



# Engineering Challenge



## Working with Your Students

### REMEMBER . . .

Primary communication with Coaches/Sponsors is done through e-mail provided with the School/Group Registration done online. If a coach or sponsor is not receiving e-mail information about the contest, he or she should check Spam/Junk folders on the computer and contact Academic Rodeo for assistance with getting the current information.

Deadlines exist for a reason. Please be aware of them and follow them. There is an **Academic Rodeo Calendar** in a true calendar format on the Getting Started and General Info pages. The **Engineering Challenge Timeline** is on the contest page. If you have a problem with a date or deadline, please contact Academic Rodeo, realizing that usually it is not possible to make a change or give “grace” for deadlines. Often judging or other timings are scheduled close to the due date. To be sure your students get to participate, follow the deadlines.

Be sure to read the General Information for All Coaches and Sponsors.

The following tips and suggestions may be helpful to you in working with your students.

- The Student Activity Book and Teacher Manual provide activities for working with your students. The challenges can be helpful in getting your students to work as a team.
- Get into the set of Legos early to be sure you understand how to work with the pneumatics and other components of the set. Too often, teams do not begin working with the Legos until late December or even January and do not allow enough time to create their Rover and make sure it can complete the challenges. Sponsors become overwhelmed and drop from the contest.
- Elementary Teams **MUST use pneumatics** to move the Rover. If you do not have a way to move the Rover other than lifting, pointing, and pushing go on the battery pack, you cannot complete the course. Teams doing this in the past have received major deductions for constant touching and repositioning the Rover. However, again, this will no longer be allowed.
- Some Elementary Teams use remote controls. These can be purchased for approximately \$15.00. Ask if you have problems finding an inexpensive remote. Share if you find a really good price so that it can be passed on to other teams.
- Remember that you **may register ONLY 4 students AND only those 4 students receive any awards**. Any alternates that work with the team CANNOT be registered and will NOT receive any awards from Academic Rodeo if your team places. IF these alternates attend the contest, they must remain to the side with the coach and parents. They may NOT be included in Academic Rodeo photos at the contest.
- Be sure that students begin completing the Lab Notebook **from the beginning** and include the required items, plus the entire process of participation from start to finish. The Team Member making an entry in the Notebook should initial the entry.