

Shrewsbury Robotics Team 467 Student Handbook 2026 Season

This handbook is for students participating in the Shrewsbury Robotics team and their parents to lay out expectations and give an idea of what is to come in the next year.

Season Schedule

Our robotics team meets throughout the course of the entire school year, starting with our first meeting in September and going through to our end of year Shindig in June. It is expected that students will be an actively involved part of the team for the entire year.

Our year is broken up into 4 main sections, pre-season, build season, competition season, and post-season. During each of these periods our team has many different events we are involved in which students are expected to attend. While attendance at each event isn't mandatory, we expect that unless students have another prior commitment they should be attending each event. Being involved with the Shrewsbury Robotics team is a large, year round, commitment that we are asking students to make so please be aware of that going into this year.

This is our list of events for the upcoming year as of 9/3/25. Some of these dates are subject to change but this should give an idea of what our season will look like.

Pre-season

9/10 - First team meeting - meetings will occur each Monday and Wednesday from 6:30-9 PM

9/27- 9/28 - Spirit of Shrewsbury Expo and Parade

10/4 - N.E.R.D pre-season competition

10/11 & 11/9 - FLL Mock competitions

11/1 or 11/2 - Open house

11/22 - Pie Bake Fundraiser

12/5 -12/6 - FLL Mindstorm Mayhem Event

November/December - Elementary School Presentations

Build Season

1/10 - Build season kickoff

Build season hours are as follows starting on 1/10 and going through to the end of February

Monday and Wednesday from 6:30-9 PM (same as pre-season)

Friday 4-9 PM (dinner provided)

Saturday 12-9 PM (dinner provided)

Note that we do not expect students to attend all meetings during build season.

However, since this is the period in which we are busiest with building our robot,

students should be prepared to participate in at least 50% of our build hours each week.

Competition Season

March - First qualifying event (date TBD)

March - Second qualifying event (date TBD)

4/16 - 4/18 - District Championship Event (if we qualify)

4/29 - 5/2 - World Championship Event in Houston (if we qualify)

Post Season

Dates for post-season activities are still mostly up in the air, but here is the list of events we usually are involved with between April and June.

May - Trail Cleanup

May - Massachusetts State Championship Event (if we qualify)

June - Battlecry post-season event at WPI

June - End of season Shindig

Student Expectations

The following are expected of student team members to be a part of the team.

- Students must follow all policies set forth in the SHS Handbook. We are a school affiliated team meeting in a school building and students are expected to act as such.
- Students are expected to attend all pre-season meetings unless they have an excused absence that they bring to the attention of a team mentor before the meeting.
 - Missing more than 25% of meetings due to unexcused absences will result in removal from the team.
- Students must complete all necessary paperwork by 9/24 in order to become a part of the team for this year. This includes
 - Signing up to be a part of the team on the FIRST website
 - Filling out and returning the Slack Authorization form
 - Returning a signed copy of this handbook
 - Paying the team membership fee of 40\$ (if this is an issue please reach out to our lead mentor Joe Fitzpatrick at joe@shrewsburyrobotics.org or via Slack)
- Commitment to the team - this is a year round commitment that will take up a lot of your time, much like a sports team.
- Be attentive and ready to work at team meetings - all schoolwork should be done outside of robotics hours.
- Regularly check Slack for team updates
 - Slack is our primary tool of communication, if you do not check it regularly you will miss important information.
 - A Slack invitation will be sent to the school email you provide when you sign up.
- Be involved in team outreach
 - All students must be involved in at least 1 outreach committee

- All students are expected to attend full team outreach events, including but not limited to Mindstorm Mayhem and Pie Bake.
- We request students to sell 5 pies during our Pie Bake fundraiser, however selling pies is not strictly required to be able to participate in the team. With that being said, our team does rely on the money from these pies to run so any pies sold are greatly appreciated.
- Participate in at least 3 meal clean ups during build season.
- Keep up with schoolwork - any student whose grades fall into bad standing with the school will be asked to refrain from team activities until the situation is fixed.
- Wear appropriate clothing whenever coming to the robotics shop. We work with a lot of powerful machines and as such require students to wear closed toe shoes, have long hair tied back or in a hat, and wear their safety glasses when working at robotics.

Parent/Guardian Expectations

We ask parents/guardians of team members to also be aware of the commitment involved in this team and be ready to assist their child in the following ways.

- Getting students to and from meetings on time. If the meeting ends at 9, we ask that you arrive at 9 to pick up your student since our mentors wait in the school until the last student is picked up.
- Filling out the Parent/Guardian sections of the necessary paperwork by 9/24. This includes
 - Signing this handbook
 - Signing the Slack Authorization form
 - Signing up as a parent/guardian on the FIRST website and filling out the consent and release form
- Signing up to be on the parent channel on Slack. We don't use email or any other form of communication with team members or family - Slack is our 1 source of communication. An email will be sent to the email address provided when your child applied for the team.
- Contributing to at least 1 team meal during build season (if this is an issue for your family, please reach out to Carol McInally at carol@shrewsburyrobotics.org or via Slack).

I verify that I have read and agree to the above team policies

Student name: _____

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____