VECTOR 8177

Tomball Memorial High School

2024-2025 Business Plan

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Executive Summary

Team Overview

Vector 8177 began in 2019 at Tomball Memorial High School with the intent to fuel passion in STEM. We continue to embrace STEM culture in both older and younger students through our team's landmarks. Vector hosts a diverse team as we welcome anyone and everyone without discrimination. Even though our team is now a few years old, we remain committed to our goals of fueling the passion for STEM in every one of our students.

Team Management

Each of our team members is required to abide by the team's bylaws in order to remain on the team. Our team is divided into 4 main subteams: mechanical, programming, business, and media. Our primary team, the mechanical team, is accountable for the design and construction of our robot. This team comprises the fabrication subteam, responsible for constructing the robot; the electrical team, tasked with wiring up the robot; and the design team, which designs our robot prior to its construction. Then, our programming team codes the robot to perform its functions and act autonomously. The business team manages Vector's finances, awards, sponsorships, inventory, and grants. Finally, our media takes pictures and videos of our events and handles our team's website and social media.

SWOT Analysis

Our team has a lot of strengths and weaknesses to consider and opportunities and threats to prepare for. Some of our strengths are our team's strong interest in STEM, our competition experience, a clear group of leaders, and our team's diversity. While our strengths are plentiful, there are weaknesses that plague our team, such as our disorganization, internal conflict, and poor time management. There are also opportunities available for our team to be successful, like the new TISD robotics center being built and AI utilization. The things that threaten our team are rapidly approaching, such as the fact many of our leading seniors will graduate next year, leaving us without effective leadership and the possibility that we will lose our sponsorships.

Outreach

Our team doesn't just build robots; we try to give back to our community in any way we can. We host summer camps to teach younger kids about things like engineering, programming, and chemistry. We also mentor 2 FLL teams at Canyon Pointe Elementary and Grand Oaks Elementary. Open Alliance is a community of teams committed to "fostering a culture of collaboration and innovation within FIRST." Through this, we share ideas, prototypes, and findings with other teams. We also go beyond FRC and give back to our community by working with HPD to demonstrate how robotics could be used outside FRC, and we partnered with America's ER to donate over $1800 worth of toys to bring Christmas to America's less fortunate.

Action Plan

It is the job of our business team to keep our team well organized and managed, so we have created a chart to organize the team's tasks and ensure completion.

Budget and Finance

The business team manages Vector's finances, and we structure this season by season. Our parent booster, Tomball Memorial Engineering and Robotics Society (TMEARS) is responsible for coordinating much of our sponsor funds. This is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. We have many different types of sponsors; some of our monetary sponsors donate to our team through grants and matching gifts. Many of our parents are food sponsors, and they aid our team by cooking meals for our team on longer workdays and donating snacks. Material sponsors donate materials to our team, and machine shops manufacture parts that can't be made by our team.

Sponsor Benefits

Vector has many ways of awarding its sponsors. We have 5 sponsor levels, each with their own rewards for sponsors who contribute more to the team. The sponsors go from Notable to Platinum sponsors.

Sustainability

It is the responsibility of the business team to ensure a stable and successful future for Vector 8177. We analyze risks that our team faces and plan ways to prevent them or lessen their impact. We work with other subteams to recruit new members and make sure they are trained up for the season. We also assess future plans and opportunities for Vector that could aid our team greatly.

Vector, Oh Yeah!

Vector 8177 has a proud and successful history. From our rookie season in 2019, we have grown and expanded our branding to include our signature black and orange, *Despicable Me*'s character Vector, and our V with the arrow. Vector 8177 aims to provide an inclusive community, and one of the ways we do this is by facilitating many opportunities for our members to bond through things like team lunches and gaming sessions.

Team Overview

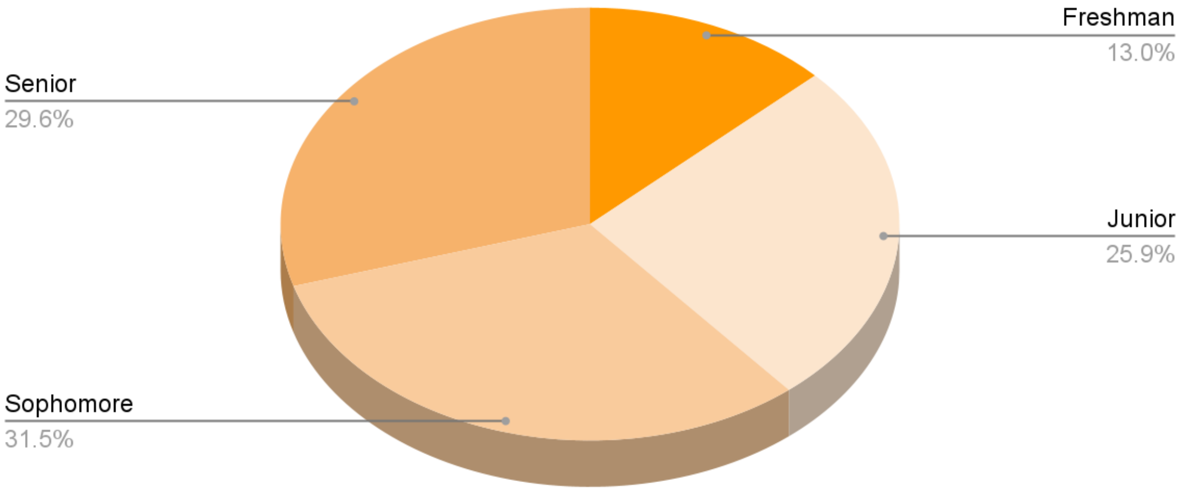
Team Mission Statement:
Vector was founded with the intent to fuel passion for STEM at Tomball Memorial High School while fostering a culture of teamwork, collaboration, and inclusivity. Vector 8177 embraces the STEM culture for future generations by equipping high school students with technical and life skills such as self-confidence, communication, and problem-solving. Our approach prepares students to become future leaders and innovators, ready to tackle global challenges and contribute positively to their communities.

