

The Outlaws' Team Handbook - 2025/26



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1. Welcome Letter

Welcome to The Outlaws! I'm thrilled to have you join us on this journey—whether you're a student, mentor, parent, or supporter, you're now part of something special. My name is Shawn Kasulka, and I've had the privilege of mentoring and coaching FIRST Robotics students in Central Vermont for over 12 years. I've seen firsthand how powerful and transformative this program can be.

Over the years, every student I've mentored has continued on to pursue STEM into college. With even a few now graduated and gone on to rewarding careers in technology, engineering, and research. Their success stories are not only a testament to their talent and hard work but also to the unique support and growth that comes from being part of a FIRST robotics team like this.

We are not here to start another FIRST team, but to use the team to grow and strengthen FIRST programs all over Central Vermont. My hope would be this FRC team really becomes the catalyst for supporting other area teams at the FLL and FTC level. We're not here to chase trophies—we're here to build students and communities, and the trophies often follow.

The Outlaws, Robotics Team 10910 is the next step in that journey. Partnering with Greenway Institute—a disruptively different engineering college—we're creating a space where high school students of all identities, backgrounds, and lived experiences can explore and deepen their interest in STEM, supported by mentors, inspired by peers, and connected to real-world opportunities.

We're glad you're here. Let's build something amazing—together.

— Shawn Kasulka Head Coach / Mentor, The Outlaws, Robotics Team 10910

2. About FIRST & FRC

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a global nonprofit that uses competitive robotics to inspire young people to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) is a high school-level program that challenges diverse teams of students to design, build and program industrial-sized robots to compete in themed games each year. This is the most advanced and challenging of the FIRST progression of programs, designed exclusively for high school students. FIRST also includes programs for younger students, including FIRST LEGO League (FLL), which introduces children in grades K–8 to science and technology through playful, hands-on learning, and FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC), a mid-level program for grades 7–12 where students design and build smaller robots to compete in head-to-head challenges. Through this intense and rewarding experience, students

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not only gain technical and collaborative skills but also become part of a community that values inclusivity, equity, and mutual respect.

Core Values:

- **Gracious Professionalism:** Compete hard, treat others with kindness and integrity.
- **Coopertition:** Celebrate collaboration and mutual support, even in competition.

3. Our Team

Team Name: The Outlaws

Affiliation: Greenway Institute & the Central Vermont community

Vision Statement: To create an inclusive and inspired future by empowering students of all identities, backgrounds, and lived experiences through hands-on STEM exploration and community engagement.

Mission Statement: The Outlaws, Robotics Team 10910, builds more than robots. We cultivate leadership, creativity, and resilience in our student members while expanding access to FIRST programs across Central Vermont. We foster a welcoming space where all students can grow, contribute, and thrive.

What We Do:

- **Design, Build, Compete:** Students work alongside mentors to design, build, program, and test FRC robots that compete in high-intensity challenges on the regional and possibly world stage. We emphasize safety, creativity, and teamwork in everything we do.
- **Mentorship & Team Development:** We actively mentor and collaborate with FIRST LEGO League (FLL) and FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) teams. Through training, workshops, and scrimmages, we help younger teams build confidence, gain technical skills, and feel connected to the wider FIRST community.
- **Outreach & Advocacy:** We organize and participate in outreach events, STEM fairs, and school visits to raise awareness about robotics and inspire the next generation of innovators. Our events are designed to be inclusive, interactive, and fun, with the goal of making STEM accessible to everyone.
- **Educational Partnerships:** Our collaboration with Greenway Institute, local schools, and community groups is a cornerstone of our mission. We work to create sustainable access to resources, mentorship, and learning opportunities that expand the regional STEM pipeline and support students from our sometimes underrepresented rural communities.

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- **Leadership & Life Skills:** Beyond technical training, our team fosters public speaking, project management, marketing, conflict resolution, and self-advocacy. We prepare students for success in college, careers, and civic life.
- **Community-First Culture:** As a community-based team, we prioritize equity, respect, and support. We create a culture where students feel safe, seen, and valued—where collaboration and curiosity are at the heart of every challenge we take on.

