H Exploding Bacon Robotics Club bylaws, which have been adopted by the club. The Board of Directors (BOD), which consists of eight elected adult volunteers and one elected student representative, oversees the entire organization. The BOD includes the Club Lead, FRC Lead, Jr. FLL/FLL Lead, NEMO Lead, Correspondence Lead, Treasurer, 4-H Liaison, and the Student BOD Representative, as described in the BACON Bylaws.

Section 2: Organizational Hierarchy

- ❖ BOD
- ❖ Individual Coaches
- ❖ CLUB Officers

Section 3: Volunteer Positions

CLUB Adult Volunteer Positions:

<p>The following Adult Volunteer Positions are available & report to the Club Officers & BOD. Listed below are a few ideas, & are not limited to:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLUB Recruitment & Retention • CLUB Fundraising/Grants • CLUB - New Parent/Volunteer Liaison • Alumni Package Coordinator • Team Building/Morale Coordinator • Sponsor Dinner Coordinator • End of Year Dinner Coordinator • Outreach/DEMO Coordinator
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Individual Team Adult Volunteer Positions:

<p>Individual Team Adult Volunteer Position Ideas - These volunteers would report to the Team Lead/Coach.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel Coordinator • New Parent/Volunteer Liaison • Spirit Coordinator • Photography Coordinator • Team Fundraising Coordinator • Outreach/DEMO Coordinator
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Section 4: Youth Member Officers

BACON has eight youth member leadership positions that are elected by the clubs youth members as defined in the BACON Bylaws. These four positions include a Two CO-Presidents, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Sergeant at Arms, Treasurer, 4-H Representative, and Student BOD Representative.

V. Funding

Section 1: Example FRC Budget

FRC is the most expensive program in FIRST. The figure below shows a breakdown of a standard FRC season budget.

Item (per FRC team)	Item (per FRC team) Costs (\$)
Team Registration/ Regional # 1	\$5,000
Regional # 2	\$5,000
Championship Registration*	\$5,000
Robot Parts	\$5,000
Field Elements	\$1,500
Spirit Item	\$2,000
Miscellaneous/Overhead	\$5,000
Offseason	\$3,000
Robot Travel	\$3,000
Totals	\$34,500

*Qualification required

This does not include travel for students and volunteers to the events.

Travel ---Reminder Individuals are responsible for Travel Expenses

Based on previous years of travel experiences, Bacon can give a rough estimate of the competition travel costs for youth members and volunteers. This typically includes the hotel costs and some of the meals or all depending on location and Travel Plans These numbers vary year to year and additional charges may apply including a minimum of \$10 overhead per event per person.

Item (per person)	Costs (\$)
Regional # 1 Usually Orlando (Parking and Food Only needed)	\$25 to \$50
Regional # 2 (depends on location – based on land transportation travel not air)	\$200 to \$400
Championship * (for St. Louis) Depends on Travel arrangements	\$600 to \$900
Rough Estimated totals Low to High	\$825 to \$1,350

*Qualification required

Section 2: Example FLL Budget

FLL is the second least expensive program in FIRST. The figure below shows a breakdown of a standard FLL season budget (travel and personal costs are not included):

Item (per FLL team)	Costs (\$)
Team Registration & Field Kit	\$350
Tournament fees (qualifying to state champs)	\$375
Project Supplies/overhead	\$200
Parts	\$175
Handouts	\$200
Next season registration seed money	\$350
Totals	\$1,650

World Champs (ONLY ONE TEAM FROM STATE) \$1, 000

Money is estimated The above total does not cover WORLD CHAMPS OR TRAVEL

Travel ---Reminder Individuals are responsible for Travel Expenses

Based on previous years of travel experiences, Bacon can give a rough estimate of the competition travel costs for youth members and volunteers. This typically includes the hotel costs and some of the meals or all depending on location and Travel Plans These numbers vary year to year and additional charges may apply including a minimum of \$10 overhead per event per person. The figure below shows anticipated individual travel expenses.

Item (per person)	Costs (\$)
Championship * (for St. Louis) Depends on Travel arrangements	\$600 to \$900

*Qualification required --- For FLL World Champs is one invite per State and only if Florida Receives the Champ Bid this year.

Section 3: Grants

Organizational and corporate grants are BACON's primary source of funding. Throughout the year, youth members and volunteers are encouraged to search for possible grants to submit to the BOD. The BOD reserves the authority to either write and submit grants or assign the work to a volunteer.