Rookie Year	2020
Location	19100 Northpointe Ridge Lane Tomball, Texas 77377
School Affiliation	Tomball Memorial High School
Team Demographics	51 Students • 15 Females, 39 Males • 16 Seniors, 14 Juniors, 17 Sophomores, 7 Freshmen • 22 White, 17, Asian, 8 African American, 3 Alaskan/Native American, 10 Hispanic, 7 Two or more Ethnicities • 6 Economically Disadvantaged
Mentors	Coaches: Vanessa Coronado, Casey Bulaclac, and David Monroe Mentors: Tom Cegielski, Marco Cerrato Sr., Celina Enamorado, David Milner, and Oliver Lawless, Jessica Smith

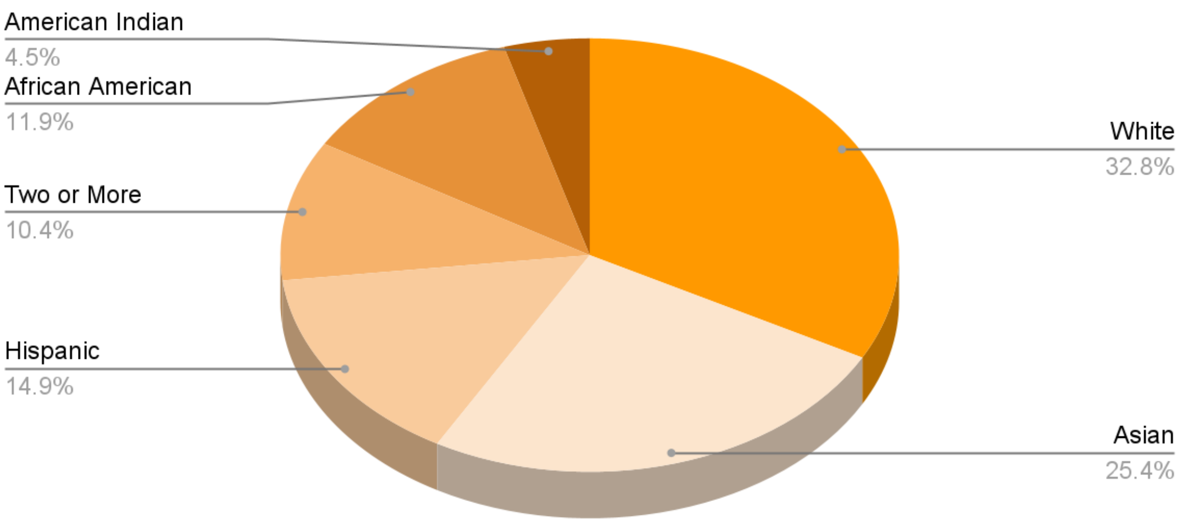
Sponsors and Partners	Diamond: The Chuck Lorre Family Foundation, Young Sheldon Platinum: Illumination Entertainment, Tomball ISD, Genon Holdings LLC, NOV, Siemens Gold: Fast-Track Swimming/FTS Pickleball, HPE, Kolache Kafe, Home Depot, Silver: America's ER, RaceSource, Goebol Fasteners Bronze: Exelon/Constellation Grant, The Thrifty Bot, Lemons Auctioneer, Ramu Katamaneni, Constellation, Mt. Olive Pickles, Notable: Frank Imburgio, Jennifer Kelln, Wanxian Jiang, Michael Fogarty, glenn Lee, David Ko, Jacqueline Dean, Silmara Grentz Patricia LeBlanc, LaWanda LaSaint, Sarah Wyatt, DeShell Russell, Suresh B Saravanan, Dwain Rollerson, Laura Rubio, Shirley Wyatt, Regina Dickinson, Mauri Schoby, Mr Earl, Kendra Lee, Sharonza Reynolds, Juanmesh Davis, Larry M Moore, Micah S. Bell, Desiray Johnson, Kimberly Earls, Jacqueline Salaar, Avis Wimbush, LaNita Whetstone, Trameka Martin, Undrae Martin, Deirdre Green, Pearljunora Zenon, Brian Perry, Keyi Williams, Tarence Davis, Avis McSwain, Ruth Mason, Tonya Wyatt, Donal Snyder, Rondalyn Davis, Allyson Cannon Diana Dunham, Christopher Dotson , Baker Hughes
Website & Social Media	www.vector8177.com/ www.youtube.com/@Vector8177

	www.instagram.com/vector_8177/ www.twitter.com/TmhsRobotics

Grade Demographics



Demographics - 51 Students



Member Benefits:

Students:

- Learn how to plan and build a working robot and field
- Gain leadership and teamwork skills that can be used outside of robotics
- Gain STEM education and experience
- Learn from mentors and coaches who have previous robot building and programming experience
- Help others through community outreach
- Be a part of an inclusive community

Mentors and Sponsors:

- Help students learn in a friendly environment
- Share their knowledge and experience to help further the students' critical thinking skills

Sponsors:

- An opportunity to market their company
- Allow students to pursue their STEM careers
- Community outreach

About Us:

FRC Team 8177: Vector was founded in 2019 in Tomball, Texas, with the intent to fuel passion for STEM at Tomball Memorial High School. As a team, Vector 8177 embraces STEM culture for future generations by engaging both high school and younger students to create the next generation of leaders in science and technology. Although only a few years old, Vector 8177 remains committed to fulfilling its goal of creating an environment where students from all walks of life can become the next leaders in science and technology.

