



Oak Park
Education
Foundation

MEMORANDUM

To: District 97 Board of Education
From: The Oak Park Education Foundation
Date: February 22, 2012
Subject: Vex Robotics Team trip to National Championship in Omaha, Nebraska

Three District 97 Middle School teams won the Great Lakes-Illinois – Midwest Vex Robotics Championship on February 11, and qualified for the National Championship in Omaha. While this is not officially a District 97 event, the Oak Park Education Foundation is seeking the Board of Education's approval as the event involves District 97 students and teachers during two school days (March 15 and 16). We respectfully request that you approve this trip at your March 10, 2012 meeting.

Who:

- 2 Vex Robotics teams from Julian (8 students)
- 1 Vex Robotics team from Brooks (4 students)
- 12 parent chaperones (Rich Hillengas, Susan O'Brien, Angie Dodd, Sergio Firpo, Michael Mitrovich, Mary Mitrovich, Edward Sell, Jean Philippe Labruyere, Janet Labruyere, Maureen Meshenberg, Margaret Testore and David Testore)
- 3 District 97 teacher or TA/mentors (Tim Walsh, Jessica Moncatch and Don Robinson)
- 1 OPEF Vex Robotics Program Coordinator and former District 97 employee (Mark Pickus)
- 1 mentor/parent of a former student who is now a high school mentor (Bob Parks)

Dr. Sharts will complete background checks for chaperones before the next District 97 Board meeting.

What: 2012 U.S. National Vex Robotics Championship in Omaha, Nebraska

When: March 15-17, 2012. The group will leave on Thursday morning and arrive in Omaha in the afternoon for registration, set-up, and practice. The actual competition begins Friday and ends with closing ceremonies Saturday at 6 PM. The group will travel home on Sunday.

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Why: Because the students WON the Great Lakes-Midwest-Illinois Vex Robotics Championship on February 11, sweeping a field of 36 area teams, most of whom were high school students! The alliance of 12 students from Julian and Brooks qualified to compete in the 2012 U.S. National Vex Robotics Championship in Omaha – an opportunity not to be missed!

How: Except for one family that is flying in to Omaha, there will be 4 cars of students, driven by parents. OPEF is renting one van for the teacher/mentors along with some of the bots and other equipment.

Costs: The participating families are covering their own transportation, meals and lodging costs, while OPEF has committed to covering the remaining costs of approximately \$3,500. This includes \$825 in team registration fees, transportation, lodging and meals for teacher/mentors, and signage and decoration for the teams' "pits."

OPEF is currently seeking sponsors to help defray the \$3,500 costs. If you know of any businesses or individuals who might be interested in helping support our students in their quest to be National Champions, please let us know. Also, if District 97 is willing to make a small contribution to our trip, we would be most grateful. Thank you!