Planetary Drive Robotics

FIRST Robotics Team #2856

Sponsorship Information Packet

FIRST

Last Updated: 6/12/25

Planetary Drive Robotics

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Introduction & About Us

Dear Prospective Sponsor,

Team Planetary Drive is hoping that you will support us in this year's FIRST Robotics competition season. FIRST Robotics is a yearly competition for high schoolers. Each year, our team works hard to design, build, and program a brand-new robot to compete against other teams across North America. We strive to improve and get better every year, and we think that your contribution will help us reach that goal.

Founded in Fayette County (Lexington, KY) in 2009, we have been competing in the FIRST Robotics competition ever since. We seek to offer all the high schoolers in our district an opportunity to develop STEM skills learned in the classroom by applying them through robotics. Through this experience, members build skills in engineering, problem solving, coding, teamworking, and more.

In 2024, our performance at competition was the best that it had been in more than a decade. This year, we seek to improve even more, and your support is critical to attain that objective. Your support and funding would allow us to purchase new and improved parts for our robots, as well as cover various costs and fees associated with the competition.

We believe that you share many of our values regarding STEM education and hope that you will consider partnering with us for this season. Your contribution would make a great impact and reflect positively on your organization. If you have any questions, or if you would like to communicate with us directly through email, or by setting up a meeting, please feel free to contact us at planetarydrive2856@gmail.com and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Team Planetary Drive Robotics | FRC #2856 | https://teamplanetarydrive.com

Fayette County, Lexington, Kentucky | Paul Laurence Dunbar & Lafayette HS

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Mission Statement

The foremost goal of the Planetary Drive FIRST Robotics Team 2856 is to offer students positions of leadership and responsibility, and to create an environment that encourages creative problem solving while promoting the unique atmosphere of competition and cooperation throughout our global and local community. The team will also furnish an opportunity to advance members' engineering and scientific skills, while allowing them to develop a fundamental understanding of leadership, cooperative spirit and gracious professionalism that defines any successful act. Planetary Drive will continue to represent the Bluegrass Region through not only being a strong, competitive presence in FIRST but through service events throughout the community.

Team Structure

Our team is divided into two sub-teams, working simultaneously during the build season (January – April) to make a top tier robot: electromechanical, and programming sub-team. Our team is led by a mentor with previous engineering and robotics experience, as well as student officers. In total, we have around 25 total amazing members from all sorts of different diverse backgrounds and cultures. We strive to create an inclusive and fun learning environment for all of our members, and we try to expand our team every single year. Any high school student in Fayette County Public Schools is welcome to join, and we have students from multiple different high schools in the area.

Photos & Past Competitions

If you are interested in checking out photos from past build seasons or at competitions, check out our website at https://teamplanetarydrive.com or our Instagram @frc_2856 (in progress).

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Benefits & Skills

Through robotics, our members develop many skills that are valuable in many different areas. We prepare our members for the future by giving them crucial experience in all of the following areas:

Computer Science:

- Java proficiency, working with libraries.
- Independent learning skills.
- Problem solving and critical thinking.
- Working as a team, GitHub.

Engineering:

- Shop experience: saws, drills, and various machineries.
- Electrical systems and wiring.
- CAD: digital designing and planning.
- Engineering creativity, problem solving, and working as a team.

Other:

- Finance, managing funds and fundraising.
- Networking and outreach.
- Managing social media.
- Leadership potential.
- Working with others.

The skills developed at robotics can often be applied in many different fields and are necessary skills to develop for a successful experience in all sorts of environments, including the future workplace.

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Team Expenses & Needs

Unfortunately, robotics is not cheap. Although we do our best to minimize unnecessary spending, each year, we spend thousands of dollars to build a new robot. Upgrading and getting newer and better parts for our robot can easily cost up to thousands, which is why we require your support throughout our build season.

Expenses vary year by year depending on the specific parameters of the competition – the following table is a breakdown of estimated expenses based on previous years.

Category	Description	Cost
Competition	Regional Competition	$6000
	State/Additional Competition	$3000
	Transportation and Lodging	$4000
Robot Build	Raw Materials	$1000
	Electronics & Standard Parts (Motors, Sensors, etc)	$1500
	Potential Upgrades	$2000
	Tools and Equipment	$1000
Other	Promotional (t-shirts, brochures, outreach, etc)	$500
	Miscellaneous	$500
Total Cost (estimate)		$15-20K

Any type of contribution, including cash, raw materials, robot parts, or anything else will be greatly appreciated!

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Sponsor Benefits

Through contributions to our robotics team, sponsors help create a lasting positive impact on the future generations of STEM students, engineers, and computer programmers. Your support gives the opportunity for many students to explore their passion and develop valuable skills through hands-on work. Supporting us not only reflects positively on your organization, but it is also a great way to increase community engagement! Furthermore, to increase brand exposure, any sponsor who donates more than $200 receives all of the following benefits:

- Logo on our team T-shirts.
- Logo on our robot.
- Logo on our website.
- Social media exposure.
- Community exposure.
- Lasting impact on our community.

Sponsors who donate more than $1000 will have a bigger logo, and more than $300 will have an even bigger one.

Mentorship

Mentors are extremely important to our team. Through their experience and knowledge, they help guide our members in the right direction. They can help with anything from fundamentals to advanced skills, and help accelerate the learning process. They provide insightful advice and help while supervising and ensuring safe practices throughout the construction of the robot. Mentors can help with both the programming, designing, and building aspects. Usually, mentors have experience in engineering or computer science. Our team currently does have a mentor as well as a school sponsor, but anyone in the area (Fayette County, Lexington) willing to help out is welcome. Please feel free to reach out regarding membership by emailing us at planetarydrive2856@gmail.com.

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Sponsorship Form

Help us reach our fundraising goals! Please contact us for more specific information

planetarydrive2856@gmail.com

Checks should be made payable to: “Paul Laurence Dunbar HS”

Company/Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Contact: _____

Email Contact: _____

Type of Contribution: Check – Cash – Tools – Supplies – Other: _____

Amount of Donation: _____

Material Donation (if applicable): _____

Please mail your contributions to:

April Gonzalez (Team Sponsor)

C/O Paul Laurence Dunbar High School

1600 Man ‘O War Boulevard

Lexington, KY, 40513

In the memo line, please put: FRC 2856 Planetary Drive Robotics

Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Your generosity is truly appreciated – we will put your contribution to good use!