History:

Team 8177 Vector was founded in the fall of 2019 and first began competing during the 2020 FRC season. The team started with only 15-

20 members, 3 mentors, and 1 sponsor, the Young Sheldon Grant, but we were able to win the Rookie All-Star award before the season was shut down due to the Coronavirus pandemic. During the online challenges of the 2021 season, 8177 won the Rookie Design Award and the Rookie Game Changer Award. Starting with the 2022 season, the team size grew to over 40 active members each year, and the team qualified for the FIRST Championship in both the 2022 and 2023 seasons, winning multiple awards each season. In 2024 we unfortunately did not make it to the world championship, but we won the Quality Award twice and the Industrial Design Award.

Landmarks:

Our first landmark is team bonding. Vector 8177 aims to create a sense of community and camaraderie between our members and mentors. We implement this by having team lunches during long workdays, and some of our members play games together on our off-time.

Our second landmark is team sustainability. Our goal with this is to ensure our team is successful for years to come. We do this by passing down information to our younger members and preparing specific members to be ready to lead the different subteams. Another way we maintain our team's success is by gaining sponsorship, grants, and donations.

Our team's third landmark is inspiring young students to pursue their passions in STEM. We do this to create leaders and develop skills that can be used in the world of STEM outside of FRC. For example, we worked with the Houston Police Department to repair an RC-30, and this required our students to apply the knowledge they had learned in robotics to a real-world situation.

Our fourth and final landmark is giving back to and supporting our community. We accomplish this through our outreach efforts, such as our summer camp, in which we teach young kids about the world of STEM. We also hold a joint-kickoff event with the rest of TISD's FRC teams, T3 and TSA All-Stars, and invite teams from the elementary, intermediate, and junior high levels to introduce them to FRC. Participation at our CTE showcase at our two feeder intermediate schools and our superintendent showcase are ways we advocate for STEM and open eyes to FRC. Additionally, as a featured team on Open Alliance, we were able to impact teams across the world. The Open Alliance is a community of teams committed to fostering “a culture of collaboration and innovation within FIRST.” Furthermore, we have accumulated over 96k views on YouTube and 22k views on our Chief Delphi build thread. Finally, our outreach efforts extend beyond robotics. For our annual Christmas toy drive this year, we partnered with America’s ER to collect STEM toys for Toys for Tots. We have also shown our appreciation to the incredible teachers of Tomball Memorial High School with thank-you gifts. We strongly believe that having teachers who support us in and out of the classroom has allowed us to be successful in competition and our outreach initiatives. With all of our efforts in outreach, our members have accumulated more than 300 hours of volunteering to support STEM and our community.

Team Management

Membership Requirements:

- Our members must have an overall passing average from the previous nine weeks grading periods. Students must remain eligible per TISD guidelines to compete.
- Members must have written parental or legal guardian permission to participate in the organization.
- Members pay the current club membership dues by the due date set by the officers and club sponsors. These dues are used for club shirts, competition registration fees, transportation fees, and parts and consumables for the robots that we must build to compete.
- Members must have no misconduct resulting in OSS or ISS and must adhere to the district's attendance policy, technology policy, dress code, student handbook, and campus guidelines.
- If any member fails to attend at least once a month, they are obligated to give an explanation to a club officer or coach and be considered for dismissal from the club.
- If members are distracting and do not work effectively and stay focused during multiple meetings, they will be considered for dismissal from the club.
- Members must have a signed safety contract on file each year. If members display unsafe behavior and/or do not act in accordance with our safety policy, they will be considered for dismissal from the club.
- Members must actively participate in club activities including meetings, events, and volunteering.
- If members are disrespectful to students and/or mentors, they will be considered for dismissal from the club and may be immediately dismissed by coaches' decision with no warning.
- All decisions about equipment and use of materials ultimately is up to the coaches and all decisions made by the coaches must be strictly followed.
- Any members removing materials from the robotics area without permission may be subject to disciplinary action and/or legal action.
- Members must agree to and follow the student club code of conduct issued at the start of the year.
- Membership and team size limitations may be set by coaches at their discretion due to their ability to manage the size of the club

and may include applications, interviews, or other means of limiting size. Not all students who wish to participate may be able to join due to size limitations.
- Any member quitting the organization or having been dismissed will be unable to rejoin for the remainder of the year.

Team Structure:

Students:

Our team is divided into four main teams: mechanical, programming, media, and business. As our organization grew, we split our mechanical team into 3 subteams: electrical, fabrication, and CAD design. Splitting tasks among specialized teams allows us to work on our robot more efficiently. Each major subteam has its own important role in ensuring that our team runs smoothly. At competitions, we have an additional subteam called the Minions that scout for other robots and are essential during alliance selection. Additionally, they help other teams fix problems that may arise with their own robots. Next, we have leads who are made up of our team's veterans. The leads are the most experienced in their respective subteam and are responsible for teaching rookies everything about the subteam. New this year, our team now has officer roles. The officer position allows veterans on our team to specialize in a certain task like machining, prototyping, and updating our website. The veterans and officers assist the leads with managing the subteam and teaching rookies. Rookies are the team's newest members and learn everything from the leads, veterans, and mentors.