Our Team Make-Up

The Outlaws, Robotics Team#10910, we aim to build a team that reflects the spirit of Central Vermont—diverse, driven, and deeply collaborative. While we would love to offer this opportunity to every interested student, we also recognize that our capacity is limited by resources, safety, and mentorship availability.

Our goal is to assemble a team that:

- Represents a mix of skills, experiences, schools, and backgrounds
- Aligns with our mission of inclusion, curiosity, and community growth
- Enables us to mentor, support, and challenge every student meaningfully

Who Can Apply?

The application process is open to all high school students across Central Vermont, regardless of school affiliation or prior robotics experience. We welcome students of all identities, backgrounds, and lived experiences.

How to Apply:

New students will be asked to complete our online application, which includes short written questions about interests, goals, and availability. We recommend taking time to answer thoughtfully—there are no right or wrong answers.

Selection Process:

A group of team mentors will review all applications using a holistic approach. We look at passion, potential, and team fit—not just technical skills. The goal is to form a team that works well together and can support the demands of a full FRC season while growing as individuals and as a collective.

Students not initially selected will be encouraged to stay connected through off-season events, volunteer roles, or mentorship opportunities with our younger teams.

4. Organizational Structure – Adult

● Lead Coaches

FIRST requires two Lead Coaches per team. These individuals are responsible for ensuring

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compliance with all FIRST policies and guidelines. They serve as the team's official contacts with FIRST and are responsible for managing team registration and event logistics. Beyond administration, Lead Coaches are also mentors who provide consistent guidance, help shape team culture, and support students throughout the season.

• Mentors

Mentors are the backbone of the team's educational and technical success. They work side-by-side with students to develop skills in engineering, programming, strategy, outreach, and leadership. While technical expertise is valuable, the most effective mentors focus on student development through collaboration and coaching. Mentors often specialize in one or more subteams and help facilitate communication and alignment across the full team.

We follow a student-empowering mentorship progression model:

I do – you watch → I do – you help → You do – I help → You do – I watch → You do – I watch out 😊 In year one, most teams operate in the **“We do – We help”** phase.

Mentors may support outreach or event activities, but participation in these is optional unless they opt in. These efforts should be student-led with adult guidance as needed.

• Team Administrator

The Team Administrator supports the team's behind-the-scenes logistics. Responsibilities include managing forms and permissions, helping coordinate food, travel, and accommodations, assisting with budget tracking and sponsor communications, and other key organizational tasks. This role is often filled by a parent or community volunteer and ideally functions outside of meeting hours.

• Outreach Volunteers

Outreach activities should be student-driven, with parents and adult volunteers assisting with coordination, transportation, and supervision. These volunteers help ensure events run smoothly and safely while maintaining a supportive environment.

• Event Volunteers

Our events rely on both full team participation and a wider network of community support. Key events may include:

- **FIRST in Central Vermont Day** – A regional showcase where K–12 teams present their programs to the public.
- **FLL or FTC Scrimmages** – Practice events hosting 6–8 teams for friendly matches and collaboration.
- **FLL Qualifier Tournament** – A competitive event with up to 12 teams vying to advance to the state championship.

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These events depend on enthusiastic student involvement and robust support from parent volunteers and the broader FIRST community.

5. Student Subteams

All students on the team are members of one or more subteams, which provide hands-on learning opportunities in technical and non-technical areas. Subteams are designed to foster growth, skill development, and leadership. Students are encouraged to take on increasing responsibility over time and may emerge as subteam leads or project coordinators.

Subteams

- **Design**

The Design subteam translates ideas and prototypes into a cohesive robot plan. Using CAD software or hand-drawn schematics, they create detailed designs for mechanisms, subsystems, and overall robot layout. This group works closely with Mechanical and Electrical to ensure that everything fits and functions as intended. Design members often get early exposure to advanced tools like Onshape or Fusion 360 and may also support 3D printing and CAM processes.