Grants vary in size and come from different private and public companies and organizations. This money is often earmarked in the grant requirements for registration and/or a specific FIRST program. Money awarded from grants cannot be expected to subsidize travel expenses.

Section 4: Club Fundraising

General club fundraising is BACON's secondary source of funding, which includes, but is not limited to, the follow methods:

- Fundraisers (i.e. bake sales, car washes, golf tournaments, baby-sitting night, and more).
- Personal donations.
- Local and corporate business donations.

The BACON fundraising operates year round and is run by an appointed coordinator with NEMO, as described in the BACON Bylaws.

All club fundraisers are conducted with the understanding that the specific fundraiser will benefit the BACON general fund, a specific program level (i.e. FRC, FTC, FLL, Jr. FLL), and/or individual youth member travel funds (based on member participation). This specifics of the fundraiser will be noted prior to the event on where the funding will be placed.

The fundraising committee, in conjunction with the BOD, will do their best to organize and execute team fundraisers to fill shortfalls in the BACON general fund, a specific program level, and/or to subsidize travel expenses. All youth members and volunteers are required to participate in team fundraisers, and are highly encouraged to find sponsorship opportunities and bring it to the fundraising committee.

Although fundraisers may vary year to year, listed below are a few high profile fundraisers BACON runs annually:

FIRST LED light bulb sales	Demos at restaurants
FRC Elementary Science Summer Camp @ St. Lukes	Demos at stores
Pigging houses	

Section 5: Youth Member Travel Funds

For certain fundraisers, participating members can receive a percentage of the fundraised money to deposit in their travel fund. The percentages and participation requirements will be publicized prior to the fundraiser.

For example, if BACON hosts a car wash that raises \$500 in profit with 10 members participating for the entire event, BACON may split the profit with them. BACON will take \$250 for the general fund, and \$25 will go into each of the 10 members' travel funds. The BACON treasurer maintains these travel funds and will automatically apply available funds to upcoming travel costs.

This is done to help alleviate the costs to youth members, parents, and volunteers by rewarding those members who participate in BACON fundraisers. The money in a member's travel fund can only go towards hotel and transportation expenses. If the member has a balance in their fund at the conclusion of a season, the money can be rolled over to the next season if they plan on renewing their membership. The money is forfeit to the BACON general fund if the member is dismissed, quits, has no travel to use it

on, and/or graduates, and is no longer a member. Also, if a member cancels travel plans, their travel fund may be forfeit to cover the costs associated with the cancelation.

VI. Club Membership

Section 1: Equal Opportunity

BACON follows the 4-H Standards and State Statues.

Section 2: Club Composition

BACON is comprised of adult volunteers, youth members entering Kindergarten to 12th grade, and parents/guardians. The majority of the club members reside in the Central Florida area. Volunteers are responsible for club administration and team technical support. Additionally, the club welcomes support from adults who work professionally in the surrounding community, including engineers, scientists, and business people. The family members of BACON's youth members form a dedicated support group for the club through their volunteer efforts.

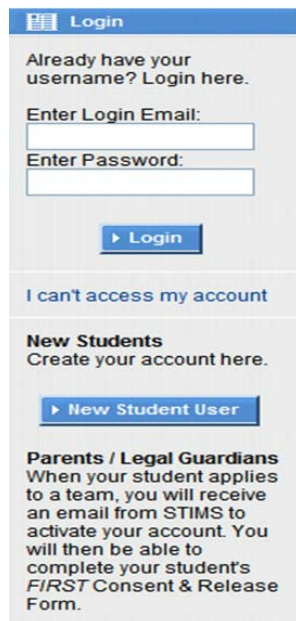
Section 3: Application

Before becoming a member of BACON, youth members, adult volunteers, and parent/guardian members are required to complete an BACON application, the 4-H application, sign the BACON Club Handbook, and pay the seasons dues. Additionally, Key Mentors & all Coaches must successfully pass the 4-H background check to become an official BACON Mentor and Coach. Parents are encouraged to complete the 4-H background check to, especially if you like to help at demos & events. You cannot take charge of any additional children who are not under your guardianship if you are not a 4-H Approved Mentor (must be completed every 4 years).

Section 4: Registration Process

Current BACON youth members will be permitted to register for their program first. Following this early registration, the public may register at an announced registration day. All materials needed for application must be turned in and dues must be paid. The completed application will be time stamped and space will be offered on a first come-first serve basis.