Mechanical: The mechanical team is responsible for designing, constructing, and maintaining the physical components of the robot. We divide our mechanical team into 3 major subteams: electrical, fabrication, and design teams.

Electrical: The electrical subteam ensures the successful design, implementation, and operation of robotic systems. They handle all the wiring of our robot.

Fabrication: The fabrication team is responsible for the construction of almost everything that our team uses, including our field and much of our robot.

Design: The design team designs and 3D models our robot. They ensure all measurements and dimensions of our robot are accurate before it is built.

Programming: Our programming team is responsible for the coding of our robot. All of the functions that our robot performs are the work of the programming team. They also handle parts of team management such as attendance at meetings and scouting.

Business: Our business team is responsible for the management of our team's finances, inventory, awards, and sponsorships. Through this, Vector stays organized and readily funded for the parts and tools we need to create our robot. Awards are written, reviewed, and submitted by our business team as well. This subteam is also responsible for supporting and organizing our outreach opportunities such as FLL and our annual summer camp.

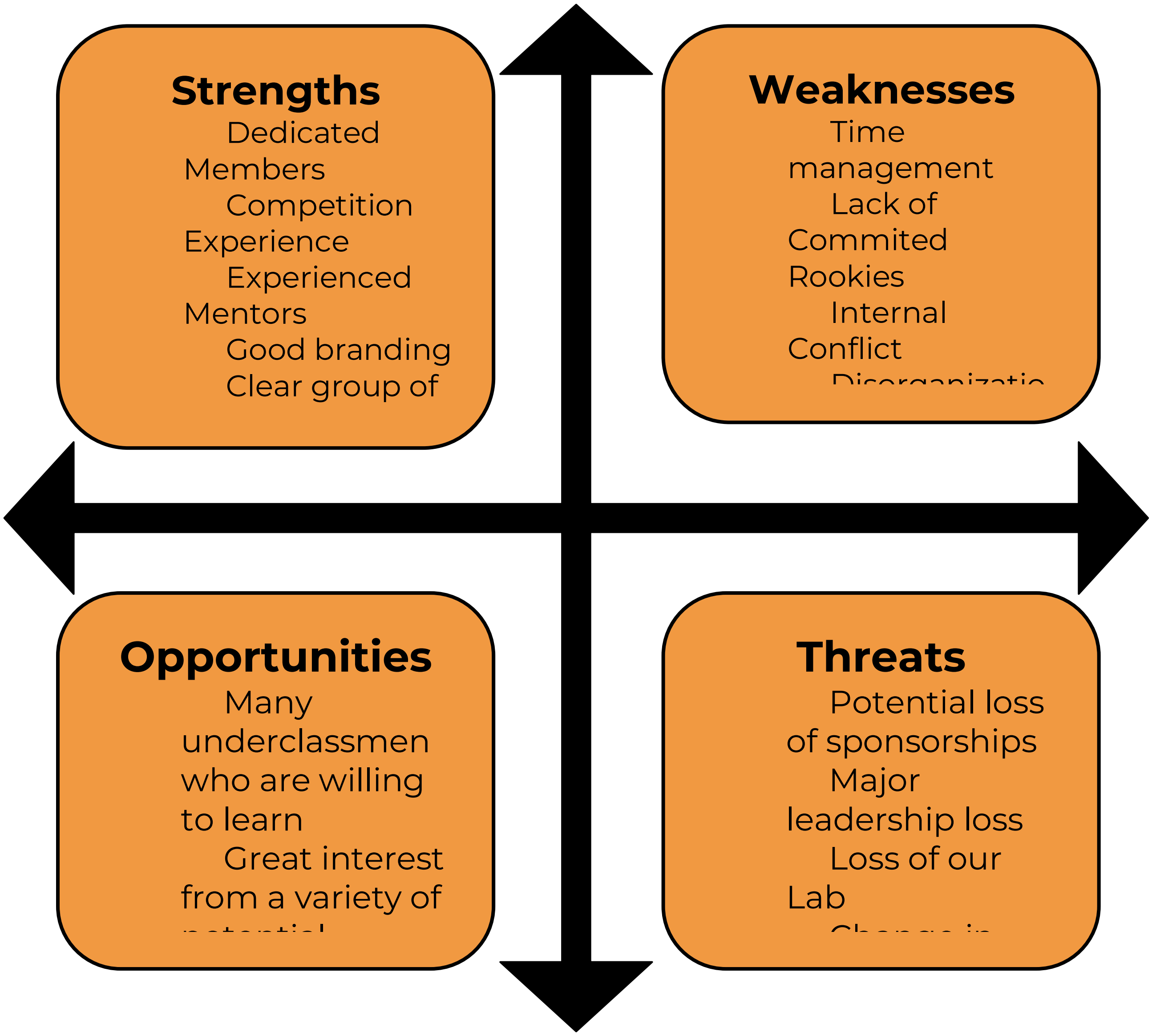
Media: The media team plays an important role in promoting the team and its activities. Their responsibilities include designing posters, maintaining the team's website, handling our social media presence, and documenting our team's progress with video and pictures.