- **Mechanical**

Mechanical team members build the robot. They take designs and bring them to life through cutting, drilling, assembly, and testing. Early in the season, they focus on prototyping different ideas. During fabrication, they work with tools and machinery to construct the competition-ready robot. They also perform repairs and upgrades during competitions and practices.

- **Electrical**

This team ensures power and control systems are reliable and safe. Electrical members wire the robot, organize the control board, mount sensors and actuators, and troubleshoot any electrical issues. They learn to interpret schematics, work with various connectors and crimp tools, and support integration with the software team.

- **Programming**

The Programming subteam makes the robot move and think. They develop control systems for both driver-operated and autonomous modes. Using languages like Java or Python (depending on the platform), programmers work closely with electrical and design subteams to integrate software with hardware. They also manage vision processing, motion profiling, and feedback loops.

- **Drive Team**

Composed entirely of students, the Drive Team includes the robot's Driver, Operator, Human Player, and Drive Coach. These students are selected through a tryout process and must demonstrate strong communication, situational awareness, and teamwork. They practice

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extensively before competitions and coordinate with the Scouting and Strategy teams to plan each match.

• Scouting Team

The Scouting Team collects and analyzes data about other robots and teams at events. Their observations directly inform strategy and alliance selection. They also serve as our team's representatives when engaging with alliance partners, helping to formulate match strategies and ensure smooth collaboration on the field.

• Outreach

Outreach is a whole-team effort. All students are expected to participate in events that promote STEM and FIRST values in the wider community. This includes mentoring FLL or FTC teams, presenting at STEM showcases like Tech Jam, supporting local initiatives, and volunteering at FIRST-hosted events. Outreach builds confidence, communication skills, and community impact.

6. Expectations

The Outlaws, Robotics Team 1091, is a student-centered, mentor-supported team that upholds high expectations to ensure a safe, inclusive, and productive learning environment. These expectations apply to all team members—students, mentors, and volunteers—and are designed to help us function effectively as a team while building a culture of mutual respect, accountability, and enthusiasm.

Behavior & Participation

- Respect is our foundation. Team members are expected to treat others with kindness, listen actively, and contribute constructively.
- Participation means showing up, engaging in activities, and working collaboratively. Every role matters—on the robot or off.
- Disruptive behavior, harassment, or actions that compromise safety or inclusion will not be tolerated.

Grading, Attendance, and School-First Policy

- Your education comes first. Students must maintain academic excellence while on the team.
- We support a "school-first" policy: communicate any scheduling conflicts with a coach or mentor early and often.
- Attendance is critical to your success and the team's performance. Regular and active participation is expected, especially during build and competition seasons.

Basecamp and Communication Norms

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- **Basecamp** is our official team communication platform. Team members are expected to check Basecamp regularly and respond in an appropriate time frame.
- Use professional, respectful language in all messages. If you have questions or concerns, reach out directly to a mentor or post in the appropriate channel.
- Avoid side-channel communications for team decisions—transparency and clarity help everyone.

Safety Rules and Workspace Procedures

- Safety glasses, closed-toe shoes, and long pants are required in the shop area and pit at all times.
- Only use tools or machines after receiving training and mentor approval.
- No food or drink near electronics, machines, or build tables.
- Clean up your work area before leaving: "leave it better than you found it" is our standard.
- Report all injuries or unsafe conditions to a mentor immediately.

All team members will receive a full safety orientation. Students who disregard safety procedures may be temporarily removed from the workspace or have tool access restricted.

Student-Parent Agreements

All students and their parents/guardians are required to review and sign team agreements before participating in team activities. These agreements ensure mutual understanding between families, students, and mentors, creating a strong foundation of trust, clarity, and collaboration.

These expectations help us build a strong, resilient team culture where every member can thrive, contribute, and grow.

7. Team Time Commitments

The Outlaws operate almost within the school year, with varying levels of activity depending on the time of year. We recognize that our students, families, and mentors all have other obligations, and we strive to create a flexible environment that still encourages accountability and growth.

We ask each member of the team to commit their time thoughtfully and in accordance with the season, while keeping family and school first.

