The Robotics Education & Competition (REC) Foundation offers the following introductory answers to the most frequently asked questions about VEX Worlds 2017. If you have additional questions, please contact us at support@robotevents.com.

**VEX WORLDS REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT**

**Q: Is there a multi-team discount for VEX Worlds?**
A: No. There is not a multi-team registration discount for VEX Worlds. Registration is per team.

**Q: When is payment due for VEX Worlds?**
A: Teams that qualify before February 1, 2017, will have 3 weeks from the date that they qualified to register and pay for VEX Worlds. Teams that qualify between February 1, 2017, and March 1, 2017, will have 1 week from the date that they qualified to register and pay for VEX Worlds. Teams that qualify after March 1, 2017, will have 1 week from the date that they qualified to register and pay for VEX Worlds.

All teams must submit payment for their VEX Worlds registration no later than Tuesday, March 14, 2017. If a team has not paid for their registration by Tuesday, March 14, 2017, their registration will be cancelled without notice.

**Q: What is the VEX Worlds 2017 cancellation policy?**
A: VEX Worlds registration cancellations must be received by March 2, 2017, to receive a full refund. All cancellations must be emailed to support@robotevents.com with the team number and the contact information for the team’s contact. Teams that cancel on March 3, 2017, or after will not receive a refund for their registration fee.

**Q: Can teams register for 2017-18 season while at VEX Worlds 2017?**
A: Yes, VRC and VEX U teams will be able to register for the 2017-18 season at VEX Worlds 2017 starting Saturday, April 22, 2017, and VEX IQ teams will be able to register for the 2017-18 season starting on Tuesday, April 25, 2017. Teams not attending VEX Worlds can also register online for the 2017-18 VEX IQ, VRC, and VEX U season by visiting RobotEvents.com.
VEX WORLDS 2017 PREPARATION

Q: How can I best prepare my team for VEX Worlds 2017?
A: Teams should consult the following online resources while preparing for VEX Worlds 2017.

- Things I Wish I’d Known Before Attending VEX Worlds
- VEX Robotics Competition
- VEX Robotics Competition Game Manual
- VEX Forum
- VEX U Appendix E
- Tips for Teams to Prepare for VEX IQ Events
- VRC Awards Appendix
- VEX IQ Challenge Game Manual
- VEX IQ Awards Appendix
- VEX IQ Forum

Q: How does my team participate in the VRC Parade of Nations that will occur during VEX Worlds?
A: Each team attending VEX Worlds must send one representative to participate in the Parade of Nations. Prior to arriving at VEX Worlds, teams should decide who will be their representative at the Parade of Nations. Teams will be provided with exact ceremony instructions during registration.

Q: How will REC Foundation staff know who is representing my team in the Parade of Nations?
A: Parade of Nations participants will be required to wear the wristband located in the team’s registration packet. Only students wearing the appropriate wristband will be allowed to check-in and participate in the parade.

Q: When is the deadline to sign up for interviews for VRC Excellence Award and VEX IQ Challenge STEM Research Award?
A: Submissions for this year’s pre-submitted awards closed March 20, 2017.

Q: How do I know if my interview appointment is confirmed?
A: Teams will receive an initial confirmation email at the time they submit a request for an interview on the Pre-submitted Awards page. Teams will receive a follow-up email with final details for their interview appointment at VEX Worlds.

TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATIONS, AND ATTRACTIONS

Q: Which airport is the closest to VEX Worlds 2017?
A: Louisville Regional Airport (SDF) is one mile from the Kentucky Exposition Center. VEX Worlds attendees are responsible for booking their own transportation to/from the airport. It is important to calculate the airport transportation costs into your trip. In addition, teams may consider flying into another airport close to Louisville, such as Cincinnati (CVB), Indianapolis (IND) or Lexington (LEX). Please note that transportation options are limited from these airports.
Q: Do any of the hotels provide transportation to and from the airport?
A: Some hotels have a shuttle service, however, teams are responsible for making their own transportation arrangements to and from the airport. Our travel partner GET Sports can also assist with booking your airport transfer (airport to hotel/hotel to airport). Complete and return the Airport Transfer Request Form for the best available rate.