FORMS:



The screenshot shows a web interface for logging into the 4-H online enrollment system. It features a blue header with a 'Login' button. Below the header, there is a section for existing users with the text 'Already have your username? Login here.' and two input fields for 'Enter Login Email:' and 'Enter Password:'. A blue 'Login' button is positioned below these fields. Below the login section, there is a link for 'I can't access my account'. Further down, there is a section for 'New Students' with the text 'Create your account here.' and a blue 'New Student User' button. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Parents / Legal Guardians' with a paragraph of text explaining the process: 'When your student applies to a team, you will receive an email from STIMS to activate your account. You will then be able to complete your student's FIRST Consent & Release Form.'

We are a part of 4-H, which provides us with liability insurance as well as other benefits. Forms must be completed before a student participates in building the robot or traveling with the team. Please be prepared to give us any or all emails and cell phone numbers that you use as these are a vitally form of communication. Please make sure your contact information is always up to date.

4-H ONLINE ENROLLMENT SYSTEM

Each family must fill out the online 4-H Enrollment form. The online enrollment system website is:

<https://florida.4honline.com/Login.aspx?404B4D4B61784A716F4B38773D>

or

go to the main Florida 4-H web page (<http://florida4h.org>) and locate the "4-H Online Enrollment" link. If you are a returning member, you should already have an account. Help on filling out the 4-H online form is available at: <http://florida4h.org/4honline/Family%20Login/FamilyLogin.shtml>.

Out of Orange County: There are many students from other counties. All Students living outside of Orange County Must fill out a Cross-County Form. Please let us know if you will need the form to fill out.

US FIRST – for FTC or FRC only

Student Team Information Member System [STIMS](https://my.usfirst.org/stims/site.lasso)<https://my.usfirst.org/stims/site.lasso>

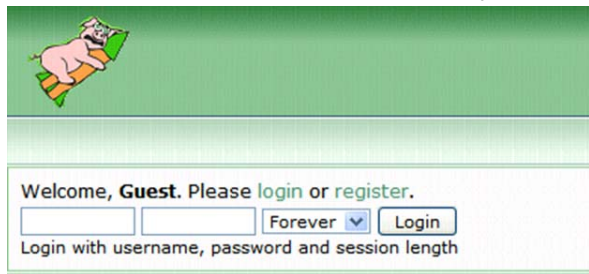
First time students should click the "New Student User" button. To fill out the registration information you will need: Student Name; Parents Name; Address; Student Email; Parent Emails, Team Information

An email will be sent to your parents requesting them to also sign up. Please provide your parents with the email address you specified as the Student Email account. Have your parent log in, fill out the parent information and accept the consent and release form for themselves and the student.

If you have an account from previous years, enter your student email account and verify the information. Have your parent log in and accept the consent and release form.

Exploding Bacon Forums (For all Teams)

The Exploding Bacon forums <http://forums.explodingbacon.com> are for members of the Exploding Bacon Team 1902 team, mentors and family.



At the top left you should see:

"Welcome, Guest. Please login or register. If you are a new user click on the "register" text and you will be re-directed to the registration page. Fill out the registration information. Make sure to put in your actual name as the username, for example Joe Smith, use JoeSmith

altogether as your user name. After you register, the forum administrator will verify and accept your account.

To log in, click the "login" text and the username and password you specified during the registration process. The forums are organized into sections. There are three main sections: FRC, FTC and FLL. Under each section there are sub-sections for each of the various activities. For example, under FRC, there is a subsection for "Member Discussions", and under that you will find topics for Engineering, NEMO, etc.

Exploding Bacon Leadership

The Student officers for 2013 to 2014 :	
Co-Presidents:	Kris Walters & Tyler Felsted
Treasurer:	Hannah Holman
Secretaries:	Gracen Brown & Sarah Holman
Sargent at Arms:	Noah Moraes
Board Representative:	Sarah Parker
4-H Representative:	Garry Little

Adult Board of Directors for 2013 to 2014:		
Club Lead	Joyce Walters	BaconClubLead@gmail.com
NEMO Lead	Amanda Little	Baconnemo@gmail.com
Jr. FLL & FLL Lead	Bethany McCabe	bethanyamccabe@yahoo.com
Correspondence Lead	James Austin	Jimaustin1902@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ashley Kosik	Ashley.kosik@hotmail.com
FRC Leads	Ryan Morin & Brendan Radabaugh	wrexall87@gmail.com brendanradabaugh@gmail.com
4-H Representative	Kelly Wildermuth	orlandohhhh@aol.com

