

Congratulations! For the 2016-17 season, there are 632 teams registered in Minnesota. Only 61 of those teams advance to the state tournament. That means that your team is ranked in the top 10% of teams in MN. Your team has already had a very successful season - competing at state is the icing on the cake!

Location of the State Tournament:

- Washington Technology Magnet School
1495 Rice St, St Paul, MN 55117

[High Tech Kids](#) needs the following from you:

- Team info sheet
- Robot Pic
- Team Pic

Overall

- It is a longer, louder, more intense day for the team and coaches. (Coaches and parents might want to bring earplugs!)
- The Opening ceremony is a bit more elaborate and there is usually a choreographed referee dance.
- Judging and robot competition takes place in the morning. Callback judging (to determine award winners) and the head to head tournament takes place in the afternoon.
- Coaches and kids: Make sure to meet kids and coaches on other teams when there is time. If you are standing in line waiting to compete, ask them about their robot or research project. There will be lots of good solutions at this tournament and you may learn something new and make a few friends.
- Thank all of your judges, referees, the volunteers who do check in, and the High Tech Kids staff. This is a long day for them too.
- You made it to state! No matter what happens in judging and competition, enjoy the day!

Facilities

- [Washington Technology Magnet School building map](#)
- The competition area is a very dark large gym with bright lights suspended over the tables. The lighting may be different than what you've experienced before, so if your team uses light or color sensors, you may need to shield and/or calibrate them. (Regardless of where you compete, you should test your robot in different lighting conditions.)
- The music in the gym is loud.
- There is bleacher seating on both sides of the gym and a balcony around the perimeter where spectators can watch. Spectator seating is not an issue.
- The building is large and spacious - which has advantages and disadvantages.
 - Robot competition is on the first floor, pits are on the 2nd floor and judging is on the 3rd floor. Your team may need to use an elevator to get your robot up or down a floor to judging or competition.
 - There are two main elevators - one close to the front door/entrance to the gym, and one toward the other end of the building. The hallways to the elevators can be crowded and sometimes it's a long way to either elevator, so make sure you allot enough time to get there and wait your turn to get on.
 - There are lots of out of the way spaces (locker bays, empty hallways) to rehearse your project or to practice answering mock judging questions.
 - Parents/siblings can bring camp chairs and set up their own little pit area in an out of the way area if they'd like.
 - The long hallways make it tempting to run while pushing the cart with the robot on it. Don't.
 - The team pit areas are in hallways between classrooms. They are literally in a wedge shape, so there isn't a ton of space and your team may be a little wedged in if your pit is toward the back.

- There is a shared practice table at the front end of each pit area.
- Did I mention that the music in the gym is loud?

Judging & Awards

- The judged awards given at State are as follows:
 - Technical: Mechanical Design, Strategy and Innovation, Programming
 - Research Project: Quality of Research, Innovative Solution, Creative Presentation
 - Core Values (teamwork)
- Additional awards are given for Robot Performance (top score of the morning robot runs), Head to Head, Gracious Professionalism, Inspiration (team spirit), and at the judges' discretion up to four Judges Awards are given out for significant team accomplishments that may not fit into one of the other categories.
- Here's a list of the 2015 state tournament awards with [descriptions of the award criteria](#).
- The judging sessions in the morning will be similar to what you have experienced in regional and sectional tournaments. Your team is competing within your division, and if you take 1st place in any of the judging categories your team, will be asked to go through another judging session in that category in the afternoon. You will be judged against the 1st place winners in all the other divisions. This is called "Call back judging". Call back judging is very similar to regular judging, but there will be more judges in these sessions.
- Three teams will advance from the 2017 state tournament. Two teams advance to the World Championship in St. Louis, MO in April and a third team will advance to Asia Pacific Open in Sydney Australia in July.

Concessions & Souvenirs

- Concessions - there are 2 locations. One is at the top of the stairs on the 2nd floor, the other is in the cafeteria at the other end of the building. You can pre-order pizzas for your team and families. Concession sales are usually fundraisers for MN high school robotics teams.
- Souvenir Tshirts/sweatshirts are available. All the state tournament team names and numbers are listed on the back and you can have a star put by your team name. The t-shirts and sweatshirts can be expensive, but are a good souvenir of your team's hard work to make it to the state tournament. The day is so busy that it's hard to find time to order. Consider having the kids choose what they want and then have a parent stand in line to order so that you are not searching for members of your team when it's time to compete.
- Team handouts - some teams bring hand outs (candy, business cards, pencils, etc.) These could be "good luck" wishes or your research problem solution printed on a brochure or business card. This is completely optional and it is not necessary to spend any more money on this!