Q: How does a team make hotel reservations for VEX Worlds 2017?
A: Visit the hotel booking site for a great selection of accommodations and discounted rates.

Q: Will transportation be provided from the various hotels to the Kentucky Exposition Center?
A: Transportation to and from many hotels in the area will be provided at no cost on a dedicated shuttle bus during the days of the event. Click here for details.

Q: How do international teams request visa and invitation letters?
A: The REC Foundation is happy to provide visa and invitation letters to teams. To process visa and invitation letters, the team’s contact should email the following information to support@vexrobotics.com.

- Team name and team number
- Names and passport numbers of all team members and mentors
- Address of the visa/embassy office

All visa and invitation letter requests should be submitted to the REC Foundation by January 31, 2017, to ensure proper time for processing. Requests submitted after January 31, 2017, will be processed as soon as possible, but may take 2-3 weeks.

Note: The REC Foundation will not produce a separate letter for each team member. Instead, the foundation will produce a letter for the entire team and attach the list of team members and mentors.
Q: Is there a team party? If so, when and where?
A: The REC Foundation is delighted to announce that participants in each program will be able to purchase tickets to attend a Saturday team party (for VRC teams) and a Tuesday team party (for VEX IQ teams). To purchase tickets visit the VEX Worlds Team Party page.

The following restaurants will be open during the VRC and VEX IQ Challenge Team Parties.

- Triple Treats
- Casa Mia
- Auntie B’s
- King Louie’s Kitchen
- Twisted
- Cactus Jack’s
- Swampwater Jack’s
- Pizzeria Villagio
- Bayside Grill
- Paradise Pizza
- Chicken Tenders & Fries
- Clock Tower
- Dippin’ Dots
- (Five locations: Break Dance, Lightning Run, Roller Skater, Hurricane Bay Beach Club, and T3)
- Soft Frozen Lemonade
- (at Lightning Run)

Q: Where should buses go to drop off passengers?
A: If your organization is going to bring a charter bus or school bus of spectators to the event, please enter through Kentucky Exposition Center Gate 1, turn right after entering and then proceed to lot E-1 to park. A parking map can be found here.

Q: Where can we park a charter bus that brings us to the KEC facility each day?
A: Teams with large charter buses or school buses should follow the directions and reference the map linked in the previous question.

Q: Do all teams get a parking pass?
A: All teams will get one parking pass valid for the duration of the event. The parking passes will be emailed to the main contact for the team. To purchase additional parking passes click here.

Q: What are the parking costs for KEC?
A: If your team has more than one vehicle, additional vehicles will need to pay for parking. The REC Foundation has arranged a special discounted rate for VEX Worlds 2017 attendees.

To get the discounted rate, simply purchase the $8 daily rate at the gate and visit the parking upgrade booth in the Workman Lobby (adjacent to the registration counter) to pay the additional $16 and receive your three day in/out parking pass.

Note: Parking is free Wednesday, April 19 and Sunday, April 23.
Q: Where can we find directions to the Kentucky Exposition Center?
A: Directions to the Kentucky Exposition Center can be found [here](#).

Q: Will medical scooters be available during VEX Worlds?
A: Gould’s Discount Medical Scooters will be available for rent at VEX Worlds. Call Evelyn at (502) 491-2000 extension 4330 to make a reservation.

ROBOT & EQUIPMENT SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

Q: Can teams ship equipment and robots directly to VEX Worlds?
A: Yes, but there are some very specific instructions that must be followed in the following Competitor Kits, and all shipments must be sent through the event’s show decorator, Fern.

- VEX IQ Challenge Competitor Kit
- VRC and VEX U Competitor Kit

If you have any questions about robot shipping information, please contact Fern directly at (502) 367-0254.

Q: If we choose not to use the required shipping options, can we bring carts to haul our materials into the convention center?
A: Please use the shipping options when possible, but teams with carts that have rubber tires or wheels will be allowed to transport their materials to their pit space. Teams using carts with metal or wooden wheels will not be permitted to pull or push the cart through the exposition center. In summary, any wheels that could damage the floors of the Kentucky Exposition Center will be turned away at the door.