Section 5: Academic Standing

Academics are a priority for all youth members in the club. It is expected that students be able to fulfill commitments to their academics first and their robotics team second. Parents/Guardians are responsible to maintain their children's academics. If the parents/guardians have concerns with their children(s) academics & club responsibilities, please bring it to the attention of the Coaches and/or Leads covering your child's team. Present club members and families will be willing and able to help with studying and homework.

Section 6: Member Classifications

Member Classification	Description
Member in Good Standing	Any Bacon Member who is up to date on all dues and forms
Youth Member	Bacon Member entering K to 12th grade depending on current Bacon teams available.
Mentors in Training (18 to 21)	(cannot be with kids without a 4-H Approved Mentor) Can become an Approved Mentor at age 21 with background check
Mentors (Professional, College, etc.)	Adult Volunteers without background check. (cannot be with kids without a 4-H Approved Mentor)
4-H Approved Mentor (21 years and older)	Bacon Adult Volunteers with 4-H Background Check Approval
Overnight Chaperone	Bacon Adult Volunteers Parents/Guardians with 4-H background check approval and Overnight Chaperone Passed Course
Parent/Guardian	Parent/Guardian of a Member. (cannot be with kids without a 4-H Approved Mentor)

Section 7: Membership Dues

BACON requires youth members pay yearly membership dues. These dues include the following items:

- ❖ Official membership in 4-H (Dues required by 4-H)
- ❖ 4-H Medical insurance
- ❖ BACON specific team baseball T-shirt
- ❖ BACON team participation certificate and End of Year Dinner invitation

The membership fees for the 2013-2014 Season are listed below: Member Type Cost (\$) & due dates

FLL Student	100.00/ see coach payments due by 9/13/13 date is associated with FIRST FLL & 4-H timeframes for new year/season start dates. FLL starts August 24, 2013. Due to the timeframe for competitions and teamwork associated with FIRST, No new students will be accepted after 9/13/13
FRC Student	150.00/ partial payment due by Sept. 30, 2013 with full payments due by 12/31/13. These dates are associated with 4-H and FIRST dates. FRC KICKOFF is January 4th, 2014. Dues to the timeframe for competitions and teamwork associated with FIRST, No new students will be accepted after 1/11/2014 (exceptions made by BOD approval, if student was on prior FRC team

The initial membership fee of either \$100.00 or \$150.00 includes membership to BACON and one program. For each additional program the cost is \$50. Membership fees are non-refundable.

PAYMENTS MADE TO: 4-H Exploding Bacon Robotics Club to the current treasurer. Cash, Checks, and Paypal payments are accepted.

VII. Meetings

Section 1: Club Business Meetings

BACON club business meeting are the first Monday of the month at 7:00 PM located at the 4-H Extension Office, located at 6021 South Conway Road, Orlando, FL, 32812. During the FRC build season, business meetings will be determined by build space location and time

Section 2: Team Meetings

FLL and FRC meeting dates and times vary based on the program's season, volunteer availability, and workload. Each team leader will produce a monthly or season schedule for their respective team. This information will be available on the Club forum.

Section 3: Attendance

Although each program level varies in the amount and frequency of meetings, youth members are expected to make their best effort to attend as many meetings as possible. FLL students are expected to attend at least 75% of meetings during their build season. Since the FRC team meets every day except Sundays, students are expected to attend at least 60% of build season meetings.

Team and club meetings are scheduled far in advance and posted on the BACON Forum & Club Private FB page. It is your responsibility to check on the forum & FB page. Members should have enough time to adjust work and social schedules to try to meet the above expectations. If there is a conflict, members are encouraged to inform, and potentially work with, their team leader to resolve it.

Attendance is taken at all BACON functions and poor attendance may result in a loss of privileges, including the ability to travel with the team. It is the responsibility of the youth member to sign in at the beginning of each build season meeting.

Section 4: Participation

Participation is one of the most important aspects of the BACON program. In addition to good attendance, youth members are required to put forth their best effort to accomplish daily tasks and goals. Other youth members, volunteers, and the team leader are adversely affected by poor participation.

