

# COMPETITION & TRAVEL FAQs 2022

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### **Q: What COVID Protocols will the team be following?**

- Team will follow all current protocols established by MUHS and DSHA
- All team members (students, mentors, chaperones) must test negative for COVID within 48 hours prior to travel. No one will be allowed to travel without proof of a negative test.
- Masks are to be worn at all times (covering **both** mouth **and** nose) other than when eating or sleeping
- If a team member becomes sick at a tournament, parents will be contacted and we will work together to determine the best way to get the sick person home

### **Q: How many team members can attend competitions?**

We will take as many team members as possible. There are some limits at tournaments this year due to COVID restrictions so we will publish how many can attend when the application goes out for each event.

### **Q: How do team members qualify to travel?**

To travel with the team students must have met the minimum fundraising, community activities, attendance and academic requirements. If there are more students that want to attend than spaces available (the number of spots varies by tournament), mentors for each subteam will select students that are permitted to miss school or travel with the team based on participation and competition role. Competition roles such as Drive Team, Scouting and Awards presenters receive priority when deciding which students can attend.

Team members must submit their Parental Permission Forms and any other related travel paperwork by due dates or they won't be able to travel.

### **Q: What is a typical regional event schedule?**

While there are some variations, the schedule is typically like this:

- Wednesday: Advance team travels to event city with trailer
- Thursday: Advance team sets up the pit and gets the robot ready; practice matches; full team arrives in the afternoon/evening (depending on distance), lunch/dinner usually on the road
- Friday: Day 1 of competition matches. Breakfast at hotel, lunch at venue, dinner usually at hotel
- Saturday: Day 2 of competition matches until late afternoon; Awards ceremony; team packs trailer and drives home. Breakfast at hotel, lunch at venue, dinner usually on the road, arrive home late

As an example, a detailed schedule for a 2020 tournament is available here:

<https://www.firstillinoisrobotics.org/frc/events/midwest-regional/agenda.html>

## **Q: Who is on the Advance Team?**

The Advance Team is made up of technical mentors and a limited number of students (roughly 6-12). At least two members of each gender must attend as students cannot stay in hotel rooms alone. Typically students that attend include drive team (the robot driver, operator, technician and human player) as well as students that: exhibit dedication to the team, have skills to get the robot ready on Thursday and prepare for the competition (typically these include students from each subteam), and are in a good position academically to miss an extra day of school.

## **Q: How much school will students miss, and do teachers work with students to make up missed classwork and assignments?**

Attending a regional tournament usually requires missing some school; typically this is 2 days. Team mentors will notify both DSHA and MUHS with an excused absence list. Students should communicate ahead of time with all teachers about the planned absences as sometimes teachers will give students work ahead of time so they can do it while traveling. Students will also be able to make up all tests and quizzes, since the absence is excused as part of the school-sponsored event.

### **2022 Competition Schedule:**

- Lake Superior Regional in Duluth, March 2-5
  - MUHS has no school on Thursday/Friday (freshman retreat)
  - DSHA **regular school schedule** (Seniors have Vocare)
- Wisconsin Regional in Milwaukee, March 24-26
  - MUHS has no school on Thursday/Friday
  - DSHA has no school on Friday
- Midwest Regional in Chicago, April 7-9
  - MUHS & DSHA **regular school schedule**
- FRC World Championships in Houston, April 19-23
  - MUHS & DSHA Easter Break

## **Q: What should students pack?**

Comfortable clothes, team shirts (uniform polo and sponsorship tee), close-toed shoes, pajamas, swimsuit, toiletries, homework, **masks**. Students will share rooms; if they do not want to share a bed with another student, they can bring sleeping bags to sleep on the floor.

## **Q: What is included in the travel fee?**

Transportation, accommodations, and meals in the competition city are included. Students should bring money to cover food while we are traveling and to purchase any additional snacks they desire (about \$25). Travel Fees range from \$150-\$300 (Championship in Houston might be higher), costs will be kept as low as possible and billed through schools **after the event is complete**. Financial assistance is available for travel. Please contact your school representative: Ann Duffy (duffya@dsha.info) or Rene Howard-Paez at MUHS (howardpaez@muhs.edu).

