



West Des Moines Robotics Trip

Fri 10/2/26 - Sat 10/3/26

Exhibit 807.1
Code 603.3-R2

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING
FIELDTRIPS AND EXCURSIONS – **REQUEST FORM**

A written request for overnight trips must be submitted to the building principal not less than four weeks prior to the proposed trip and prior to any travel arrangements being finalized. The request will include: objectives and purposes of the trip; the need, rationale, and justification for an overnight trip; detailed plans for student supervision on the trip; and a complete itinerary and budget of the trip. The school district will be responsible for obtaining a substitute teacher if one is needed. Following fieldtrips and excursions, the teacher shall submit a written summary of the event.

- Overnight trips involving high school students will require the prior approval of a high school administrator and the superintendent, or designee.
- Overnight trips for the middle and elementary school students will require the prior approval of the Board of Directors.

In authorizing fieldtrips, the principal shall consider the financial condition of the school district, the educational benefit of the activity, the inherent risks or dangers of the activity and other factors deemed relevant by the superintendent, including the participation of the membership of the regular activity group. Students who have graduated may not participate in school sponsored fieldtrips unless the event is sanctioned by the state athletic associations.

Fieldtrip Criteria:

The following checklist *must be* submitted for overnight trips along with the required documentation:

Fieldtrip Group: LM Robotics Submitted by: Dan Niemitalo
(Examples: Robotics, FBLA, etc.) (Name)

Criteria		Description	Yes	No
Purpose	Required	The purpose of the fieldtrip/work site visit is clearly defined and "... is a vital part of the curriculum or current activity." Reference: Board Policy 603.3		
Pre-Planning	Required	There is evidence of pre-planning that will maximize the learning experiences of students on this fieldtrip/work site visit. This should include a prior visit by the teachers in charge. This could include evidence that a conscious decision has been made as to whether this fieldtrip/work site visit or excursion is an initial common experience or a culminating experience.		
Follow-up	Required	There is evidence of planning for follow-up in order to maximize the learning experiences of students on this fieldtrip/work site visit or excursion.		
Assessment	Required	There is evidence that students will be required to demonstrate their understanding of the learning/s expected from this experience.		
Funding	Required	A source of funding has been determined that meets Department of Education and District guidelines. Reference: Board Policy 603.3		
Common Experience	Recommended	This fieldtrip/work site visit is a common experience that all students at this grade level or activity group should have.		
Multi-disciplinary	Recommended	This fieldtrip/work site visit, excursion addresses more than one curricular area and offers the opportunity for curriculum integration.		
School Administrator Approval		<u>Zack M...</u> Date <u>9/3/26</u>		
District Administrator Approval		<u>[Signature]</u> Date <u>9/4/26</u>		
Board Approval		Date		

- Students who are eligible for a fee waiver will be covered through the use of contingency or discretionary funds as appropriate.

Adopted 2/1/99 Reviewed 9/08; 7/11; 9/12; 9/13; 2/15 Revised 10/08; 1/10; 8/16

Purpose of Field Trip

Linn-Mar Robotics Mission Statement:

Empowering students to become technology leaders through experiential learning and mentorship.

We are excited to provide our team members, especially the rookies, opportunities to experience a FIRST Robotics Competition event early in the year. Normally we compete for the first time in March, and that makes for a long wait until our new team members learn what the competitions are like.

As an off-season event, this event is much less expensive to register for than an additional event during the season. In fact, this season they are holding the event for free (refunding a \$250 deposit) for teams that stay in a West Des Moines hotel. This year's event is a little later than last year's inaugural event, which puts it at a perfect time to bring new members who have had time to build a low complexity robot and then test it out on a real competition field as an exciting training experience.

Our trip's goals will include educating our new students about the ways of FRC competitions ahead of our 2025 competition season, starting in January. The trip will also help them be motivated to learn new skills in the fall so they can be as effective as possible. It's difficult to know what the target is when the students haven't seen a competition before, so we are excited to have this opportunity.

Returning students will also have opportunities to drive a robot or play other key roles within the competition drive team. In the official season, only 4-5 team members will get the opportunity to be on the drive team. During this offseason event, we can spread that opportunity around and give everybody a chance to drive who has completed the necessary training beforehand to learn how to drive the robot. We are aiming to field two robots (last year's competition robot plus our new simple robot), which will double the driving opportunities. This will be exciting and motivating for the students, and it provides a nice reward for sticking with the team. Developing our driving talent in this way will help us be more successful during the season.

Another goal is to interact with other teams and learn about their team organization, mechanical and software ideas, and scouting systems. Bringing new members in to talk to veteran teams helps them learn the ethos of the program, which includes the idea of working together with the other teams to raise the overall level of competition.

Pre-Planning and Follow-Up

Every student will be assigned one or more roles prior to the trip. These role descriptions include preparation that is to be done prior to the trip. All of the roles include a follow-up component, such as reporting to the team on best practices learned from other teams.

Roles have been provisionally assigned (attached), but in the coming weeks we will refine these roles as the competition approaches. We do not yet have our new members, so some of these roles are generic until we get our new people onto the team.