**Note:** Teams are advised to check with hotels to see if they have the capability to receive large packages.

Q: Where should teams dispose of batteries at VEX Worlds?
A: Instead of disposing of batteries in the regular garbage, teams and parents should simply swing by the business center, located in Pit Admin, and drop off their batteries for disposal.

VEX IQ AGENDA AND EVENT SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Q: When will the agenda for VEX Worlds 2017 be released?
A: Please [click here](#) for a tentative VEX Worlds 2017 Agenda. The VEX IQ Challenge portion of the event will take place between Sunday, April 23, and Tuesday, April 25, 2017. Please note that since this agenda is tentative, times may vary from 15-30 minutes. For the VEX IQ Challenge Elementary School and Middle School agendas, [click here](#).
Q: Will the practice fields be available on Sunday, April 23, 2017?
A: Yes, the practice fields will be available starting at 1:30 p.m. EDT on Sunday, April 23, 2017, to teams who have passed inspection.

Q: What is the height of the VEX IQ Challenge fields at VEX Worlds?
A: VEX IQ Challenge fields at VEX Worlds are raised by 18”.

Q: When will Division structures be released?
A: The Division lists will be released Sunday, April 23, 2017. Please visit the respective VEX Worlds page on RobotEvents.com to find the Division lists.
   - VEX IQ Challenge Elementary School
   - VEX IQ Challenge Middle School

Q: How many times can each team participate in the Skills Challenges?
A: Teams may complete each Skills Challenge (Driver and Programming) a maximum of (3) three times for Driver and (3) three times for Programming for (6) six total skills runs.

VRC/ VEX U AGENDA AND EVENT SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Q: When will the agenda for VEX Worlds 2017 get released?
A: Please click here for a tentative VEX Worlds 2017 Agenda. The VRC and VEX U portion of the event will take place between Wednesday, April 19, and Saturday, April 22, 2017. Since this agenda is tentative, times may vary from 15-30 minutes.
   For individual program agendas, click the following links:
   - VEX Robotics Competition — Middle School
   - VEX Robotics Competition — High School
   - VEX U

Q: Will the practice fields be available on Wednesday, April 19, 2017?
A: Yes, the practice fields will be available starting at 1:30 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, April 19, 2017, to teams who have passed inspection.

Q: What is the height of the VRC and VEX U fields at VEX Worlds?
A: VRC and VEX U fields at VEX Worlds are raised by 24”.

Q: When will Division structures be released?
A: The Division lists will be released Wednesday, April 19, 2017. Please visit the respective VEX Worlds page on RobotEvents.com to find the Division lists.
   - VRC Middle School
   - VRC High School
   - VEX U
Q: When will match schedules be released?
A: Teams will receive match schedules in their registration packets upon arrival. One copy of the match schedule will be placed in the registration packet.

Q: How many times can each team participate in the Skills Challenges?
A: Teams may complete each Skills Challenge (Driver and Programming) a maximum of 3 times for Driver and 3 times for Programming for 6 total skills runs.

Q: My team won’t be attending VEX Worlds, but we would like to host a new game unveiling party. Will the new game unveiling be webcast live and when?
A: Yes, the new VRC/VEX U and VEX IQ game unveiling for the 2017-18 season will be webcast live from VEX Worlds. This year, the VRC New Game Unveiling will take place during Saturday Finals and Awards. The VEX IQ Challenge New Game Unveiling will take place during Tuesday’s Finals and Awards.

Q: What is Thunder Over Louisville and how will it impact Saturday night travel?
A: Saturday, April 22, Thunder Over Louisville kicks off the Kentucky Derby Festival. One of the largest annual fireworks shows in North America, Thunder over Louisville is expected to attract more than 600,000 people. The event is free and open to the public. For more information about the event including road closures, click [here](#).

