



January 20, 2021

Dear 2021 Rockets for Schools Teams, Students, Mentors, and Parents:

Thank you for your support of the Rocket for Schools (RFS) event. We are happy to let you know that the Rockets for Schools Committee is planning to hold a 2021 Rocket for Schools event. There will be several changes to the event due to COVID restrictions and to current construction going on in the Sheboygan Harbor.

The following is what we are anticipating in regard to event format, dates, registration, launch day information and schedule, and COVID requirements for attendance. Please make note of all dates, especially for required form submittals as this will directly impact your team's attendance scheduling and scoring.

Event Format

The 2021 RFS event is being presented as a hybrid event with the keynote speaker(s), team presentations, initial rocket inspections, and event awards all occurring online through Zoom. The Sheboygan Harbor's south pier is currently under construction and the City of Sheboygan approved alternate launch areas around the harbor do not provide a controlled and safe launch area for the event, event staff, and participants. To provide a safe and controlled launch area while harbor construction is occurring, the RFS Committee has decided to host the physical RFS launch at Richard Bong State Park located near Kansasville, WI.

Key Event Dates

Key 2021 RFS event dates are:

- Friday, April 2, 2021 – Last day to register for the 2021 RFS event. Teams must submit RFS Registration and Advisor Agreement forms at time of rocket order. If you are a returning 2020 RFS team, you will still need to submit these forms. A firm count of participating teams is needed to ensure proper planning for COVID restrictions and launching needs.
- Friday, April 16, 2021 – All required team legal forms due. This includes the Team Member Registration and required Emergency Form and Liability Form for ALL team members. Forms are located on the event website.
- Friday, April 30, 2021 – Team test and payload description are due. Teams not submitting the tests by this date will receive a 5-point deduction on test.
- Friday, April 30 and Saturday, May 1, 2021 – Mandatory online Zoom inspection of rockets. Actual assigned times will be established prior to the event.
- Saturday, May 1 and Sunday, May 2, 2021 – Mandatory online Zoom pre-event team mentor meeting to discuss upcoming event specific topics.
- Tuesday, May 4 and Wednesday, May 5, 2021 - Online Zoom keynote speaker(s) and team presentations. Actual assigned times will be established prior to the event and will be in 15-minute increments. The judging criteria for presentations will remain the same as in past events.
- Friday, May 7 and Saturday, May 8, 2021 – Team display board judging and rocket launch at Richard Bong State Park. Teams will participate on only one of the two dates due to WDNR large group COVID restrictions.
- Sunday, May 9, 2021 – Rain date if Team assigned flight day is cancelled due to inclement weather.
- TBD – Virtual awards presentation.



Registration

With the 2021 RFS event having to be completed in a hybrid format and meeting the needs of COVID restrictions when we meet to launch the team rockets, it is pertinent we have the focus and attention of the team mentors in completing registration (including payment of all fees) by the previously specified dates. The fee structure for 2021 is:

- 2020 cancelled event returning Teams (all classes) with rocket kits already purchased: \$280
 - 2021 Teams (participation and rocket fee):
 - Class I Jr. and Class I Sr.: \$480
 - *Class II: \$610
- * Reminder in order to participate in Class II team members must have participated previously in Class I Jr. or Class I Sr.

The standard RFS team is allowed to have a maximum 10 participants plus the team mentor. Please note the WDNR has large group restrictions and guidelines in place at Richard Bong State Park and has limited group sizes to just 50 people in one staged area. Since RFS will be occupying two separate staged areas, we should be able to coordinate operations under the WDNR guidelines. To comply with the restrictions and guidelines, teams will be only allowed to have a total of eight (8) persons involved at the actual launch event itself. The eight-person limit will be strictly enforced and is inclusive of all participants, the mentor, and any team spectators. Spectators not directly involved with a team or the event will not be allowed.

Launch Day Information and Schedule

The RFS rocket launch will occur at Richard Bong State Park. The RFS Committee does acknowledge there is a fee associated with entrance to the Wisconsin State Parks and the RFS Committee is working with park on a potential reduced team entrance fee or waiving the fee completely. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Teams will be responsible for coordinating their own lodging needs if needed. The RFS Committee is researching if any lodging establishments near the park will consider providing any event or reduced pricing. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

The RFS rocket launches will be divided across two days, Friday, May 7 and Saturday, May 8 to help meet COVID restrictions and social distance requirements. The RFS Committee cannot stress enough the importance of meeting the specified dates for forms and information submittals. As to promote timely submittals and assist in event planning, the RFS Committee will be assigning launch dates based on team preferences submitted with the completion of the required team legal forms (i.e., Team Member Registration and required Emergency Form and Liability Form for ALL team members). Team preferences will be filled to best of the ability of the RFS Committee in the order teams submit their forms. In other words, launch date preferences will be honored based on the order teams submit their completed team legal forms (while also having met the registration requirement too).

The RFS Committee will be establishing the interactive Mission Control during both launch dates. This popular event station will be manned by the participants attending the event. However, live broadcasting of the actual launches on the internet, as done in previous events, will not occur due to lack of internet access needs at the park.



All team mentors will be required to submit a completed TRA Launch Liability Waiver Form (attached) for the team prior to participation in the launch event itself.