Poor participation may result in a loss of privileges, including the ability to travel with the team, the contacting of parents/guardians, and/or a counsel session with the team leader and/or the BOD.

VIII. Code of Conduct

Section 1: Gracious Professionalism

BACON encourages all members to follow the FIRST definition of gracious professionalism:

Gracious Professionalism is part of the ethos of FIRST. It is a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community.

With Gracious Professionalism, fierce competition and mutual gain are not separate notions. Gracious professionals learn and compete like crazy, but treat one another with respect and kindness in the process. They avoid treating anyone like losers. No chest thumping tough talk, but no sticky-sweet platitudes either. Knowledge, competition, and empathy are comfortably blended.

In the long run, Gracious Professionalism is part of pursuing a meaningful life. One can add to society and enjoy the satisfaction of knowing one has acted with integrity and sensitivity.

Section 2: Club rules

UNIFORM/4-H DRESS CODE:

Our uniform is an important part of our image and thus must be maintained with dignity and care.

There is a standard dress code for all 4-H events. The complete dress code can be found at: http://florida4h.org/events/files/4H_image_factsheet.pdf.

In general:

Appearance should be neat and clean
No clothing deemed inappropriate
No bare feet
Hats should be worn respectfully. Hats are not appropriate during meals and group sessions while indoors
Event leaders may ask individuals to modify their clothing selection if standards of decency in appearance are not met

Items which are never appropriate for 4-H events or activities:

Shorts more than 4" above the knee
Blouse straps must be at least 2" wide
No spaghetti straps (unless it is a formal event), halter or tube tops
No cut-off or muscle shirts
No offensive or inappropriate language, graphics or logo t-shirts
No holes in clothing (Shirts or pants/shorts)
No pajamas (except for Official Exploding Bacon spirit wear purchase through the club.)
No low cut pants or shirts

Exploding Bacon's Dress Code for Events & Competitions:

The team attire consists of nice jeans/khaki shorts or pants and a team baseball shirt. Pants should fit properly and look professional. --- The Polo's and Dress Shirts Bacon Sells are for Mentors to wear at any event and Students to wear at special events Like PTC Conference, etc. that the FRC team gets invited to at times.

Wear and maintain uniforms for all team activities, such as competitions and presentations.

Closed toed/heel shoes are required during competition time and at build space.

BEHAVIOR: A team member's behavior is under scrutiny, at all times. It is very important that you understand that you represent 4-H Exploding Bacon Robotics Club, when you are in our team shirts whether it is a team sponsored event or not. You must remain professional at all times even when we are not around others. This goes for anyone in a bacon shirt including parents & siblings.

You are expected to at all times be polite and respectful to all staff members and refrain from activities that are considered disruptive. We do get notified by outsiders if our students or parents/siblings appear to be misbehaving and we will address the situation according to team rules.

BOYFRIEND/GIRLFRIEND: In the event that a relationship develops or is ongoing, there are certain guidelines that must be adhered to at all times when engaged in team activities local and away.

Hand-holding, hugging, kissing and other expressions of affection are prohibited at all times. The couple must also travel in a group at all times. Couples may not wander off or sit alone. In other words, they should not appear as a couple but as part of the team. Common sense should prevail at all times.

EVENTS: All eyes are on you every minute you are in public. Your behavior is a direct reflection on your character and on our team. A judge or member of another team may over hear what you say to one another and how you say it. Even the expressions on your face and body language may bring unwanted negative attention and bad impressions.

We are a very close family when we travel and conflicts may arise as a result. Students should refrain from rumors, he-said-she-said, and negative comments about each other. If a problem arises with another student you are requested to speak to a mentor immediately. Students are not allowed to have physical conflicts with each other. If a problem such as this arises, both students may be disciplined and may be removed from the team.

COOPERATION: Students are requested to cooperate at all times. This means that if someone requests you to do something you will comply with the best of your ability. Ignoring the directions or requests of any one on the team is not in the team's best interest. If you feel a request is out of order, you are encouraged to complete the task then speak to the sponsors at a later more appropriate time.

COMPETITION PROTOCOL: Each robotics level will have the opportunity to participate in competitions. There are certain practices that we have found to be very successful and have earned us many rewards and the respect of the FIRST community.

CHEERING: Cheering is more than yelling at the top of your lungs. Cheering is enjoying the event and celebrating the excitement of the moment. You are not expected to be cheering 100% of the time, however, when we are cheering all team members are expected to stand and cheer to the best of their ability. Sitting in the stands looking bored, carrying on personal conversations while others are cheering is not good for the team image.