GENERAL EVENT DETAILS

Q: Do teams need to remove all equipment from the competition hall each night?
A: The event venue is secured at night; however, the REC Foundation and VEX Robotics encourage teams not to leave valuables in the pits. The REC Foundation and VEX Robotics assume no liability for belongings left in pits and explicitly note that anything left in the building unattended, is left there at the owner’s risk. This especially applies to small, valuable items like computers and cameras. You need to decide yourself if you want to leave your robot in the pits or not. We expect that some teams will carry their robots back and forth to the venue. Since hotels are close to the venue, it will be convenient for teams to transport items back and forth.

Q: When will the Event Layout be released?
A: The Event Layout will be released no later than two weeks prior to VEX Worlds 2017.

Q: What will be present in each team’s pit?
A: VRC and VEX IQ teams will be provided with a pit measuring 10’ x 10’ that will have a 6’ x 24” table (30” h), 2 chairs, electricity, a trash can and a team sign. The pit will have an 8-foot tall drape behind it and a 3-foot drape along the side.

Q: Can we bring additional spectators with us to the event?
A: Yes, we encourage teams to invite their school administration, parents, family, and interested supporters to attend with them. Admission for spectators will be free.

Note: Information for spectators can be found on the [VEX Worlds page](#).
Q: Will nuts and peanuts be served in the KEC facility?
A: Yes, there will be tree nuts and peanuts served in the KEC facility.

Q: Is Kosher food available in the KEC facility?
A: Kosher meals must be ordered ahead of time through the venue’s official catering service. Robbin Chapman with Levy Catering can be contacted at rchapman@levyrestaurants about Kosher meals.

Q: Where will teams be able to purchase snacks & meals during the competition?
A: Teams can now order lunch directly through RobotEvents.com. Maximize your time at VEX Worlds by using our lunch ordering system. Visit the “Concessions” tab of the appropriate RobotEvents.com event page to order after submitting the event registration for your teams.

- VEX IQ Challenge — Elementary School
- VEX IQ Challenge — Middle School
- VEX Robotics Competition — Middle School
- VEX Robotics Competition — High School
- VEX U

For hours concession areas and food trucks are open during VEX Worlds click here.

Q: Can teams bring food into the Kentucky Exposition Center (KEC)?
A: There will be absolutely no outside food allowed in the Kentucky Exposition Center.

Q: If I have food allergies, can I get an exemption to bring food into the Kentucky Exposition Center?
A: Levy, the food service provider for the KEC, has the capability to accommodate most food allergies. If you have a food allergy and would like specific information about how the KEC can accommodate you, please send an email to support@robotevents.com.

Q: Will VEX Worlds be webcast and where can the webcast be found?
A: Yes, VEX Worlds 2017 will be webcast. The webcast URLs for all of the Divisions will be listed on the VEX Worlds events pages on RobotEvents.com by April 17, 2017.

Q: How are teams assigned to the different Divisions?
A: Teams are randomly assigned to the Divisions. It should be noted that teams from the same organization/school will be split across the Divisions. While teams will be split into different Divisions randomly, we expect that most pit areas will be in sequential order for VRC High School Divisions, VRC Middle Schools Divisions, VEX U, VEX IQ Middle School Division, and VEX IQ Elementary Division.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Truck Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 19</td>
<td>6 p.m. – 9 p.m.</td>
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<td>Thursday, April 20</td>
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<td>Friday, April 21</td>
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<td>Sunday, April 23</td>
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<td>Monday, April 24</td>
<td>6 p.m. – 9 p.m.</td>
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Q: Our school/club has multiple teams, will they all be in the same Division?
A: No. Teams from the same school/organization/club will be split across the various Divisions.

Q: We have another team that we want to share a pit with. May we move into their pit and share the space?
A: No. Judges and other event staff looking for teams use the official pit map to locate teams. Judges are assigned to interview specific teams. Teams who have moved will not be interviewed. Teams should also realize that pit locations are organized by both team numbers and by Division.

Q: When will robot inspection be open?
A: The Robot Inspection area will open at 1:00 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, April 19, 2017. After Wednesday, Robot Inspection will be open for the duration of the competition, but teams must pass inspection no later than 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 20, 2017, to compete in all scheduled matches.

