

Rock River Robotics Off-season Competition Celebrates 10th Anniversary

R2OC to Welcome 32 Teams, Robots from Midwest to Compete Saturday at RVC PE Center

ROCKFORD, Ill., July 21, 2022 – The Rock River Robotics Off-season Competition (R2OC) announced today that the **10th annual Rock River Robotics Off-Season Competition** is set for this Saturday, July 23, at the Rock Valley College PE Center. A premier STEM-engagement showcase produced by volunteers and generously supported by titanium sponsors Collins Aerospace, PCI Pharma Services and Woodward, R2OC features some of the Rockford region's and Midwest's top youth who design, build, program and operate robots that compete on a custom field of play.

Founded in 2012 by the Flaming Monkeys (Belvidere), Metalheads (Freeport), Rockford Robotics, Stateline Robotics (Rockton), and Winnovation (Winnebago and Pecatonica), this year's R2OC will feature 32 teams from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Wisconsin. Admission to the event is free and action is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m., lasting until approximately 5 p.m. Saturday.

"We're so excited to celebrate the 10th anniversary of R2OC! Much like FIRST Robotics Competition, R2OC is about providing opportunities for high school students to showcase and apply their skills in engineering and manufacturing by designing, building and programming functioning robots," said Chris Magee, R2OC's co-chair. "As students develop these skills and a passion for science and technology during their high school years, many are also becoming our community's future workforce."

A certified 501(c)(3), this year's R2OC will again include a variety of giveback initiatives. First, for the sixth-straight year, R2OC is offering scholarships to this year's student participants. The 2022 scholarship program for post-secondary education will feature \$1,000 awards eligible to all R2OC participating juniors and seniors and \$1,500 awards eligible to students who are attending Rock Valley College. Additionally, R2OC has earmarked up to \$5,000 in grant funding for robotics programming expenses available exclusively for programs based in Boone, Stephenson and Winnebago counties—the three counties represented by the event's five founding teams. Moreover, all participating teams are encouraged to bring donations for the 2022 R2OC Donation Drive, which will benefit the Rock River Valley Pantry and Family Peace Center.

This off-season event is derived from the international *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC), which combines sports with the rigors of science and technology. *FIRST* Robotics Competition is the varsity sport for the mind, featuring teams of 10 or more high school students who are challenged to build and program a robot to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors, raise funds, design a team brand, and hone teamwork skills.

2022 R2OC is modeled after *FIRST*'s RAPID REACT, which is played by two alliances of three teams each, with each team controlling a robot and completing specific actions to score points. The game revolves around both alliances shooting inflatable balls known as cargo into a central Hub and climbing within their hangars at the end of the match. The overall objective of each match is to score more points than the opposing alliance before the match ends.

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For complete event information and to learn more about R2OC, visit www.r2oc.org.

About R2OC: R2OC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit partnership of Rock River Valley FIRST Robotics teams. R2OC's goal is to provide an off-season event where FIRST Robotics teams can participate in a competition, show off their bots to the community, and meet others who share their robotics enthusiasm.

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