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Year-Round Overview

Season	Months	Weekly Time Estimate	Focus Areas
Preseason	Sept–Dec	3-6 hours	Training, recruitment, outreach, skill-building
Build Season	Jan–Mid Feb	20+ hours	Robot design, fabrication, programming (trying to be as flexible as possible)
Competition Season	Mid Feb–April	20–48 hours + w/travel	Practice, iteration, competition travel (2 to 3 weekend long events)
Offseason	May–Aug	Flexible (avg 2–4 hrs a month)	Outreach events, mentoring FLL/FTC teams, skill development

Student Commitments

Students are expected to:

- **Plan for Increased Hours During Build & Competition Season**
Attendance is particularly important in January–March. These months are when we design, build, and test our competition robot. Certain role / sub team may be busier than others during the build season
- **Meet Weekly Expectations**
During the build season, students should aim to attend at least 2–3 meetings per week unless arrangements are made in advance.
- **Make Up Time Through Subteam Work**
If students miss meetings, they are expected to follow up with subteam leads and contribute outside of scheduled times (e.g., CAD work, coding, grant writing, or project follow-ups at home).

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Family Commitments

Families can support the time commitment by:

- **Helping With Transportation** - Especially during peak season or travel events, timely drop-off and pick-up are greatly appreciated.
- **Supporting Healthy Time Management** - Encourage students to balance robotics with rest, family time, and academics. Alert coaches if time conflicts arise—we'll help students find ways to stay involved.
- **Getting Involved in Team Activities** - Parents and guardians are encouraged to participate in the life of the team—whether by helping with meals, volunteering at events, coordinating carpools, supporting fundraising efforts, or sharing skills and mentorship. Your involvement strengthens our community and shows students that STEM is a team effort, supported at every level.

8. Conduct & Discipline

The Outlaws is more than a team—we are a learning community grounded in respect, equity, and collaboration. To maintain a safe and welcoming environment, all students, mentors, and families are expected to follow this Code of Conduct. We recognize that people make mistakes, and we're committed to growth and accountability over punishment.

Code of Conduct

At Meetings and Team Events:

- Treat teammates, mentors, visitors, and volunteers with respect.
- Use inclusive language and behavior at all times.
- Follow safety rules and mentor instructions promptly.
- Stay engaged and avoid disruptive behavior.
- Keep personal devices usage to a minimum unless being used for team tasks.
- Contribute to workspace clean-up and team responsibilities.

Online and on Basecamp:

- Keep communication clear, respectful, and appropriate.
- No bullying, harassment, or exclusionary behavior.
- Keep team conversations in public channels when possible.
- Never use direct messages between one student and one adult; always include a second mentor or student.

At Competitions and Public Events:

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- Represent the team with professionalism and integrity.
 - Use Gracious Professionalism and sportsmanship, even when under stress.
 - Adhere to dress codes, curfews, and mentor instructions during travel.
 - Avoid public displays of affection, inappropriate language, or unsportsmanlike conduct.
-

Progressive Discipline Policy

We believe in second chances and learning from mistakes. Most issues will be addressed with compassion and clarity, but we must also keep our workspace and community safe and productive.

Tier 1 – Reminders & Support

- Gentle redirection or check-in from a mentor.
- Clear explanation of what needs to change and why.

Tier 2 – Formal Warning

- One-on-one conversation with a coach or lead mentor.
- Mentor contacts parent/guardian if needed.
- Expectations and consequences clearly outlined.

Tier 3 – Temporary Suspension

- Students are asked to take a break from one or more meetings or events.
- Action plan created before return, with parent/guardian involvement.

Tier 4 – Dismissal from Team

- If behavior poses a safety risk or repeated violations occur, the student may be removed from the team.
- Decision made by coaching team with input from mentors and family.

Immediate Action

The team reserves the right to immediately remove a student or adult from a meeting or event for behavior that is unsafe, abusive, or seriously disruptive.

Conflict Resolution Guide

Disagreements and misunderstandings happen—it's how we handle them that defines our team culture.