Assessment

The trip will be assessed in multiple ways. The competitive success of the team is one such measure; we hope to rank highly enough to be alliance captains, then advance through elimination rounds and win the tournament.

After we return from the event, we will have a significant debriefing meeting with the team. Students in the various roles will discuss their findings, and we will create a list of resulting tasks to be done. This information will create jobs for students to work on in future meetings, and that work will help the team get better at accomplishing our mission.

One of the benefits of this event is that it can inform our future work. We will use what we learn on this trip to direct our FRC team's workload in the coming weeks and months.

Funding – Travel

Travel expenses are paid for by students' families. The trip is optional, and we will explore scholarship possibilities if students have a financial need and want to attend.

Projected expenses are as follows:

Hotel Rooms: 6 rooms for one night	\$1100
Rental Vans (3 vans x 2 days):	\$400
Van gas:	\$100
Approximate Total:	\$1600

With adult mentors paying their hotels separately and approximately 12 students attending, this puts the cost per student at approximately \$100 per student. Cost will be adjusted according to the number of students on the trip.. Students' families will pay for the costs before the trip. Students will also be responsible for bringing money along for three concession meals at the venue and one supper meal on the road on the way back (approximately \$50). Saturday breakfast is included with the hotel.

Funding – Other Expenses

Registration for this event is free. Parts/tools costs for this event are covered by the LM Robotics general budget.

The robot is already built, but we continue to work on upgraded mechanisms to improve our performance at the event. The new robot is built mostly from spare parts for a practice drive base that we have carefully acquired over the past two years.

LM Robotics' general budget (HS clubs account 21.0109.1900.950.7426) is funded as follows:

- Donations from businesses and non-profit organizations
- Donations from families and mentors
- LM Booster Club support
- Fundraising through summer robotics and Lego camps

Common Experience

The competitions are the most exciting and energizing parts of our endeavors. These competitions motivate students to work very hard and achieve some impressive things. Often when students come back from their very first competition, they come back with a higher level of motivation and go on to become stronger contributors. Also, competitions give them some experiences that they don't get in the shop. For example, they work cooperatively with allies from other schools even as they compete with them (FIRST refers to this highly workplace-relevant dynamic as "coopertition"). They act as ambassadors to introduce spectators to FIRST and its goals and principles. They give their award presentations to judge panels. They work to solve tricky unexpected problems in the very short time available – often just minutes.

FIRST emphasizes an ethos of Gracious Professionalism at all meetings and events related to FIRST. Students and mentors are expected to behave professionally, but also to relate in a friendly and helpful way to everybody, including competitors. It is common to see one team helping another team at events, even if they know they will face each other in the next match. The goal is for everybody to compete at an increasingly high level. Gracious Professionalism is a standard of behavior that will serve students very well when they become technology leaders.

Multi-Disciplinary:

The students will use and be exposed to many different STEM skills on any robotics trip; those include mechanical design, programming, and electronics. Beyond the many STEM skills, they also put their communication, leadership, and interpersonal skills to the test. The scouting team organizes itself complete a marathon of data collection, and then they have to organize and disseminate that data using a combination of paper, face to face communication, excel, and web application use. The drive team has to assert itself tactfully to advocate for the best strategies for our team and for our entire alliances, even when the alliance partners may sometimes start off with dearly held, yet suboptimal strategic plans. The pit crew must work safely yet quickly and effectively to keep the robot running even when they have only minutes to work. The software team has to keep their cool and maintain their creativity as they tackle vexing bugs that pop up at the least convenient times. Business oriented members of the team will focus partly on scouting other team's organizational and business practices with plans to share ideas with our team later on. All students will be required to frequently practice effective communication with people they don't know.

2026 Clash in the Corn Trip Itinerary (tentative, pending official schedule)
FIRST Robotics Offseason Competition
West Des Moines, IA

Friday, 10/02/26 11:45 AM Students dismissed from class 12:00 PM Eat school lunch 12:30 PM Load vans and depart 2:45 PM Arrive at Valley HS Unload at gym door 3:20 PM Building opens after school Team check-in Robot Inspection Setup Pit 4:00 PM Radio programming & Calibration 5:30 PM Practice matches begin Supper at concessions 7:00 PM Matches done for the day Venue closes, drive to hotel 10:30 PM In rooms 11:00 PM Lights Out	Saturday, 10/03/26 6:30 AM Breakfast at hotel and check out 7:15 AM Leave hotel, head to venue 7:30 AM Doors open at venue Pits Open 8:15 AM Opening Ceremonies Drivers Meeting 8:45 AM Qualifier matches begin 12:45 PM Alliance Selection Lunch after alliance selection 1:45 PM Playoff Matches 3:30 PM Playoffs finish Mentor matches after playoffs Awards after mentor matches 5:00 PM Pack up and depart for LMHS Supper on the road 8:00 PM Arrive back at LMHS
Hotel TownePlace Suites by Marriott Des Moines West/Jordan Creek 125 S 68th St, West Des Moines, IA 50266 (515)-223-8015	Arena Valley Southwoods Freshman High School 625 S. 35th Street West Des Moines, IA 50265 (515) 633-4500
Transportation Travel via rental vans	Coach Contact Info Dan Niemitalo: 319-400-2730