AWARD CEREMONY: During the ceremony we will applaud the teams that are winning awards. When we applaud we may stand to show our respect for what they have accomplished.

LITTER: If you see a mess (paper or trash) you should make an effort to pick it up. That goes for the area you are sitting as well as any other location in the arena.

COMPETITION: Our competitions take place in a number of facilities and under different conditions. Some competitions are out of state and therefore involve overnight accommodations. Parents are asked to adhere to the team's guidelines and expectations for the students during these times.

Our team is judged on many levels and students are needed at all times to represent the team.

Our team members have many responsibilities: setting up our pit, passing the robot through inspection, scouting/strategizing, interviewing other teams, being interviewed by media, promoting our FIRST initiatives, preparing the robot, meeting with judges, and documenting our participation on video and with still pictures.

Parents attending competitions are asked to help with setup/breakdown of the team lunch.

This is a high-energy and very strenuous schedule for students and adults. Get lots of sleep and drink water the day before.

Things We Do Not Do At An Event:

- Wearing of personal music devices is forbidden while in uniform or at an event.
- Uniforms may not be altered or worn in any manner not approved by the Board of Directors.
- Team Members may not play cards or any other games at the event.
- Our team will not engage in negative behavior toward another team or team member.
- Our team will not display displeasure over any decision by a referee or judge.
- Team members will not exchange negative remarks to each other, no matter what the situation.

Rules for competitions

YELLOW CARDS (warnings) (4 warnings = Red Ticket)

- Buddy System: Always need to be with one other person of the same gender, unless you have more than one other person then gender does not matter.
- Checking in: check in stands/pit whenever you leave to go somewhere else
- Meetings: there will be a meeting at the end of each day of every regional to go over what happened that day as well as the plan for the next day.
- Curfew: 10:00 PM must be in your room with all of your roommates (is subject to change at meetings)
- Lights Out: quiet and getting for bed by 11:00 PM (is subject to change at meetings)
- Lunch: will eat lunch with our team every day at competition events unless prior arrangements were approved by designated mentor within a few days before event starts.
- Boundaries: stay inside the building unless you are going to the lunch spot with mentor or approved by mentor.
- PDA: no public displays of affection
- Respect: be sure to treat mentors and fellow students the way you would like to be treated. (including parents , volunteers, and other teams)

- Electronic Devices: electronic devices other than cell phones and cameras are not allowed in the regional area. (do not play on phones either)
- Language: do not use vulgar language such as cursing, inappropriate, yelling, arguing, etc. Act in a way that would make your grandmother proud
- Not following FRC Leads Schedule: please follow the schedule set forth by the FRC Leads.
- RED CARDS (a red card is a direct "ticket" home)
- Hotel Behavior: no girls in boys room/no boys in girls room, don't purposefully destroy hotel property, no sneaking out after curfew.
- Pool/Water Activities: you must have a 4-H Approved Overnight Chaperone with students at all times while in the pool/water activities.

Students who blatantly go against team travel rules (reminder 4 yellow cards is equal to a red ticket which is a ticket home). Students will be sent home on a flight/bus/train, etc. at the parents' expense.

PARENTS:

COMMITMENT FOR PARENTS, YOU WILL BE ASKED TO:

Parents are an essential part of our team and are very important to our continued success. Parents are also a key factor in the motivation and dedication of the students. Supporting their son or daughter in all aspects of their team involvement is key to them getting the most out of the program.

- To provide timely transportation for the student. Making sure that they are at the required events on time and ready to participate. Often we will leave for a competition very early in the morning to facilitate transportation. Parents are expected to have the student at the designated location at the prescribed time. We will not delay transportation.
- Upon return from an event parents are expected to provide transportation at the designated time. Late transportation causes an inconvenience to all involved.
- All parents are expected to attend the mandatory parent meetings. These will be listed on forum. Attending these meetings will help to keep you informed and the lines to communication open
- Help your child fundraise. Team members are expected to participate during our fundraisers, and solicit for sponsors. If your child doesn't drive, this can be a difficult task and your child may need your assistance.
- Parents are also expected to provide spending money as is appropriate when we are at events or competitions.
- Parents are encouraged to participate in team activities whenever possible.
- Make all trip payments on time (if applicable).
- Turn in all forms by due date.
- Communicate any concerns directly to any of the board of directors or team leads as soon as they arise.
- Support the team by attending competitions and events
- Help setup/breakdown lunch at competitions
- Be an advocate for the team in the community