Branding: The branding subteam keeps up with all our logos and ensures that our brand is seen on all of our merchandise.

Mentors

Our team's mentors are essential in instructing and guiding our members. Among them are our engineering mentors who specialize in supporting our mechanical team and overseeing the construction of our robot. While student members do the majority of the work, mentors will engage in hands-on tasks and use them as teaching opportunities, guiding our members through each step of the process. Additionally, we have business and media mentors who stepped up to the challenge earlier this year. They are really helpful in increasing the productivity of these subteams and teaching the students more about their roles. We also have our food “mentors” who organize meals and snacks for our team and keep morale up during longer work days. We also have around 25 alumni who lend their expertise to our subteams. Finally, we have our coaches who manage the team operations and safety of our team. Without them and our mentors, we would not be the team we are today.

SWOT Analysis



Outreach

Beyond competitions, Vector strives to support the robotics pathway within Tomball ISD from the elementary to high school level and introduce students to the wider professional world of robotics. With all of our efforts in outreach, our members have accumulated more than 300 hours of volunteering to support STEM and our community.

First Lego League (FLL):
We mentor 2 FLL teams in engineering, programming, and research every week at Grand Oaks Elementary and Canyon Pointe Elementary. We also assisted 6 more teams at Oakcrest Intermediate. Additionally, we volunteer at local FLL events hosted within the district. Our members assist in building the field, judging, refereeing, and ensuring the competition runs smoothly.

Open Alliance:
Open Alliance is a community of teams committed to "fostering a culture of collaboration and innovation within FIRST." Through Open Alliance, teams share ideas, prototypes, and findings with each other. This accelerates the development of many teams, all while teaching newer teams proper practices in design, programming, collaboration, and team building. We originally joined OA in the 2022 Rapid React Season and became the youngest featured team in the 2023 season.

Summer Camp:
In the summer of 2022, we hosted the first session of our Vector Summer Camp in order to bridge the gap between FLL and FRC within Tomball ISD. We had nearly 30 campers attend, with all three coaches present as well. Our 2023 summer camp increased the number of campers to around 50. The camp curriculum covered topics including programming, engineering, and chemistry. We have continued to do this every summer since and aim to improve the sessions based on the feedback we receive from the campers.

Robotics Demonstrations:

Several of our members advocated for the STEM pathway at our high school in a Career & Technical Education (CTE) showcase at our school's 2 feeder middle schools. We also advocated for FIRST and STEM education beyond our district. We had the opportunity to present to 75 superintendents in training, and we used it to promote robotics and CTE in schools. This opened their eyes to FRC and hopefully inspired them to start and support STEM programs in their future districts.

More Than FRC:

We partnered with the Houston Police Department to demonstrate a retrofitted Boston Dynamics Robotic Dog at our school. This was an excellent opportunity to show our members the capability of robotics and introduce our members to the broader applications of robotics in a professional environment. Furthermore, we worked with the HPD Bomb Squad to repair an RC-30 that was given to them by the US Military. It challenged the members to apply the knowledge they gained in the classroom and at robotics in the real world. We went above and beyond the expectations of HPD, allowing us to form a partnership to continue introducing our members to the vast and rapidly growing world of robotics.

Community:

Our outreach programs extend beyond just robotics. For the holiday season, we worked alongside Marine Toys For Tots to support their mission to "help bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America's less fortunate children." We donated over $1800 worth of toys in the past 3 years. We also showed our appreciation to the incredible teachers of Tomball Memorial High School by recognizing and celebrating the impact of their efforts toward our success. We strongly believe that having teachers who support us in and out of the classroom has allowed us to be successful in competition and our outreach initiatives.

<u>Action Plan</u>

Task	**Action**	**Team Incharge**	**Completion Status**
Robot	- Brainstorm Ideas - Create CAD model - Prototyping Systems - Collect Materials - Assemble Robot - Inventory Electronics - Wire the robot - Test Robot	Mechanical	Brainstorm Ideas: Complete Create CAD model: Complete Prototyping Systems: Collect Materials: Complete Assemble Robot: Incomplete Inventory Electronics: Complete Wire the Robot: Complete Test Robot: Incomplete
Technical Binder	- Plan technical binder - Gather Information - Create Document	Mechanical	Planning: Complete Gather Information: Complete Create Document: Complete
Program Robot	- Update software to 2025 version - Code swerve base - Brainstorm Autonomous Path - Get April Tags - Code Robot Systems	Programming	Update Software to 2025 Version: Complete Code Swerve Base: Complete Brainstorm Autonomous: Complete Get April Tags: Complete Code Robot Systems: Complete
Business Plan	- SWOT Analysis - Action Plan - Budget and Finance - Sponsor List - Demographics	Business	SWOT Analysis: Complete Action Plan: Complete Budget and Finance: Incomplete Sponsor List: Complete

			Demographics: Complete
Update Website	- Update Sponsors - Update Sponsorship Packet - Update Coaches and Mentors Page - Update new accomplishments - Update Join Us page	Media/Business	Update Sponsors: Incomplete Sponsorship Packet: Complete Coaches and Mentors Page: Incomplete Update accomplishments: Incomplete Update Join Us Page: Incomplete
Build Field	- Build Processor - Build Cage - Build Barge - Build Reef	Mechanical	Build Processor: Complete Build Cage: Complete Build Barge: Complete Build Reef: Complete
Awards	- Plan Woodie Flowers Essay - Plan Impact Award - Complete Executive Summaries - Complete Impact Award Documentation - Compile Information - Complete Impact Award Essay - Complete Woodie Flowers Award Essay - Submit Essay	Business	Plan Woodie Flowers Essay: Complete Plan Impact Award: Complete Complete Executive Summaries: Complete Complete Impact Award Documentation: Incomplete Compile Information: Complete Complete Impact Award Essay: Complete Complete Woodie Flowers Award Essay: Complete Submit Essays: Complete
Robot Reveal	- Find Music - Film Video - Edit Video - Upload Video	Media	Find Music: 50% Film Video: Incomplete Edit Video: Incomplete Upload Video:

