

“101 Ways Parents Can Help a FIRST Team”

By NEMO

1. Organize paperwork - make a folder for each team member with appropriate forms in it - school permission slips, medical insurance/emergency info, FIRST release forms; make duplicate copies and take one set when traveling
2. Make ID badges for team members
3. Organize tailgating party for local regional event
4. Organize a team social event like a bowling night after the build season ends
5. Plan an end-of-year team banquet
6. Organize a dinner and offer to host a visiting team who is at your local regional
7. Publish a team newsletter
8. Mentor a committee – Finance, PR, Community Outreach, Website, CA, Animation, Spirit, etc. You may not need to have a background in that area; just be able to keep committee focused and meeting deadlines
9. Mentor a Hospitality Committee – celebrate birthdays, send get well and sympathy cards, pack a box of health and beauty aids for team travel
10. Maintain Game Manual and Updates
11. Provide at least one meal for the team during the build cycle.
12. Compile team “Wish List” for materials and services they would like to obtain
13. Staff a concession booth at a nearby sports complex as a fundraiser for the team
14. Solicit donations from small and large companies
15. Solicit in-kind donations. Know any companies that would donate food, safety goggles, tools, paper plates, a paint job for the robot, t-shirts, computers?
16. Write a grant proposal
17. Help with travel arrangements (bus, plane, food, activities)
18. Organize a telephone tree and e-mail list
19. Design and print team Thank You cards
20. Create team stationery
21. Write and mail thank you notes
22. Write press releases
23. Contact local TV media to cover the team
24. Coordinate community service projects
25. Organize robot demonstrations
26. Chaperon
27. Take photos/videos for publicity and for the scrapbook
28. Set up the cheering section at the regional competitions
29. Help with team spirit items such as signs
30. Make business cards for the team
31. Help with building the practice field

32. Help with the engineering, design, build of the robot
33. Help build a cart for the robot
34. Extend invitations to our VIPs to attend your competitions
35. Organize an Open House for interested students and school administrators
36. Organize an Open House for local politicians
37. Organize an Open House for potential engineers and other would-be mentors
38. Produce a PowerPoint presentation or video about FIRST and the team
39. Help us paint/lay carpet/clean your facility
40. Organize a fundraiser
41. Carpool students
42. Help design team buttons (giveaways)
43. Help design team t-shirts
44. Pack a cooler of bagged breakfast items for early morning bus trips
45. Make breakfast for the team for early Saturday mornings during build season
46. Create team jewelry
47. Organize a toolbox
48. Make luggage pom-poms in team colors for easy ID of luggage at airport
49. Type travel itinerary including details about airport security, hotel info, meal options, drop off and pick up times and distribute to all team members and parents/guardians
50. Create and laminate emergency card for team members who are traveling as well as for parents staying home – include contacts' cellphone numbers, hotel name, address and phone number
51. Create a hotel rooming list with a copy for each chaperon and each room – upon arrival at hotel, write room number next to each group, chaperon name, and distribute copies. Everyone will know who is in which room and who is their chaperon
52. Work with team safety captain to create presentation for team on safety; purchase safety glasses, earplugs, first aid kits, breakaway lanyards, etc.
53. Organize team building weekend early in season (if reserving a facility, book the previous spring)
54. Facilitate team building exercises at each meeting until build season begins
55. Help recruit new team members
56. Staff table at 8th grade orientation meeting and explain program to parents
57. Procure venue for team to view broadcast of kickoff
58. Obtain/sew team mascot costume
59. Watch for post-Halloween sales on face paints, hair dyes, etc. in team colors
60. Recruit dance instructor to teach team choreography
61. Teach team "YMCA" song and movements
62. Bake cookies. Cookies are always appreciated.
63. Help team create logo
64. Enter team data into TIMS system
65. Volunteer for a FIRST event
66. Create team budget; help with finances
67. Help team create Handbook

68. Assist with post-season self-assessment interview process
69. Be a mediator if an argument occurs between team members
70. Help team create awards they can give to other teams
71. Help team create Mission Statement
72. Organize a team Thank Your Mentor event
73. Organize a "Welcome Home!" group to meet team at airport
74. Make funny "awards" to honor graduating seniors at end of year
75. Take candid photos of team in fall and create team calendar as holiday gifts for team members
76. Make posters to hang in school advertising competitions
77. Volunteer to chaperon a team "lock-down" overnigher
78. Write team quiz and give it to team prior to competitions
79. Help scout other teams
80. Help mentor rookie teams
81. Network with other teams
82. Make presentation at area schools who do not yet have a team
83. Research activities the team can participate in at the end of the day while on trips (museums, shopping, sports or theater events, getting together with other teams)
84. Set up simulated pit area so you know what fits where, before you go to a regional competition
85. Arrange with school to present awards to team members at their end-of-year awards ceremony
86. Create awards to hand out at that ceremony
87. Buy wholesale size box of team's favorite candy and bring to competitions!
88. Take minutes of team meetings or mentor team secretary
89. Donate office supplies
90. Organize team tag sale in spring as fundraiser
91. Act as liaison with school system
92. Act as liaison with sponsors
93. Paint faces at competitions with team logo, colors, etc.
94. If team ethnicity is diverse, organize dinners featuring different ethnic foods to build understanding of cultures
95. Host VIPs who attend your competitions and explain game, impact of FIRST on your team, etc.
96. Create attractive pit area
97. Create team presentation book
98. Create robot pit sheet that can be handed out to judges and other teams
99. Host Ship Date party to celebrate crating the robot
100. Create or organize team Archive
101. Take team photo and frame copies for each member as a memento of a wonderful year!