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- **Step 1: Talk it out**
If you're comfortable, calmly bring up the issue with the other person. Focus on how you feel and what you need to move forward.
- **Step 2: Ask for help**
If the issue continues or feels too big, bring it to a mentor, coach, or trusted teammate. We're here to listen and support.
- **Step 3: Mediation**
A mentor may help facilitate a conversation between parties. We aim for understanding, not blame.
- **Step 4: Reset and Grow**
Everyone makes mistakes. We believe in restoring trust and moving forward as a team.

9. Travel Policy

Competitions are an exciting and rewarding part of the FRC experience. They also require focus, responsibility, and maturity from every traveler. When we travel, we represent not just our team, but our sponsors, partners, and the broader FIRST community.

Travel Team Selection Process & Criteria

Selection for the travel team is based on:

- **Consistent Participation** – Students who regularly attend meetings and contribute meaningfully are prioritized.
- **Subteam Contributions** – Team members who have specialized roles (e.g., pit crew, drive team, scouting, outreach) may be essential to bring.
- **Readiness and Responsibility** – Maturity, professionalism, and readiness to represent the team.
- **Academic Standing** – Students must be in good academic standing and cleared by their school for extracurricular activities.

Students who are not selected for the official travel roster may still attend with a parent or guardian, and may participate in team activities on-site as long as expectations are followed.

Conduct During Travel

- **Be Respectful and Responsible** – Follow instructions from mentors, chaperones, and event staff at all times.
- **Buddy System** – Students should not be alone in unfamiliar spaces. Always travel in groups of at least two students.
- **Curfew and Quiet Hours** – Set nightly by the lead coach; students are expected to follow curfew and remain in their assigned hotel rooms.

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- **No Drugs, Alcohol, or Tobacco** – Zero tolerance. Violation will result in immediate removal from the event and potential dismissal from the team.
- **Community-First Mindset** – Students are expected to support each other, be flexible with scheduling, and help with packing, loading, and event logistics.

Dress Code and Required Team Apparel:

- The Outlaws team shirt(s)
- Long pants (jeans or khakis)
- Closed-toe shoes
- Optional: team hoodie or jacket

10. Competitions

FIRST Robotics Competitions are high-energy events where teams demonstrate not only the performance of their robots, but the strength of their teamwork, preparation, and values.

Role Descriptions

Drive Team – The group of students responsible for controlling the robot during matches. Typically includes; **Driver** – Operates the drivetrain, **Operator** – Manages manipulators (arms, shooters, etc.), **Human Player** – Handles field interactions, **Drive Coach** – Mentor or Student who helps strategize and manage match flow

Pit Crew – Technically skilled students who maintain and repair the robot between matches. They also interface with judges and other teams in the pit.

Scouting Team – Observes and records performance data from other teams to inform strategy and alliance selections. Critical during playoffs.

Impact/Outreach Team – Presents the team's outreach work to judges and supports awards submissions. May also participate in team ambassador roles at the event.

Media Team – Captures video, photos, and manages the team's social media presence. Documents the event for sponsors and future promotion.

Match Day Etiquette & Expectations

- **Be On Time** – Know the schedule and where you need to be at all times.
- **Help One Another** – Support your teammates; load in/out, assist in the stands, etc.
- **Respect the Event Space** – Keep our pit and seating clean and presentable.
- **Cheer for Everyone** – Celebrate strong play and great ideas—even from other teams.
- **Be Prepared** – Scout, review match strategy, and check equipment before each match.
- **Show Gratitude** – Thank volunteers, alliance partners, and judges with sincerity.

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11. Outreach & Fundraising

As a community-based team, outreach and fundraising aren't side projects—they're core to who we are. The Outlaws, Robotics Team 10910, exists not just to build a robot, but to ignite curiosity, opportunity, and lifelong interest in STEM across Central Vermont.

All students are expected to contribute meaningfully to this mission each year. As part of that, each student is responsible for developing proposals for outreach opportunities. These should include a clear **goal**, a simple **execution plan**, and how the idea helps bring **awareness to FIRST** or **supports local STEM opportunities**.

