



# WALLED LAKE ROBOTICS

2026 FIRST Season

## WHAT IS WALLED LAKE ROBOTICS?

Robotics is a student-led varsity sport in which high school students from all three Walled Lake Schools, guided by experienced mentors, collaborate to build robots that can compete in a season-specific game. We have two different award winning teams: Team 308 Monsters and Team 7178 Yeti. Students get a chance to choose and jump between between 6 subteams, detailed below:

- **Game Strategy**

The Game Strategy subteam uses knowledge of the bot's features to create the optimal gameplay tactics. This subteam will also work closely with the teams we are allied with to brainstorm how to attain the most points in a specific round.

- **Mechanical**

The Mechanical subteam works to design, prototype, troubleshoot, and build the majority of the physical components of the robot. They work closely with all of the other subteams in order to find the optimal and most efficient construction of the robot.

- **Electrical**

The Electrical subteam is responsible for wiring motors, controllers and sensors; configuring power distribution systems; troubleshooting electrical issues; and collaborating closely with the mechanical and programming teams to integrate all components into a functional robot.

- **Programming**

The Programming subteam uses coding languages (mainly Java and sometimes Python) in order to connect the mechanical elements of the robot with the electrical components.

- **CAD ( Computer-Aided Design )**

The CAD subteam is active for most of the season, digitally designing parts and structures of our robot in order to test out different configurations. Students in the CAD subteam will spend their time on programs such as Autodesk and SOLIDWORKS to design components.

- **Marketing & Media**

Although much of robotics is about construction, program, and mechanics, there is also a lot of public speaking, writing, and presentation involved, best exemplified by our Marketing team. This subteam manages social media, promotes the program and teams, and writes and presents essays for prestigious awards such as the FIRST Impact award.

This season, we are requiring students to apply to and declare both a PRIMARY and a SECONDARY subteam. They will be expected to move between those teams regularly as needed. We also plan to offer classes during sessions for students who are not immediately necessary to the build efforts and who want to learn more about either their subteam subjects or something new entirely. These classes will be announced once organized.

In addition, all members must participate on one of the following subteams in some way:

- **Scouting**

The Scouting team is an essential subteam during competitions. Scouters collect and organize data from every team attending the event regarding their robot, collaboration styles, and capabilities. This data is crucial in choosing alliance partners for the finals and can often determine our success in the competition.

- **Sponsorships & Fundraising**

The Sponsorships & Fundraising subteam works to attain sponsorships and funding from different businesses through letter/email writing, presentations, or fundraisers.

- **Outreach & Community Involvement**

Students in this subteam work to connect our teams with our surrounding community and work to enhance our team's impact on our world. Additionally, this subteam also works with our younger robotics students (FTC and FLL) in Walled Lake.

## **WHEN?**

Our team meets every **Tuesday and Thursday from 6-8:30 pm** and **every Saturday from 9 am-3 pm** for regular sessions. As we approach the competition times, however, additional days and hours may be necessary.

Although the coaches work to accommodate students' schedules, participants should plan for Robotics to be a reasonable commitment. Students will be expected to attend meetings regularly. Any absences need to be reported in advance to Coach Cronk directly through WhatsApp. Attendance will be recorded at every session, and frequency of participation may influence decisions made during the season and for future seasons.

Competition #1: Milford High School, March 12-14, 2026

Competition #2: Saline High School, March 27-29, 2026

*State Championship: Saginaw Valley State University, April 16-18, 2026*

*World Championship: Houston, TX, April 29-May 2, 2026*

## **COST:**

The FIRST season is quite costly, and registration fees went up by \$1000 per team this year. As a result, we have had to raise our participation fees somewhat. This season, the main fee is \$275. If you need a new team work shirt (or are a new member), there is an additional \$25 fee for the shirt.

We understand this may present a challenge for some families, especially for those with more than one family member on the team. As a result, we are making the final day for all fees to be paid February 28, 2026 (a Saturday). You may turn in partial fees up to that point, but the full amount is due by that day. Checks should be made out to **Walled Lake Robotics, Inc.** (please note the change from previous seasons!) and the team member's full name should be on the memo line.

In addition, we would welcome any family that is willing to help cover part or all of other members' fees to contact Coach Marisa Cronk either over WhatsApp (directly) or at [marisacronk@wlcsd.org](mailto:marisacronk@wlcsd.org). Likewise, if you are in need of financial assistance, please reach out the same way so that we can help you.

### **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT REQUIREMENTS:**

This season we are also adding parental involvement requirements. Each team member's family will be expected to volunteer for a minimum of two hours over the course of the season. This does not include simply attending competitions. There are a variety of roles that can be chosen, including but not limited to

- Providing lunches for Saturday sessions, including set-up
- Leading classes during sessions in your area of expertise linked to Robotics (see subteams for ideas, or contact Coach Cronk to discuss possibilities)
- Hauling the competition trailer to and from competitions
- Collecting and returning bottles and cans for our permanent fundraiser
- Running other fundraisers (Have ideas? Please contact Coach Cronk!)
- Helping sew/construct/cut vinyl for robot competition bumpers

If time is an issue, you can also provide necessary build materials or donate money directly to the team to substitute for the hours, at a rate of \$75 per hour; OR if you have a friend or family member who is willing and able to substitute for your time, that can be arranged. You may mix and match as necessary. Please contact Coach Cronk with questions.

### **NEED MORE INFORMATION?**

- Email [marisacronk@wlcsd.org](mailto:marisacronk@wlcsd.org)
- Visit [www.walledlakerobotics.com](http://www.walledlakerobotics.com)
- Follow us on instagram [@308\\_monsters](#) and [@yeti\\_robots\\_7178](#)

### **CONTACT COACH MARISA CRONK FOR REGISTRATION LINK!**