

SPAM ROBOTICS



TEAM 180

2011-2012
Team Handbook
www.spamrobotics.com



2010-12 South Carolina Regional Winners

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Welcome to the 2011-2012 FIRST Robotics season.

1. Introduction

This handbook is supplied as a primary source of information for members of the S.P.A.M. Robotics team, their supporters and families. The contents of this handbook are current as of September 1, 2011. Details may change as the year progresses – in particular, meeting schedules. For the latest schedules and updates to the handbook, check the team website <http://www.spamrobotics.com>.

2. Team History

In 1997, engineers from Pratt & Whitney Corporation decided to participate in FIRST Robotics along with students from Martin County and South Fork High Schools. Pratt & Whitney Government Products Division already sponsored a team in Palm Beach County and was looking forward to having another United Technologies team in the area.

The first year we decided on our team name, colors and our first logo. Students wished for our team name and colors to represent each group of the team as well as stick in people's minds. The acronym S.P.A.M. was created using the name of each group: South Fork High School, Pratt & Whitney and Martin County High School. Yellow, blue and red were chosen as our team's colors. The team created a logo by combining the Pratt eagle, South Fork bulldog and Martin County tiger. In 2000, the logo was changed to the "Super SPAM" design that also included the participating school names and our primary sponsor's name.

In the 2004/2005 season, the team expanded with the participation of students from the Clark Advanced Learning Center and the newly constructed Jensen Beach High School. The "Super SPAM" logo design was retained; however the school and sponsor names were removed from the logo.

Over the past 14 years we have gained the confidence and skills we need to be able to design a robot, work together as a team and have fun learning about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Many of our students have gone on to pursue careers in engineering, computer science and mathematics because of the experience of participating in FIRST.

3. Team Partnerships

Without the support of our family of sponsors, the S.P.A.M. Robotics Team would not be able to compete in regional and championship events. Therefore, the team is grateful for the opportunity to promote and display the names of its sponsors.

The key partners that sustain this team consist of the following organizations:

Clark Advanced Learning Center

Jensen Beach High School

Martin County High School

South Fork High School

Martin County School District

Many other sponsors contribute money, manpower and materials to the team.

These sponsors can be found on our website, robot, team jerseys and team board which is displayed at competitions.

4. Team Leadership Positions

The S.P.A.M. Robotics team, also known as Team S.P.A.M., consists of students from South Fork, Martin County and Jensen Beach High Schools and Clark Advanced Learning Center. Adult team members include teachers along with engineers and parents. In addition, some students refuse to leave the team upon high school graduation and continue to volunteer their time as “tweeners” (between students and adult mentors).

This year’s Team Leadership was elected at the June 5, 2010 meeting. The positions consist of:

President	Richard Brooks
Vice President	Gautam Chandarana (G)
Treasurer	Rachelle Mulligan
Secretary	Nancy Peavler

In addition there will be an executive committee made up of teachers, engineers and parents. They will work with students to form the sub-committees that are outlined on the organizational chart in section 7.

5. Team Membership Requirements

5.1 Grades

Each student must maintain a 2.5 unweighted GPA in the current or previous nine week period (depending on travel dates) in order for that student to be eligible for team travel. Students will submit interim and nine week grade reports to verify grade status.

This grade requirement is strict, is not trivial, and is included in the student contract (see section 8). Students should put their grades before any team needs. There are no exclusions or exceptions to this requirement.

5.2 Fundraising

Fundraising is a requirement of all team members. These funds are needed to purchase the robot kit, parts and materials, competition registrations and travel expenses. In addition students will have participation fees as well as travel fees for those who attend the competitions.