			Incomplete

Budget/Finance

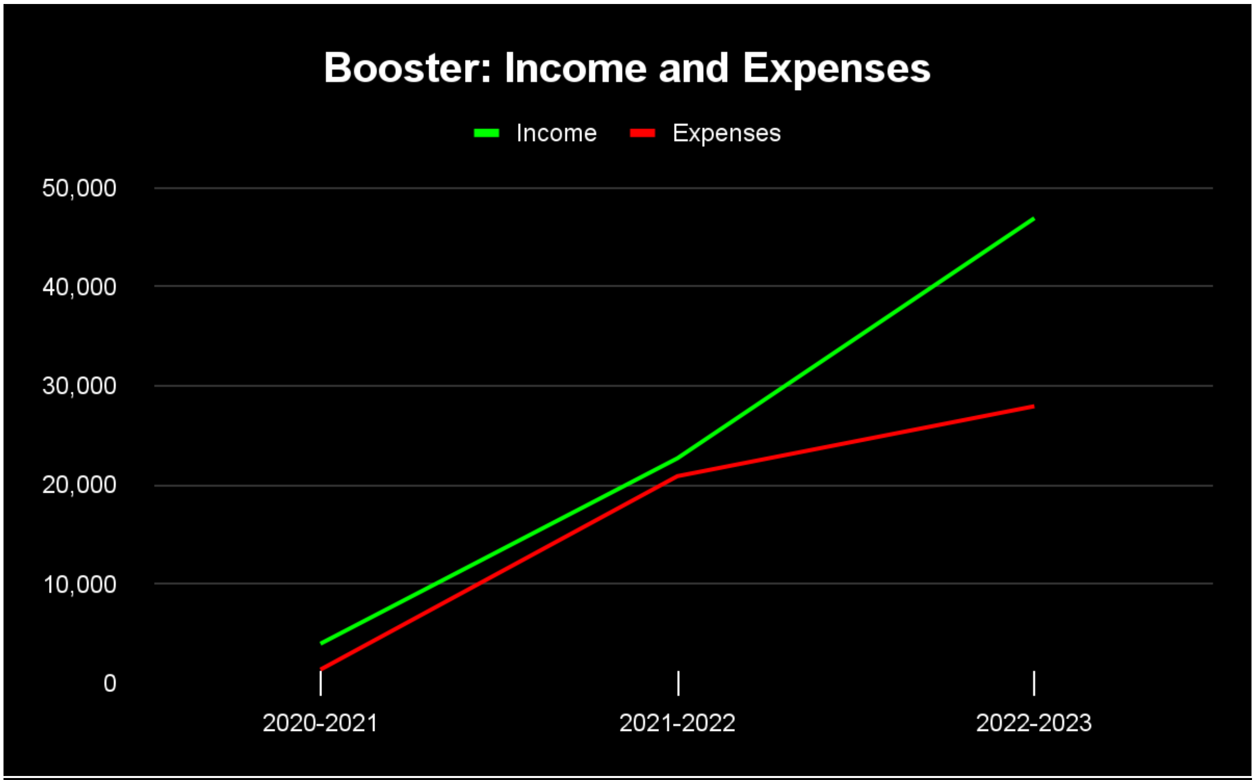
Sponsorship Types:

Financial Sponsors: Our financial sponsors donate to our team through grants we apply for, matching gifts, volunteer service matches, and individual donations. All of these get donated to TMEARS.

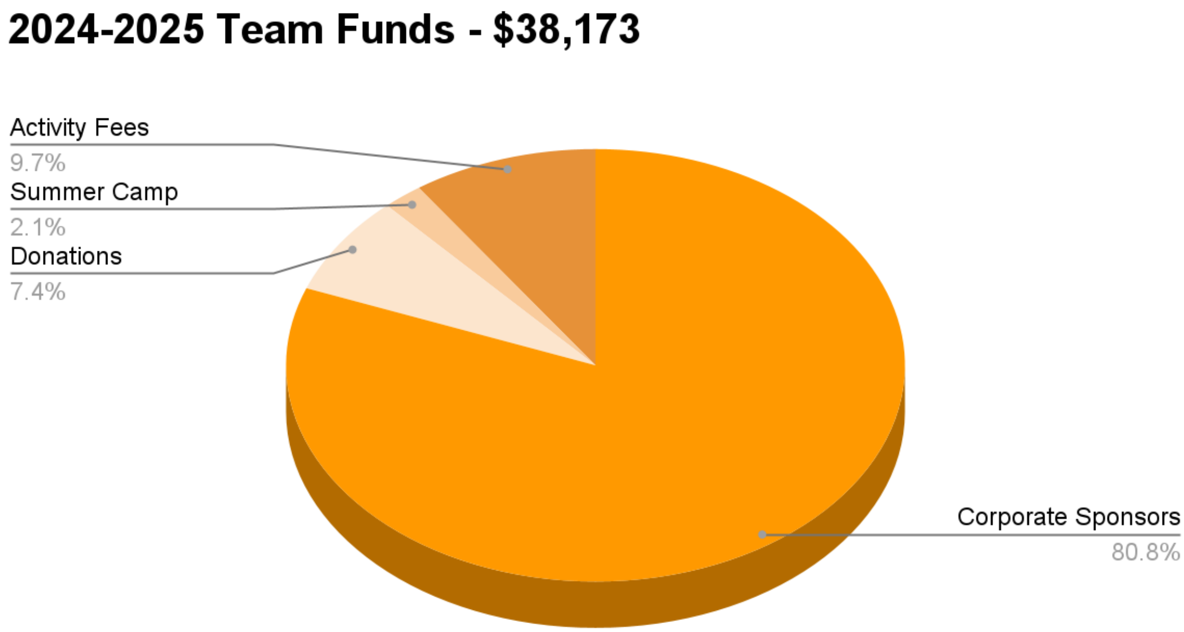
Material Sponsors: Material sponsors send us industrial materials or make certain parts and materials for our team.