Reminder - We are a 4-H team, therefore no alcoholic beverages and/or illegal substances be consumed by any one during meetings, events, traveling with our team, or while wearing team apparel at any time

BACON believes in the strict adherence of the 4-H policies, FIRST, and state and federal laws. The following policies and standards apply at all BACON functions, which include (but are not limited to) team meetings, club meetings, fundraisers, team parties, and while on team travel:

- Club members will respect all volunteers, parents/guardians, and youth members.
- Club members will respect the rights of others and their property.
- Club members will participate in a positive and enthusiastic manner.
- Club members will behave in ways that protect the health and safety of themselves and others.
- Club members will be respectful of the facilities, tools, equipment, and things being used by the club.
- Club members will not use profane, obscene, or vulgar language in written, gestured, and/or verbal form.
- Club members will exhibit dignified and restrained actions in expressing affection towards members of the opposite sex.
- Club members will not be in possession or under the influence of illegal substances.
- Club members will not be in possession of weapons.

Section 3: Disciplinary Actions

The team leader and/or the BOD may counsel a club member about failure to follow the code of conduct. A counseling session would be documented and if an issue persists, additional counsel or disciplinary actions may be taken. However, there is no official warning system; disciplinary action can be taken immediately if a problem is deemed severe enough.

Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following:

- Early dismissal from an BACON function, which may include competitions while on travel. Any non-refundable costs associated with an early dismissal will be a loss for the club member.
- Contacting of a youth members parents and/or legal guardians, or appropriate authorities.
- Search and seizure of suspected or found illegal items.
- Probation or dismissal from BACON.

IX. Safety

Section 1: Club Safety

The responsibility of safety lies with each member of BACON. Each club member is required to abide by the safety practices of all club and event facilities. The majority of FIRST programs involve the use of tools and equipment that unless are used properly can be potentially dangerous.

Youth members of BACON are viewed by the club volunteers as young adults, acting much like employees of an organization. It is important to maintain a positive image to our community, sponsors, and FIRST, and this begins with safety. All BACON members must know and demonstrate safe and professional behavior wherever the team conducts business.

Section 2: Safe Practices

The following safety practices apply at all BACON functions which include, but are not limited to, team meetings, club meetings, fundraisers, team parties, and while on team travel:

- Club members will respect the safety captain(s) and adhere to their requests.
- Club members will not use tools and equipment without proper training
- Youth members may use power tools or equipment only under the supervision of an approved volunteer.
- FRC, club members must have completed and been signed off on any required BACON safety training & completed the required paperwork and payment for 4-H insurance.
- Club members will be required to wear safety glasses in workshop areas of Bacon facilities and in the pit area of all FIRST FRC competitions. In addition, club members may be asked to wear gloves, facemasks, and/or ear protection during certain tasks.
- Club members will be required to maintain a clean and organized work area. In addition, club members will be required to clean up work areas at the conclusion of a workday. This process may include sweeping the floors, sweeping the work surfaces, putting away tools, putting away materials, and/or disposing of trash.
- Club members will be required to wear proper clothing at competitions and in work areas such as closed toed shoes and correctly fitting clothing.
- Club members will be required to tie back long hair while working with power tools and on the robots.
- Horseplay will not be tolerated at any time on 4-H, Build Space, and Mentor property or at any club event.

X. Volunteering

Section 1: Importance of Volunteering

BACON is a 100% volunteer managed, driven, and structured program. Everyone from the Board of Directors, coordinators, team leaders, technical mentors, and involved parents are here for one reason; to inspire the youth in our community. With over 100 members annually, BACON is essentially a small business that relies on its volunteers working cohesively to meet all of its goals.

The dedication of BACON's volunteers is unlike the dedication found in many other organizations. Most of the volunteers are here because of personal ties to the organization such as a child enrolled in a program, or as an inspired graduate of the program.

Section 2: Volunteering Ethics

The impact that BACON's volunteers have on the youth of the organization is proven to be lasting and inspirational. It is because of this that BACON reminds our volunteers the importance of being great role models to the youth members. Below are a few simple steps to follow:

- Treat all youth members with the same respect you would expect to be treated.
- Follow the principals of Gracious Professionalism and the standards in the BACON Code of Conduct.
- Treat other volunteers with respect and always act professional when interacting or working with volunteers.
- Support youth member parents/guardians by keeping them informed on their child's progress and answering any questions or concerns they may have.