5.3 Meetings

1. General Meetings – The Team leader or a designated adult will run these meetings. Parents are encouraged to attend. Topics at these meetings will be:

- a. Discuss administrative topics
- b. Finalize decisions made during student meetings
- c. Give financial updates
- d. Plan team events (fundraising, kick-off, etc)



2. Rookie classes – The rookie class team leader or a designated adult will run these classes for the new S.P.A.M. team members. These classes will be held to acquaint the new team members with the many varied aspects of Team S.P.A.M. Topics of discussion at these classes may include:

- a. Introduction to FIRST & SPAM
- b. Kickoff & Brainstorming
- c. Design & Fabrication
- d. Electrical & Controls
- e. Strategy and scouting
- f. Animation & Awards

3. Project Meetings – The projects leader will run these meetings. There will be various projects for veteran team members to participate in during the fall semester.

4. Sub-Team Meetings – These are outlined on our organizational chart in section 7.

5.4 Student Involvement

Team S.P.A.M. students have many ways to be involved with the team. The areas of opportunities for students are outlined on the organization chart in section 7. In the fall, they can participate in the team events: Mission Mayhem, Tempest in Tampa, fundraising and meetings. Starting in January (Build season) the frequency of team meetings will increase. In order to qualify to travel with the team, students are not only required to meet the grade requirements (section 5.1), but they must also meet the minimum attendance requirements at 75% of the meetings and 50% of the fundraising and community service activities.



5.5 Adult Mentor/Parent Involvement

Team S.P.A.M. adult mentors are encouraged to help out in any way they can assist the team. The efforts of these mentors must be student-focused and within the spirit of FIRST. There are many opportunities to support S.P.A.M. students such as those outlined on the organizational chart in section 7.

Adults volunteer their time to act as coaches, mentors and non-engineering mentors (www.nemo.org) by working with the students after work hours and on weekends.