Outreach Goals:

- **Build Regional Awareness** of STEM education and FIRST programs
- **Foster Inclusion** in STEM by engaging youth of all identities, backgrounds, and lived experiences
- **Mentor & Support** FIRST LEGO League (FLL), FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC), and rookie FRC teams in Central Vermont
- **Connect With Our Community** by participating in public-facing events, school partnerships, and hands-on demos

Event Hosting & Participation

The Outlaws hosts and supports a variety of public events to grow awareness and accessibility of robotics in our region. Student involvement in planning, running, and representing the team at these events is expected.

Examples of Events:

- **FIRST Day in Central Vermont** – Annual kickoff event with FTC field reveal, hands-on activities, and community speakers
- **School Visits & STEM Nights** – In-classroom demos, science fairs, and tabling at local school events
- **Scrimmages** – Practice competitions hosted for FTC or FRC teams in the area
- **Greenway Open House** – Interactive engineering showcase with Greenway Institute
- **Maker Fairs / Tech Jams** – Public demonstrations of our robot and student-designed activities

Student-Led Outreach Proposals

Each student must submit at least one outreach idea annually. Proposals should include:

- A **title** and brief description

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- The **goal** (e.g., raise awareness, inspire younger students, support a new team)
- An **execution plan** (what, where, when, and how)
- Any materials or assistance needed
- How it aligns with our outreach goals

These can be individual projects or group-led and will be reviewed by the Outreach Leads and Coach.

Fundraising Responsibilities & Sponsorships

Our team is primarily funded through grants, community sponsorships, and active fundraising. Every student plays a role in ensuring our team has the resources it needs to thrive. To really keep this program sustainable and thriving we need student involvement in the Fundraising process.

Student Fundraising Responsibilities:

- Participate in major team fundraisers (telethons, letters to donors, community events)
- Help identify potential sponsors (family, local businesses, employer contacts)
- Write thank-you notes to sponsors and supporters
- Maintain team equipment, branding, and presence to reflect our professionalism

Sponsorship Goals:

- Build relationships with local businesses and organizations that share our values
- Recognize sponsors through banners, shirts, website, and outreach materials
- Maintain a sponsor list with contact information, donation history, and follow-up actions

12. Media, Branding & Social Media

Our team's identity—what we say, how we look, and what we share—reflects our values and impacts how others see both our team and the broader FIRST community. Every member has a role to play in protecting and amplifying the The Outlaws brand. Everyone should familiarize yourself with our "The Outlaws - Identity & Marketing" documentation.

Guidelines for Use:

- Only use official logos and mascots provided by the team's branding or media lead.
- Do not alter colors, fonts, or proportions unless explicitly approved.
- Any team apparel, posters, or public-facing materials must be approved by a mentor before distribution.

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- The Outlaws' Logo can be used to enhance team spirit—but must be portrayed in a respectful, positive, and inclusive light.

We welcome new ideas for The Outlaws' Logo-themed content (costumes, stickers, memes, mascots at events) as long as they are inclusive and appropriate for all ages.

Social Media Policy

Our social media presence is a powerful way to tell our story, connect with sponsors, and inspire others. We expect all team members to uphold our values of inclusion, positivity, and professionalism when representing the team online.

Team Accounts:

- Posts to team Instagram, Facebook, or other platforms will be managed by the Media Lead and a mentor.
- All official posts must be reviewed by a mentor before publication.
- Only authorized students may have access to post on behalf of the team.

Personal Accounts:

- Team members may post about their experiences, but must avoid:
 - Sharing unapproved images of other students without consent
 - Criticizing other teams, volunteers, or event officials
 - Using inappropriate language, memes, or hashtags connected to the team
- Always ask: "Would I want this shared at a sponsor meeting or on our website?"

Media Release and Usage

To celebrate our work and share it with the community, we take many photos and videos at meetings, events, and competitions.

All students and guardians must sign the team's media release form annually.

By signing the form, you grant permission for the team to use your image, name, or recorded voice in; Social media posts, Team marketing materials, Outreach and sponsor videos, Public press releases, and FIRST-related publications and event livestreams

If you or your family have concerns or wish to limit how your image is used, please speak with the coach or media lead. We will work with you to ensure your wishes are respected.