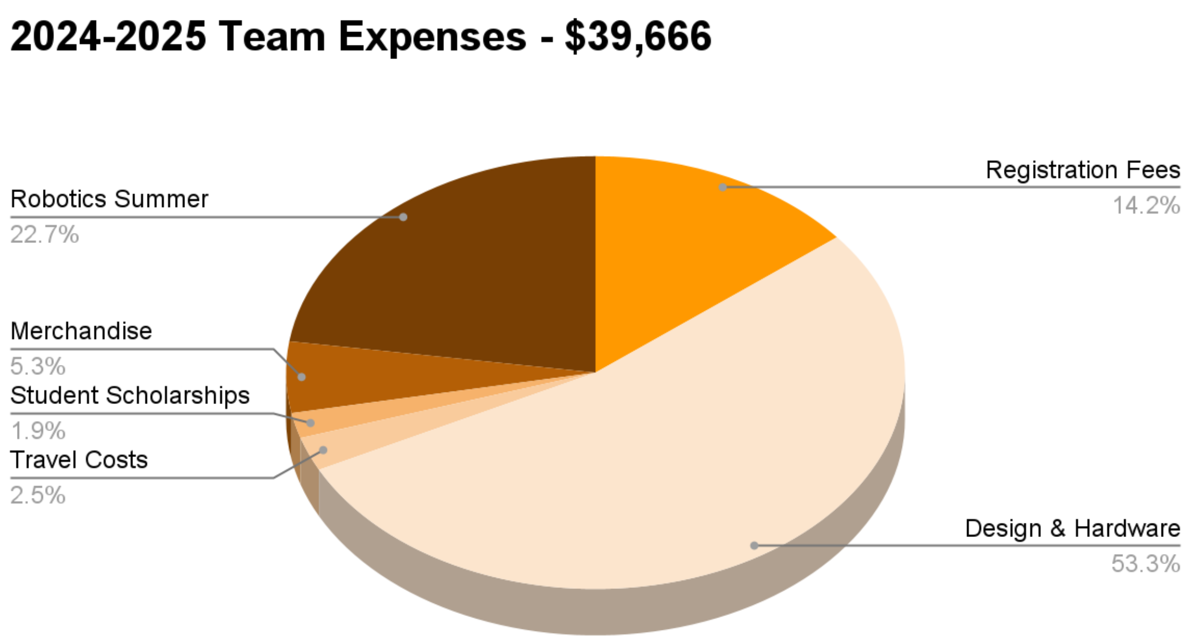
Food Sponsors: Our food sponsors donate food and snacks to our team to keep our team fed during long workdays, and they keep team morale up. We have been supported by Chick-fil-A, Freebirds, HEB, Kolache Kafe, LA Crawfish, and BB's Tex Orleans.

Machine Shops: Parts that can't be made by our team can be manufactured by the machine shops that sponsor us.


Booster: Income and Expenses
Income
Expenses
50,000
40,000
30,000
20,000
10,000
0
2020-2021
2021-2022
2022-2023

Budget Breakdown:





Sponsor Benefits

Notable Recognition ($100 - $499):
Thank You Letter for Your Support
Photograph of Our Competition Team and Robot

Bronze Level ($500 - $999):
Thank You Letter for Your Support
Photograph of Our Competition Team and Robot
Company Name/Logo on Team Website

Silver Level ($1000 - $2499):
Thank You Letter for Your Support
Photograph of Our Competition Team and Robot
Company Name/Logo on Team Website
Shoutout on Our Social Media (Instagram, YouTube, etc.)
Company Name/Logo on Team Poster (Brought to Every Competition)

Gold Level ($2500 - $4999):
Thank You Letter for Your Support
Photograph of Our Competition Team and Robot
Company Name/Logo on Team Website
Shoutout on Our Social Media (Instagram, YouTube, etc.)
Company Name/Logo on Team Poster (Brought to Every Competition)
Company Name/Logo on Team Shirt

Platinum Level ($5000+):
Thank You Letter for Your Support
Photograph of Our Competition Team and Robot
Company Name/Logo on Team Website
Shoutout on Our Social Media (Instagram, YouTube, etc.)
Company Name/Logo on Team Poster (Brought to Every Competition)
Company Name/Logo on Team Shirt
Company Name/Logo on Competition Robot
Listed as Chief Sponsor on Vector 8177’s website

Diamond Level ($10000+):
Thank You Letter for Your Support

Photograph of Our Competition Team and Robot
Company Name/Logo on Team Website
Shoutout on Our Social Media (Instagram, YouTube, etc.)
Company Name/Logo on Team Shirt
Company Name/Logo on Competition Robot
Listed as Chief Sponsor on Vector 8177’s website
Unique Competition Banner (Brought to Every Competition)

Sustainability

Behavior Expectations:

We expect every member to conduct themselves appropriately and act with gracious professionalism throughout the season. Every member must have an overall passing average from the previous nine weeks to join the club and must not have had any misconduct leading to in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension. Our members must also be UIL eligible with their academic and behavioral expectations.

