

TO: The School Board of Brevard County, Florida
FROM: David Formanek, Lead Faculty Advisor – Viera HS
Nathan Pell, Team Leader/Mentor Coordinator
Date: Wednesday, February 22nd 2017
RE: Seeking Approval for Travel to Upcoming Out-of-State Competitions

I. BACKGROUND

The Pink Alliance is a cooperative robotics team whose members attend Rockledge High School, Cocoa Beach J/S High School, Space Coast J/S High School and Viera High School. This alliance been around for over 20 years and is comprised of three (3) teams: FRC #233, The Pink Team; FTC #6323, The PINK Team; and FTC #8996, The Pink Fluffy Bunnies. (FRC = FIRST Robotics Challenge; FTC = FIRST Tech Challenge.) Both FRC and FTC are part of the nationally recognized F.I.R.S.T. organization (**F**or **I**nspiration and **R**ecognition of **S**cience and **T**echnology), a youth robotics foundation aligned and dedicated to providing inspiration in advanced STEM/STEAM core competencies. More information can be found online at www.firstfl.org, www.firstinspires.org and www.thepinkalliance.org.

II. INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO THIS REQUEST

It is important to note that The Pink Alliance is seeking preliminary approval for out-of-state travel. Our team **MUST** qualify for these competitions before travel arrangements are finalized. Due to FIRST organization limitations this far in advance, we are unable to provide a detailed itinerary for travel to include housing information, flight and other transportation arrangements. To the best of our ability, we have provided an overview of each trip with firm dates and event locations. With that in mind, once we have confirmed our status in qualifying events and are able to book travel through FIRST, a more detailed itinerary will be provided as each event draws closer.

Our schedule includes two (2) out-of-state competitions. All events are subject to change. Any changes to transportation, travel dates and/or the location of such planned events will be communicated to all affected stakeholders with as much notice as can reasonably be provided.

Competitions will result in a loss of direct instructional time. We have done our best to build a travel schedule that minimizes this loss. To compensate, ample time will be allocated for students to focus on their studies during their time away from school. We make it very clear to our team members that they are fully responsible and accountable for all work missed.

In addition to the venues listed below, and as time permits, chaperones will accompany students on relevant sight-seeing trips to include college campus tours, and other places of historical and educational significance. Specific arrangements shall be made, with sufficient details provided, as part of our final itinerary as events draw closer.

Signed parent/guardian permission forms (requiring teacher approval) and other related documentation will be distributed for each event separately, completed by each student independently, and readily available during each planned trip.

This year, we are seeking preliminary approval for the following:

1. **FIRST Championship***, April 19 – 24, 2017 (Houston, TX)
 - a. Venue: Houston (Reliant) Astro Dome
8400 Kirby Drive
Houston, TX 77054
 - b. Transportation: Private vehicle to/from Orlando International Airport;
Air travel to/from Houston, TX;
Rental van to/from venue in Houston, TX
 - c. Hotel: FIRST approved student housing/hotel near event venue
Name TBD
Address TBD
Reservation # TBD
 - d. Brief itinerary: Students and chaperones will arrive at OIA in time for our flight to Houston on the morning of Wednesday, April 19, 2017. Competition will run six (6) days, and students will return no later than 11:59 PM on Tuesday, April 25, 2017.
 - e. Missed school days:

April 19 (full day)	April 20 (full day)	April 21 (full day)
April 24 (full day)	April 25 (full day)	

III. Team Travel and Related Costs, Expenses and Fees

We have estimated the full cost for this trip at approximately \$900 (per person), or \$30,600 total. The Pink Alliance relies on government grants, donations from sponsors, and district-approved, student-led fundraising campaigns to operate independently. As a result of these efforts, *the District will not incur any additional charges or expenses related to this planned trip.*

1. Cost per student (subsidized):
 - a. Houston, TX \$175 + 4 fundraising events + 100 hours of “sweat equity”
This fee covers event registration, hotel accommodations, food and transportation.
2. Cost per chaperone
 - a. The team will cover the full cost for each faculty advisor and volunteer mentor.
3. Cost per Parent or other guest (non-chaperone)
 - a. A+ approved parents will incur the full cost (\$900, unsubsidized) of each trip.

IV. List of Faculty and A+ Approved Chaperones

- a. Approximately 25 students and 9 chaperones will be on these trips.
- b. Chaperones include faculty advisors from each of the four participating schools and volunteer mentors.
- c. All chaperones have been verified as A+, with background checks completed and approved by The School Board of Brevard County, FL Office of District Security and Risk Management.
- d. An updated list of all chaperones has been included with this documentation, and will be maintain as necessary up to and including the day of departure.

V. Student and Chaperone Code of Conduct

- a. Students will adhere to The School Board of Brevard County, FL Student Code of Conduct at all times.
- b. Chaperones will complete form 2340—Responsibilities of Trip Chaperones.

- c. Both documents will be reviewed at a team meeting (date: TBA) with each group prior to departure.

If you have any questions, or require additional documentation, please contact:

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List of Approved Chaperones (Faculty and Volunteer Mentors)

Last Name	First Name	Type	Gender	Employer	A+ Volunteer Approved
Bradley	Andy	Mentor	M	NASA	Yes, 10/2018
Formanek	David	Advisor	M	BPS-VHS	Yes, BPS Employee
Gerhart	Christopher (Kit)	Mentor	M	Retired	Yes, 01/2019
Pell	Nathan	Mentor	M	unknown	Yes, 8/2018
Yon-Perdomo	Zulay	Advisor	F	BPS-SCHS	Yes, BPS Employee
Shinault	Leslie	Advisor	F	BPS-RHS	Yes, BPS Employee
Tsigas	Eleni	Mentor	F	SELF	Yes, 8/2021
Rudolph	Andrew	Mentor	M	unknown	Yes, 1/2018

List of Approved Chaperones (Parents)

Last Name	First Name	Type	Gender	Employer	A+ Volunteer Approved
Fleming	Tara	Parent	F	SELF	Yes, 01/2018
Gorton	Joshua	Parent	M	SELF	Yes, 09/2021
Perdomo	Manny	Parent	M	FLVS	Yes, 01/2020
Traver	Heidi	Parent	F	HOME	Yes, 10/2019
Victor	Taimys	Parent	F	NASA	Yes, 01/2020