Robotics Information 2017-2018

I am excited about the upcoming Robotics competition year. Our program is growing more each year, and this year we are going to have many opportunities to compete in a variety of venues. For us to be more competitive this year, as well as just being able to get off to a good start, I am providing the opportunity to get started during the summer. We will be offering a beginners camp for anyone new to robotics or wants a chance to learn more, or just to have fun. The camp is not mandatory, but recommended. We will be learning about the components and fundamentals of building their first robot. We will learn about sensors and coding, so that we can make more efficient robots from the start. We will also cover basic engineering design and do at least one engineering challenge to improve communication, teamwork and problem solving skills. The dates for the camp will be June 12th – 15th from 9 – noon. I am very much looking forward to what we can accomplish this year. Scholarships will be available if there is a financial need.

The venues we will participate in this year will be:

**BEST Robotics** <http://www.cowtownbest.org/>

Tentative dates will be September 9th for start date in Ft. worth, Mall day will be the 14th of October and the Competition day will be the 20th and 21st. We will leave during the school day and stay overnight. This competition will only be for those able to participate on those dates. In the past, band has caused a conflict. We might have to travel will two separate groups for this one, with the second group leaving early Saturday morning.

**VEX Robotics** <https://www.vexrobotics.com/competition>

 This is our main competition venue; we are wanting to compete in one or two outside events as well as host an event here. In order to accomplish this, we will be doing some fundraising to cover expenses and entry fees. The more we are able to raise the more competitions we can participate in. Also, with the added interest in robotics we will be adding more teams; therefore we will need more equipment. We will look at possible dates for competitions in the fall.

**Skills USA** <http://www.skillsusatx.org/mobile-robotics-technology/>

This competition takes place in February for district competition. This venue is new for us this year. I will have to find out more information. I do know the competition will be similar to the VEX competition and will utilize two man teams. I don’t know how many teams can compete.

**Robotics Booster Club**

I am wanting more parental involvement, so we are starting a Robotics booster club so that I can have parent input as well as help with fundraising. This will help us be able to purchase tools and equipment, as well as cover more travel expenses, and more event participation. If you are interested in being part of our booster club please email Joanne Hawkins jhawkins@ipcisd.net so that you can start receiving information about meetings and events.