Q: When should I get my robot inspected?
A: Your robot must be inspected before your first match, and must be inspected before using the practice fields. Inspectors will mark your robot to denote that it has passed inspection, and Referees will look for those inspection marks before allowing you to play. In addition, Referees and Inspectors may require re-inspection of your robot at any time during the event. There is no official re-inspection of robots before elimination matches, but Inspectors may spot check robots at this time.

Teams must have passed inspection no later than 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 20, 2017, for VRC/VEX U.

VEX IQ teams are strongly encouraged to arrive, check-in, and begin Inspection on Sunday, April 23. Check-in and Inspection will close by 10:30 a.m. on Monday, April 24. Teams that are not checked-in and inspected by these deadlines will not be included in the match list for the event.

Q: How many qualification matches will we play?
A: This will be dependent on the final number of teams participating in VEX Worlds. As the schedule is finalized, the REC Foundation is working to ensure each team will get 8-10 rounds of qualifying matches.

Q: Do you still need more volunteers?
A: Yes. Individuals interested in volunteering during VEX Worlds 2017 should complete the online volunteer form at: http://www.roboticseducation.org/volunteers/vex-worlds-volunteers/.

If you have team members or adults on site who would like to volunteer at any time during the week, please see the Volunteer Registration Desk in the lobby.

Note: A typical volunteer shift is 4-6 hours.
Q: If I have a robot that is running on crystals for the VRC or VEX U competition, will my robot work during VEX Worlds 2017?
A: VEX Worlds will be a VEXnet 2.0 only event! If you have any questions about this aspect of the competition, please contact support@roboticseducation.org.

Q: Are safety glasses required during VEX Worlds?
A: All volunteers, drivers and coaches must wear eye protection while in the competition field areas or around the practice fields for VRC and VEX U. While we always recommend the use of safety glasses, they are not required for VEX IQ participants. Teams demonstrating robots to Judges or guests must also wear eye protection. Eye protection in the pits will be left up to the discretion of individual team coaches, but we strongly recommend that eye protection be worn by anyone demonstrating or working on a robot, cutting materials, or near a working robot.

When in doubt, get the glasses out and put them on.

Q: Will all the pits be in one space?
A: The team pits will be in multiple halls. The halls are connected and the pits will be organized by Division.

Q: Is there a dress code for VEX Worlds?
A: Students should consult with their team mentor or coach. All attendees must wear closed toe and heel shoes during the event. Otherwise, there are no specific dress code restrictions. Attendees are reminded to dress comfortably and appropriately, and to avoid loose hanging clothes or hair if they are going to work with robots or tools in the team pit area.

Q: Are middle school VRC teams eligible to compete in the high school Division?
A: Middle school VRC teams must compete in the middle school Division during VEX Worlds.

Q: Are high school students who are taking college courses eligible to compete in the VEX U Competition?
A: The robot drivers in the VEX U Competition must be enrolled in a post-secondary school and cannot be enrolled in a secondary educational institution. Anyone may serve as a VEX U coach.

Q: How will the VRC Excellence Award winner be decided this year?
A: Please refer to the VRC Awards Appendix.

Q: Will there be AC power at the field for our VEX Joystick power supply?
A: No, please be sure that your batteries are fully charged before each match.
Q: Will the competition officials use anti-static spray on the fields this year? What is the spray that will be used?
A: Yes, it is normal practice to use an anti-static spray at a competition of this size. TechSpray 1726-QT or something similar may/will be used to spray the tiles during VEX Worlds. It is currently stocked and sold in quarts at All-Spec, Allied Electronics and other online retailers. Allied and Mouser do not have a case minimum.

Q: What is the suggested format for the Engineering Notebook?
A: Teams may wish to use the Robotics Engineering Notebook supplied by the REC Foundation as their notebook. Additional notebooks are available for purchase: http://www.vexrobotics.com/276-3023.html.

The Engineering Notebook requirement for the Design Award has no specified format. Each notebook should be created through a concerted effort by a team to document their design decisions. Teams should start their notebooks early and update them often to display the team’s progress during the competition season for the judging team. Judges will be looking for documentation of the engineering design process and the use of project management, time management, and teamwork.