Safety:

Every student is required to follow safe conduct while in the work environment. Members must wear personal protective equipment such as protective eyewear in the building workspace and follow all safety procedures instructed in the FRC game manual and the bylaws of the Vector 8177 Robotics Team. Our team has a safety manual that all of our members must read and follow; there is also a week of mandatory training that goes over all of the procedures when working in the workspace.

Risk Analysis:

There are many things that threaten the success of our team. Our business team brainstorms possible risks and plans ways to prevent them. For example, to prevent issues with funding, our team applies for grants and sponsorships. There are always concerns that current leadership will not train incoming members and pass along information, leading to a lack of leadership structure. Our team is actively working to create safeguards against these possible risks.

Recruitment:

At the beginning of every school year, we promote our team at the freshman orientation as well as at the school-wide elective fair. We encourage both students and parents to join our team. We utilize the school's morning announcements as well as promotional posters hung around the school to encourage recruitment. At our first open meeting, we explain what we plan to do throughout the school year and the various competitions and events we plan to attend. Following this meeting, students have the opportunity to apply to our team. Once accepted, rookies now have the opportunity to learn and work with our veterans and leads.

Onboarding/Training:

During the beginning of our off-season, our subteams work to teach and train our new rookies to be ready for the competition season. Each team has its own way of teaching, like our mechanical team, which has mandatory safety training for all of its new members. They learn how to operate all of the power tools and gain a general knowledge of where all of the hand tools and materials are stored. They get the most hands-on experience of all of our subteams. Business and media have similar ways of training by giving rookies immediate tasks to begin preparing for competition season. Our programming team has basic lessons to teach the rookies how to code the robot.

Future Plans:

TISD is planning to build a new joint robotics center for its three high school robotics teams: T3 #7312, TSA All-Stars #7691, and Vector #8177. This way, all teams will have more room to practice with their robots and will increase collaboration between teams.

Vector, Oh Yeah!

Origin of Vector:

Vector 8177 started its rookie year in 2019 with the financial support of the Young Sheldon Grant. From the beginning, our two coaches were Ms. Coronado, who was the sponsor for the Engineering Club, and Mr. Monroe, who was the original robotics sponsor. We had a meeting to brainstorm a variety of names to decide our team name. Following the vote, “Vector” emerged as the victor. Securing the rights to Vector and Minions from Illumination further solidified our identity in the same year. Our ensuing years cemented our team’s colors as black and orange. Initially engaging in FTC competitions, we decided to transition to FRC. We competed at one event in 2020 before the competition season was shut down by Covid-19. However, we continued to compete virtually in 2021.

Current Branding:

Our team has been so lucky to have the support of Illumination. Through this partnership, we have gained the rights to the character Vector from *Despicable Me*, which has been the cornerstone of our current branding. This includes Vector’s signature orange tracksuit that many of our team members wear to our competitions and a poster cutout of Vector, the character who stands guard in our pit. Finally, we have our “Vector, Oh Yeah” chant that comes from one of his lines in the movie. You will hear this repeatedly during every match of every competition. Then, we have our social media: Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. These allow us to connect with our sponsors as well as other teams with updates about our progress. Vector 8177’s colors are black and orange, and we use them on our website, t-shirts, hoodies, and promotional flyers. Our logo, which has been through many variations, including the use of lightning, circuits, and different shapes and colors, uses these colors as well. Our media team finally settled on our current logo: an orange V with the arrow and team number to the left.

Team Bonding:

Vector 8177 aims to create an inclusive environment and sense of community among its members. We accomplish this in multiple ways, including having team lunches during longer work days. Slack is another tool we use to enhance team bonding, as it keeps any of our members who may not be able to attend a meeting in the loop of what we are doing. We even have a Discord server dedicated to some of our members playing video games together. The night before alliance selection, our team gathers at one of our member's houses to assess all the other teams and make our preferred choices if we were to become team captain. During this time, we eat, hang out, and gather data together as a team.

Team Contact Info

Website: vector8177.com
Team Email: vector8177@gmail.com
Instagram: vector_8177
Youtube: Vector8177
Twitter: TmhsRobotics

Main Contacts:

Lead Coach
Name: David Monroe
Title: Computer Science Teacher
Email: davidmonroe@tomballisd.net
Phone: 713-202-1820

Lead Coach
Name: Vanessa Coronado
Title: Engineering Teacher
Email: vanessacoronado@tomballisd.net
Phone: 713-594-4123

Lead Coach
Name: Casey Bulaculac
Title: Physics Teacher
Email: cassondrabulaclac@tomballisd.net

Lead Mentor - Mechanical
Name: Tom Cegielski
Email: tommy.cegielski@alfalaval.com

TMEARS President
Name: Celina Cerrato
Email: Celinacerrato@yahoo.com