Section 3: Volunteer Requirements

Any person who is above the age of 18 and is not enrolled in pre-college education may become a volunteer for BACON. All volunteers are expected to understand and demonstrate the professionalism expected by BACON.

Any volunteer who is under the age of 21 may not be in a supervisory role. More details in the Club ByLaws

XI. Family Involvement

Section 1: Importance of Family Involvement

BACON firmly believes in families supporting their children in any BACON robotics team. Family involvement can be beneficial to both their children's experience and to the BACON organization. Parents/guardians who are active in their children's youth programs often develop a better understanding of their children's skills and goals.

Section 2: Types of Family Involvement

BACON has many opportunities for families. Some parents/guardians may want to become an actual club mentor: no technical experience is required, just a desire to learn and help others. In addition, some parents/guardians may just want to take on specific tasks and roles as a parent/guardian member. Some of these tasks and roles include:

- Assist in the supervision of youth members at BACON functions which include, but are not limited to, team meetings, club meetings, fundraisers, team parties, and while on team travel. – Must be a 4-H Approved Mentor to fill this role
- Provide food for long team meetings.
- Join a committee.
- Support fundraisers and team parties.
- Drive youth members to club meetings, team meetings, and competitions (Must be 4-H Approved)

XII. Communication

Section 1: Importance of Communication

All BACON programs are time intensive and often require dynamic meeting schedules and plans. It is imperative that all club members, especially youth members and parents/guardians, be kept well informed of all plans. By staying informed, club members will be able to hone their levels of involvement so they may better fit their busy schedules.

Sections 2: Types of Communication

WEBSITE & FORUM

Website: The BACON website is a great resource for information. Here you will find the specific team information and all the forms required for involvement in BACON. In addition, the website will have links to official FIRST, team photos, and other informative news and websites.

<http://www.explodingbacon.com>

Forum: The BACON forum is the location of all important information about the club, teams, dates, meeting notes, etc. All members, parents, mentors, and volunteers need to be registered on the forum. This is the area to get all the information needed as members.

FACEBOOK PRIVATE GROUP

The BACON Private Facebook Group, this is an area to maintain communication, but the main communications need to be made on the team forum.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ExplodingBaconRobotics/>

TWITTER

The BACON twitter account is handled by our mentors. If you have a twitter account you can follow BACON at

@FRCBacon1902

BACON will try to stay current with the social networking sites and may post relevant information on Facebook and/or Twitter. Youth members and parents/guardians may choose to follow BACON on these sites. These however, are not a substitute for following our main communication with the club forum.

SNAIL MAIL

Yes we do have a mailing address:

4-H Exploding Bacon Robotics Club
Attention: Joyce Walters, Club Lead
6021 South Conway Road
Orlando, FL 32812

XIII. Resources

Section 1: Importance of Available Resources.

The FIRST programs can be very in-depth and overwhelming, especially for new participants. BACON wants youth members and their parents/guardians to have the ability to learn as much as possible about these programs. Veteran BACON members are always willing to introduce and educate youth members and their parents/guardians on the FIRST programs. The veteran BACON members are great sources of knowledge.

Section 2: Types of Resources

FIRST website (all teams within the club)

The FIRST website is the best place to learn more about the robotics programs, their goals, and history. It is also where program specific information, such as the competition manuals, updates, competition venues and dates, and other team information can be found.

<http://www.usfirst.org>

Chief Delphi Forums (mainly for FRC Members)

The forums on this website have become the communication point for all FIRST students and adults. Specifically, the FRC forums have the most members and topics, but information on FLL and FTC is also available. Here, members of the FIRST community from around the world share ideas, show photos, and chat about robots, teams, and competitions. BACON members are encouraged to join and share their thoughts, however, please remember to act and speak graciously as you will be representing your specific team and BACON.

<http://www.chiefdelphi.com>

The Blue Alliance (TBA) (For FRC Members)

TBA is a scouting database for FRC teams. Here, with only a simple search of a team number, data, and video of the past five years can be found for nearly any team and robot. This is a great website to learn and watch the results of other competitions happening around the world.

<http://www.thebluealliance.net>

