



ROBINSON CREW

Quick Catch Newsletter #11
February 9, 2024



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RCBC Virtual Membership Meeting

What: RCBC Monthly Membership Meeting (Virtual)

When: Thursday, February 15, 7:30-8:30 PM

Consult SLACK for the Google Meet information. We need all families to attend the February meeting to vote for our new President. If we don't reach our quorum we can't vote, so please join in! This meeting will also be full of helpful information to guide you through the on-the-water season.

REMINDERS!

- Tomorrow is our first Tag Day. Thanks in advance to all of our volunteers and rowers. The weather looks perfect for canvassing. Don't forget to don your Robinson Crew spirit wear. We will see you at 8:30 AM at Robinson.
- Tomorrow is also the pick up day for Nothing Bundt Cakes. Pick up will be held at Robinson in the same cafeteria as Tag Day. Hours: 1-3 PM
- Don't forget to consistently check your points after each volunteer opportunity. The points tracker is pinned to the general SLACK channel. Send an email to vpadministration@robinsoncrew.org if you discover any discrepancies.

TAG DAY 2024: BEGINS TOMORROW

TAG DAY 2024 is a 2-day event on Sat. 2/10 & Sat. 2/24 from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm. All Rowers must participate in both days. Tag Day is a fundraising activity where Crew Parent volunteers drive groups of Rowers to Robinson neighborhood homes and the Rowers go door-to-door handing out Tags (flyers) seeking donations. All participants will first meet at Robinson, receive a briefing and route map, have breakfast and leave in groups to solicit donations. Groups will return for lunch, deposit morning donations and receive a new route map. By 4:00 pm, everyone will return to Robinson to deposit afternoon donations and close out the day. **This is our biggest fundraiser of the year.** We typically collect nearly \$15,000. New this year, we will be raffling off team spirit wear and other prizes during Tag Day lunches!

ROWERS: Both dates are mandatory fundraising events for all novice and returning Rowers. We ask the Rowers to please dress warmly in Robinson Crew spirit wear. The 2-day participation requirement is a change from prior years. The second date now replaces the team's initial Saturday water practice day. Due to the logistics of sending out groups in cars, late arrivals and early departures cannot be accommodated.

- If a Rower is unable to participate, we ask that a Parent please contact the RCBC VP Administration, Sherry Noud @ vpadministration@robinsoncrew.org or via Slack.
- **FCPS Field Trip Permission Form:** If you have not yet done so, please complete and return it ASAP to teammate Joey DiPietro. **Online form:**
<https://www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/forms/fs152.pdf>

PARENTS: Thanks to all parents that have signed up to drive and volunteer! There are still a few openings for refreshments. The food donation opportunities are available at the Sign-Up Genius below:

- **Tag Day Food Donations Sign-Up:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0544AAAF2FA75-46984810-2024>

Parent Field Trip Driver License and Insurance Form: The form must be completed for all Parent Drivers (no student drivers). **Online form:**
<https://www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/forms/fs142.pdf>

Thank you for supporting our Rowers and the Robinson Crew Team. Questions about Tag Day? Contact Diane DiPietro at 703-851-9419 or Dmdipietro@verizon.net.

SLACK COMMUNICATIONS

Join SLACK and keep up to date on all team announcements. SLACK IS THE PRIMARY WAY THE TEAM COMMUNICATES! Join all RCBC SLACK Channels, but especially General & Fundraising!

LAUNCH WORKDAY: Feb. 17

We are in need of volunteers on February 17 to help launch and prepare boats for water season. If you are interested, please send a DM to Brian Hanley.

Naming New Boat

We have a new men's four which we will also christen at the March 2nd event. Watch SLACK this weekend for further information on how you can participate in the naming of the new boat.

Carpool

Carpool will be starting on February 20. Please watch SLACK for further information and the sign up genius to register your athlete for carpool. Please note that carpool is only one way; families must provide transportation home from Sandy Run. Please reach out to any board member with questions regarding carpool.

Chili Cook-off/Boat Christening

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Boat Christening and Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, March 2. This will be a fun team building event to celebrate the team's hard work as we move into Regatta Season. Watch SLACK in the days ahead for further information on volunteer opportunities and entering your award winning chili. For any questions, email Jim Martinez at vpmembership@robinsoncrew.org or send a DM on SLACK.

A Little Rowing Trivia ...

What does "feathering" mean in rowing? Feathering is the act of turning the oar blade from a position perpendicular to the surfaces of the water to a position parallel to the water. This is done in conjunction with the Release.

Reminder: U.S. Rowing Membership

If you haven't yet, please be sure to sign up your rower for U.S. Rowing. The membership portal can be found here: <https://membership.usrowing.org/>.

New Rower Information

If you are a new family to Robinson Crew, we would like to extend a warm welcome and also point you to the following website: <https://www.robinsoncrew.org/newrowerinfo>. This site includes a wealth of helpful information for new rowers.

If you have been missing those beautiful sunsets at Sandy Run, no fear! The rowers will be back on the water February 19!