Q: When and where will Engineering Notebooks be returned to the teams?
A: Engineering Notebooks will be returned to Pit Administration for teams to pick up. VRC and VEX U Notebooks will be available after noon on Saturday April 22, 2017. VEX IQ notebooks will be available after noon on Tuesday April 25, 2017.

Q: Will my team be able to construct our own pit space?
A: Teams are discouraged from “building” temporary structures in their pit spaces. Please feel free to bring stands to display information, however no structures stretching over the top of, or covering your pit will be allowed.

Q: What is the VRC Robot Inspection Fast Pass?
A: Donate an experienced volunteer to help at VRC Inspections and your team will get a free pass to the VRC robot inspection express line! Just get a volunteer to help with inspections Wednesday afternoon (1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. EDT). One inspection pass (one robot) per volunteer.

Q: Can my team bring additional chairs to place in our pit area?
A: Yes, teams are permitted to bring small folding chairs, camp chairs, etc., into their pit space. Please remember that all items must fit comfortably within your pit space.

Q: Can my team bring noise making devices to the event?
A: Electronic noise making devices, such as sirens and megaphones, will not be permitted. Loud whistles and other devices designed to amplify noise are strongly discouraged and may be confiscated for the remainder of the event. Please remember to cheer for your team(s) in a manner that is polite and respectful of the other teams in attendance.
MERCHANDISE SALES

Q: Will VEX Robotics have its on-location store where we can buy spare parts again this year?
A: Yes. Located in the North Wing of the Kentucky Exposition Center next to the HEXBUG booth and the STEM Hall of Fame, the REC Foundation Store will be open for teams looking for VEX Robotics parts at VEX Worlds.

**Note:** There is no guarantee the inventory will last. Please plan to bring a good supply of spare parts with you.

Q: Can orders for items in the REC Foundation store be ordered online?
A: Yes. Orders can be placed online at the [store’s website](#) using a credit card from any connected device (computer, tablet, mobile phone) at any time during the event. After placing an order, customers will be notified via email when the order is ready for pickup. Once notified, simply come to an Order Pickup window with your order number.

Pre-orders for items will be accepted online starting on Wednesday, April 12, 2017. Pre-orders placed prior to the event will be ready at the REC Foundation store when it opens on Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at 12 p.m. Cash will be accepted for orders at the Customer Service window during the store’s normal hours.

There will also be self-service ordering stations at the REC Foundation store for ordering in-person by credit card. Using the online store on your device for ordering is recommended to get your parts as quickly as possible. Visit the store’s customer service windows if you have any questions or need assistance with anything!

Q: What other merchandise will be sold during VEX Worlds 2017?
A: As in past years, there will be a VEX Worlds 2017 shirt sold with the list of attending teams on the back. The t-shirt vendor will have other customizable apparel available for sale. Please check back soon for exact link on the Documents tab of the event listings on RobotEvents.com. A variety of HEXBUG toys will be sold at the REC Foundation store inside the Kentucky Exposition Center.

Q: Can teams bring items to sell from their booths during VEX Worlds?
A: No. Teams may not sell items from their pit or on the grounds of the Kentucky Exposition Center. Teams may distribute free items such as pins, buttons, stickers, information flyers, etc. Food or beverage distribution is strictly prohibited.

Q: Can teams, spectators, or attendees use “drones” or other airborne items?
A: For the safety and comfort of all participants and attendees, no flying objects (including drones) will be allowed during VEX Worlds 2017. The Kentucky Exposition Center has strict rules prohibiting the possession or operation of airborne devices without prior approval.
Q: Are hoverboards or other personal transportation devices allowed at VEX Worlds 2017?

A: Absolutely no personal transportation devices will be allowed in the Kentucky Exposition Center. This includes, but is not limited to: hoverboards, roller skates, scooters, bicycles, and skateboards.

Such devices pose a danger to others and may be confiscated for the remainder of the event. Assistive medical transportation devices such as wheelchairs are excluded from this prohibition.

Q: Can teams play with athletic balls, etc. in the building?

A: For the safety of all participants, and to abide by Kentucky Expo Center rules, we kindly ask that participants refrain from playing with athletic balls/objects while inside of the building.