



DARK MATTER

ROBOTICS TEAM, FTC 14374



Dear Sir or Madam,

Dark Matter is a community-based FIRST® Tech Challenge team of 8th-11th graders, based in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. Each year we collaborate with local leaders and businesses, such as yours, to build a robot designed to meet the challenges of a new competitive game created by FIRST®. Our new game challenge “Freight Frenzy” encourages FIRST® participants to think about future transportation sustainability. We are currently searching for local sponsors to support us in funding our 2021-2022 competition season.

Founded in 1989, FIRST stands for “*For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology*”, and was the brainchild of Dean Kamen, inventor of the Segway. FIRST is the world’s largest non-profit for kids robotics. FIRST programs inspire innovation and leadership through engaging, hands-on robotics challenges designed to ignite curiosity and passion in kids.

FIRST® Tech Challenge teams are challenged to design, build, program and operate robots to compete in a head-to-head challenge using an alliance format. Guided by adult coaches and mentors, students develop STEM skills and practice engineering principles, while realizing the value of hard work, innovation, and working as a team. Teams compete at multiple qualifiers in hopes to advance to their Regional Championship and then advance to the World Championship. More importantly, our Dark Matter team is more than robots. Throughout the season, our team members learn:

- Computer Programming
- Electrical Engineering
- Business Planning
- Structural Engineering
- Public Speaking
- Community Outreach & Volunteering

Dark Matter is, historically, a highly-competitive team - even through a transition of coaches and needing a permanent build location. In the 2019-20 “Skystone” season, Dark Matter received the Inspire Award - a qualification to advance to the World Championship. Unfortunately, World Championship was cancelled due to Covid-19.

For the 2020-21 FTC Ultimate Goal Season our regional held virtual events. Here is a list of our accomplishments in the 2019-20 season:

Virtual Season Qualifier:

- Inspire Award Winner -First Place
- Think Award- 3rd Place
- Top Ranked Team - First Place
- Motivate Award - 3rd Place
- Connect Award 2nd Place
- Collins Aerospace Innovate Award - 3rd Place

Virtual Louisiana Regional Championship:

- Top Ranked Team - First Place
- Think Award - 2nd Place

You can view our 2020-21 robot performances and our robot reveal video on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC180KqctUMa4IA_n_f4Na-mQ

For more on the FIRST Tech Challenge game and season visit <https://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/ftc/game-and-season>

Join us in helping FIRST inspire young people to become the next generation of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) professionals. Dark Matter is a team of The Innovation Labs **501(c)(3) non-profit organization** (ID#84-2172526). All donors may request a receipt and your donation may be tax-deductible. Please see the attached page for our Sponsorship Levels.

Our goal is to raise \$5,000 for this season to cover registration fees, game field, electronics, parts, equipment & more.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have any questions about the Dark Matter Robotics Team, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our contact information is listed below.

Graciously yours,

Dark Matter Team Representative



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2021-2022 Sponsorship Levels

Sponsors will be recognized now through our entire upcoming season which ends April 2022.

**Please Note: donations must be received before December 1, 2021 to guarantee your logo on marketable items listed below*

We recognize the hardships on small businesses due to Covid and have revised our sponsorship levels by offering multiple benefits for any sponsorship over \$100. Giving the opportunity for even small businesses to make a big difference.

Planetary Sponsor (\$0 - \$99)

- Automatic newsletter sign-up
- Name/logo on the sponsor page of the team's website

Supernova Sponsor (\$100-\$999)

- Planetary Sponsor Benefits plus...
- Your business on our team shirts* (**sponsorship must be in by December 1st*)
- Name/logo on team banners/signage (*used in our "Pit" at competitions and/or at Outreach events*)
- Your business logo featured in our videos
- Special recognition on social media (*Facebook and Instagram*)
- Special thanks & recognition included in our monthly newsletter
- Your logo on our website homepage and sponsor page

Intergalactic Sponsor (\$1000+)

- Supernova Sponsor Benefits plus...
- Your name/logo prominently featured on the robot itself
- Your name/logo positioned in a prominent location on the robot transport carrier (*used to put robot on during competition to safely transport it to and from "the pit"*)

Please contact us if your business would like a personalized presentation and robot demonstration to you & your selected guests at your business



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Team Sponsorship Form 2021-2022 Robotics Season

**Please Note: donations must be received before December 1, 2021
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Thank you for your support. Your generosity is truly appreciated. Our team is made possible thanks to generous sponsors like you. Your donation may be tax-deductible. Dark Matter is a team of The Innovation Labs 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (Tax ID # 84-2172526).

Enclosed is my/our donation of \$_____

Please make checks payable to *Dark Matter Community Team* and mail this form to:

Tracy Rauch / Dark Matter Community Team
79464 Hands Drive, Bush, LA 70431

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Check one:

Please list my/our name on promotional materials as:

Please use my business logo. (Email high-quality logo to darkmatter14374@gmail.com)

I do not want to be recognized on promotional materials.