IRON Cal
INSPIRATION ROBOTICS
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

RECF ENGAGE · 2026-2027 SEASON

LEAGUE COACH GUIDE

Thank you for coaching in the Butte County Robotics League, IRON Cal's RECF Engage league for elementary and middle school teams. RECF is the Robotics Education and Competition Foundation. Teams compete at league sessions through the fall, each at a different school, and finish the season at the league championship.

This guide covers what's specific to our league: registering, session nights, judging, and how your families can help. For general coaching, RECF's free Coach Academy is a great place to start.

START HERE

1. Register your team through RECF, not on the IRON Cal site. Scan the code for league details (RECF event code ENG20263970).
2. Complete RECF's coach background screening. RECF requires it for coaches and renews it every two years.
3. Take RECF's free Coach Academy at training.recf.org before your first session.

League details for teams

RECF event code ENG20263970

THIS SEASON

Session nights run from 4:30 to 8:00 PM. Each session is a separate RECF event, so check the league details for each date.

SESSION	DATE	LOCATION
Session 1	Thursday, October 8	Marsh Junior High School, Chico
Session 2	Thursday, October 29	Chico Junior High School, Chico
Session 3	Thursday, November 19	Bidwell Junior High School, Chico
League Championship	Saturday, December 12	STREAM Charter School, Oroville

WHAT TO BRING

- The robot, charged batteries, and controllers
- Spare parts and simple tools
- The engineering notebook
- Water and snacks for your team

SESSION NIGHTS

1. Check in at the team table when you arrive.
2. Get your robot inspected before your first match.
3. Teams play matches through the evening. Watch the schedule and listen for queuing calls.
4. Judges may interview your team during the session.

JUDGING AND NOTEBOOKS

Judges interview teams, review engineering notebooks, and watch how teams play to decide judged awards.

- Students explain their own work. Coaches stay back during interviews.
- A good notebook shows the team's process: ideas, tests, what worked, and what they changed.
- RECF events are student-centered: students build, code, drive, and explain their own robot, and adults support from the side.

HELP US RUN THE LEAGUE

Every session needs volunteers to run fields, score matches, and judge, and most roles need no experience. Please share the volunteer sign-up with your families at https://www.ironcal.org/event. Volunteers can take our free RECF Engage Volunteer Training first.

Volunteers under 18 must have an adult (18 or older) on site who is responsible for them in case of emergency. This can be a parent, guardian, or coach, or an IRON Cal event lead we assign when they check in. Coaches can fill that role for their own students.

KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE

If anyone is in immediate danger, call 911 first. Then tell the Event Partner or an event lead right away. Adults should avoid being alone with students where other adults can't see them, and students only leave an event with their parent or guardian's approval. IRON Cal's Incident Report and Youth Safety Concern Report forms are at the team check-in table.

EVENT CONTACTS

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