## Q: Can students leave a car at MUHS while they travel?

Yes. If you are leaving a vehicle in the lot at MUHS:

- For MUHS student cars with a parking sticker - provide student name to Mrs. Stone at [stone@muhs.edu](mailto:stone@muhs.edu).
- For cars without a MUHS parking sticker - send vehicle make (brand) and license plate number to Mrs. Stone before leaving.

Please try to park along the north side of the wall that divides the parking lots on the east side of school. If you do not know where this is, please Slack or email Mrs. Stone before parking

## Q: Can parents go to tournaments as observers?

This will depend on COVID protocol by event. If allowed, non-chaperone parents are welcome to travel and meet the team at the competition location, but this would be as a parent watching their student compete like at an away swim meet or basketball game. They would not be expected to assist, but could if they wanted. They would pay for their own rooms/food. Their student team member would stay at the team hotel with their teammates, not with their parents. It should be noted that at times there are available seats on the bus and available hotel rooms in the team's reserved block of rooms. An email will be sent to all parents if seats/rooms become available feel free to contact Marianne Stone at [stone@muhs.edu](mailto:stone@muhs.edu) if you are interested.

## Q: If I can't come to a tournament, is there a way to follow online?

Many tournaments are streamed online via Twitch. We will email the link to all parents when it becomes available. It can also usually be found at <https://www.thebluealliance.com/>.

## Q: Can parents/family members visit the "Pits" at a tournament?

The Pits is the area at each tournament where the robotics teams maintain their robot, have tools to fix their robot between matches and exhibit their robot features to visitors and judges. **Visitation will depend on COVID regulations by event.** If allowed, parents and family members are welcome to visit the Pits and the Pit area. They must wear safety glasses (available to borrow at the pit entrances) and should be aware that, depending on the time of the visit, the team may be under stress making an important, timely repair and thus your student may not be available to talk at that moment.



## Q: Are parent chaperones needed?

Sometimes. The team will send an email if parent chaperones are needed. Chaperones will need to have an active Safe Environment Certificate, which is valid for 5 years. Instructions for initiating the background check and Safe Environment Training via [CMG Connect](#) is documented here: [w CMG New Applicant Instructions.docx](#)

## **Q: What are the duties of a parent chaperone?**

Parent chaperones that accompany the team are responsible for:

- Headcounts to ensure all students are accounted for at every transfer point (e.g. getting in vehicles, vehicles to venue/hotel, leaving venue/hotel, etc.)
- Assisting with meal orders, delivery/pickup, and cleanup
- Conducting evening bed checks at curfew (11pm)
- Other details related to moving a large group of students to and from Milwaukee and everywhere in between per the schedule

Parent chaperones rely on both prior experience and common sense, but are there to help each other too. Team mentors attend tournaments with the primary responsibility of making sure the competition part of the tournament goes well; they assist with “student management,” but really need to focus on winning the tournament. Like the students and mentors, parent chaperones also have fun while traveling with the team!

## **Q: If a parent is a chaperone, does their student stay in the parent’s room or with other robotic team members?**

Students almost always stay in a room with 2-3 other students. The exception would be if there are an odd number of attendees and rooms available to save the team money. Also, in order for DSHA students to attend, at least one female mentor/chaperone must attend. This also applies to the advance team.

## **Q: Do chaperones get their own room or do they share with fellow chaperones/mentors?**

There is a minimum number of chaperones required per certain number of student attendees. Chaperones/mentors always share a room with other chaperones/mentors unless they want to pay for a single room, and there are enough rooms available in our reserved block of hotel rooms. If chaperones are needed to meet the minimum number, then the room, food and transportation are paid for by the team. Non-chaperone parents are always welcome to come and stay in the hotel, if there is room, at their own expense.

## **Q: Do chaperones drive separately or with the team?**

A part of the chaperone’s job is to travel with the team and ensure all students return to their vehicles after rest stops as well as ensure good behavior at stops and enroute. Thus chaperones typically take the bus/van with the team to and from the event.

## **Q: Any other details Parents should know?**

Prior to travel all team members will attend a meeting to review conduct and behavior expectations as detailed in the team handbook. Please refer to the [2021-22 Team handbook](#) for all details as signed off in the team application process. If for any reason a student fails to behave in the manner expected by the team they will be sent home and banned from further travel.