All team display boards will be required to be setup for judging during your specified launch date. RFS will provide tables for the team displays and one assigned table (measuring 2' x 4') to use in setting up your rocket and for RSO inspection. Teams will need to provide any EZ-UP canopies and chairs for the activity.

The anticipated schedule for each assigned launch date is:

- 8:00 am. Event open for team setup and onsite check-in/registration. Each team member (youth and adult) will have their temperature taken at this time as well.
- 8:30 am. Team Mentor Meeting with RFS Co-Directors.
- 9:00 am. RFS Range Safety Officer (RSO) team inspections of individual team rockets and judging. RFS RSO team members will work with each team in assembling and preparing the team rockets for launching. This will include weighing and preparation of each payload, packing the parachute recovery system, and insertion of the rocket motor.
- 10:00 am. All team displays are setup for judging.
- 11:00 am. All team rockets are ready for flight.
- 11:15 am. All Event meeting with RSO on flight line etiquette and Mission Control Officer discussion on Mission Control.
- 11:30 am to 12:00 pm. Lunch break. Please note there will be no food vendors on site.
- 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. Salvo 1 rocket launches.
- 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm. Salvo 2 rocket launches.
- 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Additional launch opportunities for attending teams.
- 5:00 pm. Event closes, all teams depart.

The schedule presented is proposed. RFS Committee reserves the right to adjust the schedule based on total number of teams and weather. Launch days cancelled due to inclement weather will be rescheduled for Sunday, May 9.

Once the main launches are completed, teams may have an opportunity to fly their rockets again. RFS anticipates having Wildman Rocketry at the event which will allow teams to purchase an additional motor to fly their rocket late in the event day. Teams will be required to launch the rocket the same day the motor is purchased unless the team has a certified NAR or TRA mentor that may possess the motor until which time the team can fly it.

COVID Requirements

Even as the world progresses through vaccinations, the 2021 RFS event will be guided by State of Wisconsin, CDC, WDNR, and social distance practices including mandatory face masks, continued hand washing/sanitizing, and established practice of 6-feet between activities. Team mentors will be required on launch day to certify their team launch participants are aware of the risks associated with a high-power rocket launch including Influenza, MRSA, or COVID-19. Team mentors will also be required to certify team members and their households 30 days prior to the event have not visited any area within the United States that was reported to be a high-risk State affected by COVID-19 and have not been diagnosed to be infected. If any participant feels sick, even if not COVID-19 related, they are to stay home.



RFS Committee will be providing hand sanitizing stations and will assist in proper methods for sanitizing shared event equipment including mission control stations. Restrooms are available at Richard Bong State Park for participant use.

We appreciate your support and continued support of the Rockets for Schools program! We look forward to a successful event and seeing you all online and at Richard Bong State Park.

If you have any further questions, please contact either of us by the means shown below.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenny Bergschultz'.

Kenny Bergschultz, Co-Director
kenny@spaceportsheboygan.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol Lutz'.

Carol Lutz, Co-Director
clutz53@gmail.com

Attachments: TWA COVID Waiver Form
TRA Launch Liability Waiver Form



TRA Launch Liability Waiver Form

**TO FLY AT THIS LAUNCH YOU MUST READ THE FOLLOWING, AND
SIGN AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE!**

- * By signing this waiver, I agree that I have read and understood the Tripoli Rocketry Association Safety Code, and rules that will apply to this launch.
- * I understand that launching rockets and related activities can be dangerous with potential risks of bodily injury or death from impact or, burns
- * I also agree to report any violations of the Tripoli Rocketry Association's safety code or any unsafe condition to the launch officials.
- * I acknowledge that I have the necessary experience and training to operate high-power rockets at my current level of certification.
- * I agree to hold harmless the Tripoli Rocketry Association Inc. and the launch site land owner for any liability resulting from my participation and actions of others at this rocket launch including any bodily injury.

I THE UNDERSIGNED:

- (1) Expressly assume all of the risks of participating or spectating in this launch, including risk of damage, personal injury, or death.
- (2) Agree to exercise the utmost care in pursuit of my activities at this launch.
- (3) Will make no claim(s) against the landowner or Tripoli Rocketry Association.

PRINT NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____ CERTIFICATION LEVEL _____

LAUNCH SITE _____ DATE _____

Adult/parent name and signature is required for flyers under eighteen years of age.

ADULT/PARENT NAME _____

ADULT/PARENT SIGNATURE _____

**This is not an essential activity you are attending.
If you feel you are unable to sign this waiver please
exit the event.**

In consideration of my Rockets for Schools team participation in the foregoing, I the undersigned Team Advisor/Mentor acknowledge and agree to the following.

Please Read and Acknowledge by Checking Boxes

I am aware of the existence of the risk on my Team's physical appearance to this venue and my Team's participation in the activity of attending the Rockets for Schools Rocket Launch event, that may cause injury or illness such as, but not limited to Influenza, MRSA, or COVID-19 that may lead to paralysis or death.

I did not, nor any member(s) of my Team or their household, visit any area within the United States that was reported to be a high-risk State affected by COVID-19, in the last 30 days.

I have not been, nor any member(s) of my Team or their household, diagnosed to be infected of COVID-19 virus within the last 30 days.

Please Sign and Date _____

Team Name:_____