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**MAY 10 2018**

May 6, 2018

Bowmar Builders  
% Bowmar Avenue Elementary School  
912 Bowmar Avenue  
Vicksburg, MS 39180

RE: Request for Sponsorship of the Bowmar Builders

Dear Mayor and Board of Aldermen,

The Bowmar Builders, a First Lego League (FLL) robotics team made up of fourth, fifth and sixth grade students at Bowmar Avenue Elementary School, recently competed against the top 24 teams in the state. They won the Champion's Award - Second Place, which earned them an invitation to an international FLL competition: the Razorback Invitational in Fayetteville, AK on May 17 -20, 2018. They will compete against robotics teams from across the Nation and around the world.

The First Lego League is a STEM program focused on both helping our youth learn skills related to building robots and building personal values that foster teamwork and excellence in their work. The FLL program has three components that the teams are judged on: their robot design, core values, and a project. The project is similar to a team-oriented science fair project related to the theme of the year. This year's theme was the Human Water Cycle - how we produce, transport, use, and dispose of water. The Bowmar Builders won 2nd place based on their overall demonstration of core values (teamwork, respect, research, personal development, cooperation), the problem and solution they created for their project, and the robustness and performance of their robot.

The Razorback Invitational FLL competition is a four day event that offers a unique opportunity for the students of the Bowmar Builders. This is an opportunity for the team to experience performing at a world-class level. Our team, composed of 4th, 5th, and 6th grade elementary school students, were invited to compete against 71 other teams from Israel, Brazil, Italy, South Korea, and many other countries. In all likelihood we will be the youngest team there. The international teams have higher age limits than the national FLL teams, so we will be competing against students at the high school level. That is how good our Vicksburg students are.

Attending the Razorback Invitational will allow our students to gain a broader world-view through interacting with and getting to know the international students. They will be spending four days on the campus of a world-class university and experience a taste of being a college student. They will be spending time with students and educators from around the world who deeply care about STEM subjects and have put significant time and effort into designing, programming and understanding the physics behind building robots. This is an opportunity to

inspire our children to be world-class students who will build and strengthen our community in the future.

As representatives of the Vicksburg Community, the Bowmar Builders are requesting financial support to cover the many of the costs associated with this event. The registration fee for the FIRST LEGO League Razorback Invitational is \$1,500 per team. The team will also need funding for travel and lodging nights. In total, we need approximately \$4,500 for the trip. We have asked other groups to also sponsor us, and some have indicated they can but only for a few hundred dollars. We would like to ask for a sponsorship of \$3500.

Additionally, we would like to promote our City at the event. We will have a small booth (6' table) that we can use to decorate with information about our project, our team, and also where we come from. If there are signs or other promotional material that we could use, we would appreciate the opportunity to promote our city to the other attendees. This gives the team the chance to represent and promote Vicksburg as the exciting technology center that it is and to encourage visitors from around the world to visit.

Please reach out to Assistant Coach Christi Kilroy (601-630-5600) for additional details about the Bowmar Builders, the Razorback Invitational or the funding request.

Sincerely,



Aaron Byrd, Ph.D., P.E  
Coach, Bowmar Builders

Team Members

Donovan Blue, 6th Grade  
Jacob Byrd, 4th Grade  
Lauren Kilroy, 6th Grade  
Thomas Kilroy, 4th Grade  
Caleb Porter, 4th Grade  
Tatum Watts, 5th Grade

Coaches

Aaron Byrd, Ph.D., P.E  
Christi Kilroy  
James T. Kilroy, Jr.