

Tyee Rocketry Club 2026–2027 – Application & Selection Process

Dear Parents and Students,

We are excited to launch another year of Tyee Rocketry Club! We are thrilled to see that so many students are eager to participate in the program and take this challenging while rewarding experience.

The club takes place in the workshop, Room 1304 for CTE classes where many tools are stored, and involves hands-on engineering, strict safety requirements, and competition-level projects. For this reason, we have a limited number of spots available each year. We are pleased to announce that this year (26/27) we are adding 5 additional spots and, with a handful of 8th graders graduating from Tyee, we will have about 16 total spots available for new team members. Knowing the club's first year only started with 15 students making 3 teams, we are excited to see our club is growing and we are trying our best to include as many new students as possible.

To ensure every student has a meaningful and safe experience, we are using the following process for selection:

◆ **Returning Members**

- Students who actively participated last year will be given priority to return. They bring valuable knowledge, experience, safety awareness, and technical skills that help the team succeed and mentor new members.
- Students who participated in the Spring session of 2025-26 school year will get TWO tokens in the lottery process.
- All returning students and parents need to complete and sign this year's questionnaire and contract as well.

◆ **Application Step**

All NEW applicants must complete and sign the Student Questionnaire & Parent Questionnaire/Contract as part of the application, which confirms their understanding of the club expectations, rules, strictly enforced schedules, and commitment to the time needed (meetings twice per week and Sunday launches).

These forms serve as an agreement to always follow safety procedures with no exceptions, and willingness to work as a contributing member of the team.

The best way to understand these expectations and club details is to attend the Parent Info Night on September 14, 6PM.

◆ **Interview Step**

Students will need to hand deliver their signed questionnaires to Room 1304 by 4PM September 17, and meet briefly with Mr. Burke when turning in their applications. This is a chance for us to understand each student's motivation, interest, and readiness to commit to the program.

♦ **Lottery for New Members**

All qualified applicants (those who demonstrate commitment through the questionnaire and interview) will be entered into a lottery to fill the available spots.

Five additional students will be placed on a waitlist, in lottery order, should any accepted students drop out or not submit payment.

The lottery process will be witnessed and conducted by a third party, likely randomly-picked Tyee teachers or staff other than Mr. Burke.

♦ **Lottery Entries**

- Every qualified student receives 1 lottery entry.
- Students may earn additional entries (up to a maximum of 3) based on the following:
 - 1) Joined the Spring Session → +1 entry
 - 2) Applied last year but did not get in → +1 entry
 - 3) 7th grade or above → +1 entry
 - 4) Show clear knowledge or strong interest (through questionnaire or interview) → +1 entry

🔔 **Important Notes**

The maximum number of entries is 3 per student. This means students may qualify under several categories, but no student can have more than 3 entries.

📌 **Example**

A student who qualifies, applied last year, and shows strong knowledge = 3 entries.

A student who qualifies, applied last year, is in 7th grade, and shows strong knowledge = 3 entries

A student who qualifies, applied last year, joined spring session, is in 7th grade, and shows strong knowledge = still 3 entries (the cap ensures fairness and balance).

♦ **Why This Process?**

Our goal is to balance fairness and commitment:

- Returning students keep the team strong and competitive.
- The questionnaires and interviews ensure that new members understand the expectations and are ready to commit.
- The lottery system with capped extra entries gives every qualified student a fair chance, while recognizing persistence, preparation, and genuine interest.
- Limited spots allow us to maintain safe, meaningful, hands-on experiences for every student.

We believe this process provides every student with a fair opportunity while ensuring the teams remain safe, competitive, and committed.

Thank you for supporting the Tyee Rocketry Club. We look forward to another exciting year of learning, teamwork, and launches.