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13. Parents & Community Involvement

The Outlaws thrive on the dedication, encouragement, and wisdom of not just our students and mentors—but our families and community partners, too. Parents, guardians, and volunteers are vital members of our team, and we encourage involvement at every level.

Why Family Engagement Matters

FIRST is not just for students—it's for communities. When families are involved, students feel more supported, our team functions more smoothly, and we build stronger, more sustainable connections across Central Vermont.

We understand that every family's availability is different. Whether you have five minutes a week or time to take on a leadership role, there's a place for you in our team family.

Ways to Get Involved

Support Student Participation:

- Ensure your student arrives on time and is picked up promptly from meetings and events.
- Encourage your student to balance school, family, and robotics in a healthy, sustainable way.
- Stay informed through Basecamp, team newsletters, and parent meetings.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Help with team meals, snacks, or event hospitality
- Assist with travel logistics (carpools, chaperoning, hotel coordination)
- Join fundraising and sponsor outreach efforts
- Support build space safety, setup, and maintenance
- Help plan team celebrations or off-season events
- Share your skills—marketing, mechanics, business, hospitality, or project management!

Special Events & Demos:

- Join us at community events, STEM nights, and local showcases
- Help staff tables, set up equipment, or talk with guests about the value of FIRST
- Help us document and promote these events through photos, video, or social media sharing

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Consider Becoming a Mentor:

Parents with STEM, business, or creative experience are welcome to apply to become team mentors. Mentors undergo a background check and orientation and commit to supporting the team in a collaborative, student-centered way.

Team Communication

We communicate primarily through:

- **Basecamp** (Team-wide chat app, used for announcements and logistics)
- **Email / Private Facebook Group** (Parent updates and permission forms)
- **Google Calendar** (Team schedule and events)
- **Parent Meetings** (Held periodically for major event planning and updates)

If you're not receiving updates or need help accessing any of these tools, please reach out to a mentor or student lead.

Core Expectations for Families

- Support our mission of inclusion, equity, and respectful collaboration
 - Trust team mentors and student leaders to make informed decisions
 - Communicate concerns directly and constructively with the coaching team
 - Cheer enthusiastically at competitions—bring the energy!
 - Celebrate growth, effort, and community impact over trophies
-

Family Cost and other Expenses

To ensure a successful season for all students, we ask each family to contribute a suggested donation of \$600. These funds help cover robot parts, tools, team t-shirts, and travel expenses.. If you're unable to contribute the full amount, we welcome any donation you're comfortable with—every bit helps!

During the core Build Season, we may ask parents to take turns furnishing meals for the team.

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The Outlaws, Team 10910, Student Agreement

As a member of The Outlaws, Robotics Team 10910:

- I will strive to be inclusive, kind, and respectful to teammates, mentors, and our broader community.
- I will maintain a balance between my responsibilities to my family, my education, and the team.
- I understand that attendance, communication, and consistent participation are key to my growth and the team's success.
- I will check team communication platforms (like **Basecamp**) regularly and respond when needed.
- I understand that decisions around team travel, leadership, and competition roles are based on merit, reliability, and team need.
- I understand that safety, professionalism, and Gracious Professionalism® are expectations at all times.
- I will communicate challenges or conflicts with team leadership early and respectfully.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

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The Outlaws, Team 10910, Parent/Guardian Agreement

As a parent or guardian of an Outlaws team member:

- I have read and understood the team expectations, safety policies, and code of conduct.
- I understand that the team is an inclusive community and will support its mission to welcome students of all identities, backgrounds, and lived experiences.
- I understand that family commitments and schoolwork take priority, and I will help my student maintain a healthy balance.
- I will support my student's participation by staying informed via Basecamp and parent communications.
- I understand that team participation includes student commitment, and that selection for travel and leadership roles is based on a combination of participation, readiness, and team need.
- I will help foster a positive and respectful environment by communicating constructively with team mentors and leadership.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____