6. Schedules/Forms

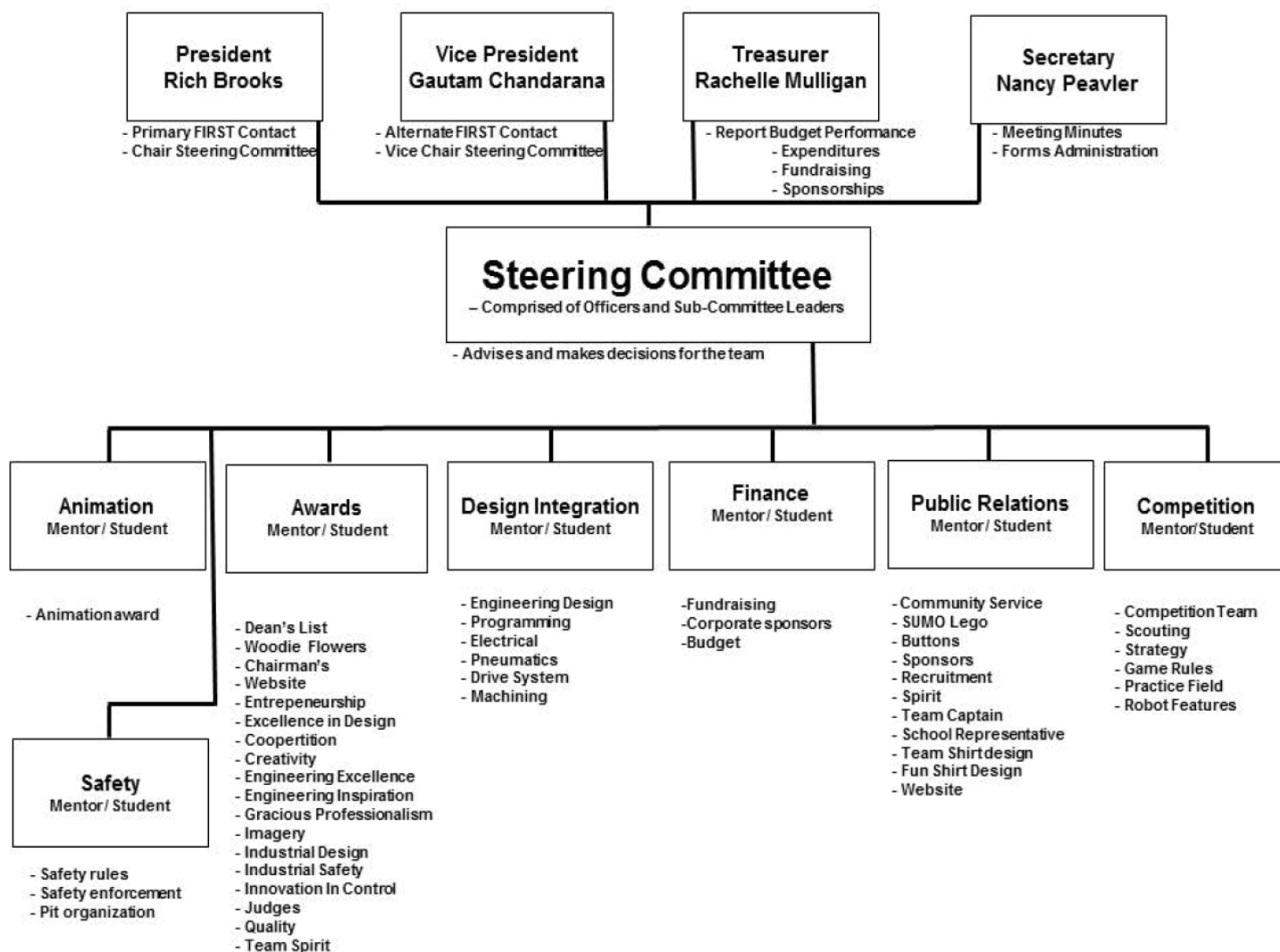
6.1 Team Schedules

Please refer to the team website (www.spamrobotics.com) for the upcoming schedule of events including meetings, classes and competitions.

6.2 Forms

All forms will be posted on the team website (www.spamrobotics.com). Students are required to go to the website, print and fill in the forms and turn the forms in prior to the deadlines associated with each form.

The student contract, which is the last page of this handbook, must be completed and turned in at your next meeting as a prerequisite to participating on the team.



2011/2012 SPAM Robotics Team Student Contract

By signing below, I acknowledge and understand these points and agree to all of the following rules and conditions:

1. I have read the 2011/2012 SPAM Robotics Team Handbook.
2. I will attend at least 75% of all team activities, workshops and meetings involved with Team SPAM. In addition, I will actively participate in at least 50% of all fundraising and community service activities. If I do not achieve the required level of participation, my status will be reviewed by team leadership and I may be dismissed from the team. I can track my progress in a personal journal which I can use to show that I am active on the team and deserve membership.
3. I am responsible for arranging my transportation to and from the SPAM Pit at South Fork High School and other meeting locations.
4. I understand that I may be absent from school during travel to the Regional and Championship competitions (locations and dates to be determined). I am responsible for all make-up work while absent and will stay focused on my schoolwork responsibilities.
5. I understand that I am responsible for my schoolwork. If my unweighted GPA is below a 2.5 during the grading period prior to a competition trip, then I will not travel to the team event. If I don't meet these grade requirements, then I can only attend the event as a spectator and only if accompanied by my parent or legal guardian. AP and IB course grades and other "skinnies" are not an exception.
6. I will pass the test covering the FIRST game rules and the 2012 SPAM Robot description.
7. I agree to safely use all tools and equipment while working on any project. I respect the severity of a possible accident and agree that I may be dismissed from the team if I don't work safely. I also agree that I will not operate any tool or item of equipment unless I have been trained to use it safely.
8. I understand that when at the Pit and at competitions **closed toe shoes** and **safety glasses** are **mandatory** for everyone. When working on any machinery, long hair must be tied back and no jewelry is allowed.
9. Also no hand-held entertainment devices such as I-pods, DS's etc. will be brought to the Pit or competition arenas.
10. I will maintain an acceptable level of productivity while at all team activities.
11. If I violate any of the above rules, I understand that I may be dismissed from the team.

Printed name of student _____

Student's signature

Parent's Signature

Date _____