

TEAM EMAIL BLAST # 1

Hello FRC Teams....we are excited that you have chosen to participate in the 2018 *FIRST* Palmetto Regional Robotics Competition at "sunny" Myrtle Beach, SC. The Palmetto Regional Planning Committee and the Palmetto Partners have been hard at work over the past several months planning for your arrival. We want your visit to be one to remember.

Over the next few weeks leading up to the competition, you will be receiving **Team Email Blasts**. There are two purposes for these blast(s) being sent to you. **Both are extremely important. Please read below.**

- **1st:** they will contain important **REGIONAL INFORMATION** for you and your team that will help in preparing for your trip and stay in Myrtle Beach, and
- **2nd:** they will contain **REQUEST(S) FOR INFORMATION** that our Planning Committee will need to insure that your experience at Palmetto is the best that it can be. **We will not ask for information that we do not need.** So, let's get started...

REGIONAL INFORMATION:

1. If you will be needing **Hotel Accommodations** during your stay, please go ahead and make those. Rooms are beginning to fill up in the area of close proximity to the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. You can make those reservations by going contacting the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce (<http://www.myrtlebeachareachamber.com/>). They are able to provide recommendations to fit your needs.
2. As you know, the Palmetto Regional is a **Bag and Tag event**. Plans are in place for the Pits to be open at the Convention Center between **6:00 and 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday (February 28, 2018), and again on Thursday (March 1st) between 7:45 and 8:30 a.m.**, where up to **five team representatives** can enter and deliver your robot to your designated pit area. **As with last year, five team representatives will not only be able to deliver your robot and pit materials, but will be able to set up your pit area, as well.** We encourage as many teams as possible to take advantage of the Wednesday evening time. As in the past, **specifics** relating to the load-in will be forthcoming. So, be on the look out!
3. Consistent with *FIRST* and Convention Center policy, **teams are not allowed to bring food from the outside into the Convention Center.** This policy is strictly enforced. As a result, the Convention Center catering department will be providing a selection of **"box" lunches** that you can choose from for your team members on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of the regional. Last year, a number of teams took advantage of this and some were disappointed with the product. Earlier last month, I met with the staff of the convention center and expressed this concern. Several

changes were made in this years product to reflect those concerns. Please see attached **menu selections and prices on the attached order form. Once you make your selection, you will communicate directly with the convention center staff. All questions regarding pre-order lunches will be handled by the Convention Center staff. Also, please note the last day to place pre-order lunches is February 23, 2018.**

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:

1. Please advise should any member of your team need **special handicap provisions** during the Regional. We and the staff of the Convention Center will make every effort to accommodate for their needs.
2. Should you have team mentors that are interested and willing to volunteer for some specific roles, please have them **go into VIMS and sign up under the Palmetto Regional**. Our Volunteer Coordinator will then follow up with specifics. We are always in need of Robot Inspectors, especially for Thursday and Friday morning, as well as volunteers for some general roles (i.e. crowd control, safety glasses management, etc.). This practice has worked well over the years.

I do hope that your build season is going well....this years game promises to be innovative, creative, and exciting. We are looking forward to your visit and participation. **Please** don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Go Teams !

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