Registration Fees: Third Installment Due February 10

The third installment of the 2023-2024 registration fee is coming due. The payment schedule is as follows:

- Dec 10th - 1st Installment \$ 375
- Jan 10th - 2nd Installment \$ 300
- Feb 10th - 3rd Installment \$ 300
- Mar 10th - 4th Installment \$ 275
- Total Registration Fees \$ 1,250

All payments are made through the secure Quickbooks server. Look for an email from our treasurer for payment instructions.

Robinson Crew Sponsorship Campaign Coming to a Close!

With the help of a handful of fantastic families, we raised \$4,750 towards our \$12,500 goal. Huge thanks to our Gold Sponsors - ITC Federal, Fitness Together, and Navy Mutual - for setting the bar high! All of this additional sponsorship money makes it possible for our girls and boys crews to get new equipment without impacting our dues. Our campaign has now ended so we can have our banner and t-shirts ready for the racing season. Thanks for your participation.

If you have any questions, please reach out to sponsorship@robinsoncrew.org.

GOAL: \$12,500



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New Approach to RCBC Volunteer Hours

At the June 2023 RCBC Membership Board Meeting, members voted on a new approach to earning volunteer hours for the team called, "Ten and Two for Our Crew." Please see the last two pages of the Quick Catch for a summary of the improved approach.

2023-2024 Volunteer Positions

For more information about any of the following open volunteer positions, **or if you would like to volunteer**, please contact vpadministration@robinsoncrew.org or any member of the RCBC Board. Each of these positions is absolutely essential for our crew team to operate and thrive. Please volunteer and help our rowers to succeed all season long!

- **AT LARGE - OPERATIONS - OPEN**
 - Shadow the VP Operations during Regatta Season and learn the job for future seasons.

2024 Season: Regatta Schedule

Saturday, March 16, 2024: **Polar Bear Regatta**

Saturday, March 23, 2024: **Regional Park Regatta**

Saturday, March 30, 2024: **Walter Mess Regatta**

Saturday, April 6, 2024: **Darrell Winslow Regatta**

Saturday, April 13, 2024: **Ted Phoenix Regatta**

Saturday, April 20, 2024: **Ryz Obuchowicz Regatta**

Saturday, April 27, 2024: **Al Urquia Regatta/Charlie Butt Regatta**

Saturday, May 4, 2024: **VSRC Day 1**

Saturday, May 11, 2024: **USRowing Mid Atlantic Championships Mercer NJ, VSRC Day 2**

Sunday, May 12, 2024: **USRowing Mid Atlantic Championships Mercer NJ**

Fri.-Sat., May 17-18, 2024: **Stotesbury Cup Regatta**

Fri.-Sat., May 24-25, 2024: **SRAA Championships - Cooper NJ**

Thur.-Sun., Jun 6-9, 2024: **USRowing Youth Nationals - Sarasota FL**

Raise Right (Scrip)

Sign up for RaiseRight (Scrip) gift cards and help us to raise money for the team. This is a simple process with high impact!

<https://www.robinsoncrew.org/scrip> *** <https://www.raiseright.com/>

Scrip Gift Card Fundraising for Organizations • RaiseRight

Fundraising for organizations has never been easier. Join 50,000+ fundraisers who have exceeded their goals through gift card fundraising (aka scrip).

Robinson Crew Sponsorship Program: 2023-24

Our Robinson Crew Sponsorship season is underway. **Our goal is to raise \$12,500.** Contact Kate Mattice on SLACK for more details, and find a sample letter to use for sponsorships at the end of the Quick Catch. Earn credits for "10 and 2."

Sponsorship Benefit	Gold \$1000	Silver \$750	Bronze \$500	Friend \$250
General Membership Meeting Recognition <i>held Monthly from August – June</i>	✓	✓		
Robinson Crew Team T-shirts <i>distribution includes all rowers and families/friends of Robinson Crew</i>	Large logo	Med logo	Small logo	
Robinson Crew Banner <i>posted at Robinson Secondary School and displayed at Regattas</i>	Large logo	Med logo	Small logo	Name
Robinson Crew Website <i>with link to corporate website</i>	Large logo on Home + Sponsors page	Med logo on Sponsors Page	Small logo on Sponsors Page	Name on Sponsors Page
Weekly Quick Catch Newsletter to all Team Families <i>with link to corporate website</i>	Large logo	Med logo	Small logo	Name

ROBINSON CREW CALENDAR



2024 SEASON

Event	Date
Nothing Bundt Cakes (NBC) Fundraiser	Sales: Mon., Jan. 8 – Mon., Jan. 29 Cake Deliveries: Sat., Feb. 10 (Tag Day #1)
Five Guys Fundraiser	Tues., Jan. 9
Membership Meeting	Wed., Jan. 10 (virtual)
Swim Test	Sat., Jan. 13
Wedding Experience at GMU (aka “Bridal Show”)	Sun., Jan. 21
ERG Sprints	Sat., Feb. 3
Membership Meeting	Thurs., Feb. 15 (virtual)
Tag Days	Tag Day # 1: Sat., Feb. 10 (mandatory) Tag Day # 2: Sat., Feb. 24 (mandatory)
OASIS - Robinson Basketball Tournament	Thurs.-Fri., Feb. 22-23
Boat Christening/Chili Cook-Off	Sat., Mar. 2
Chipotle Fundraiser	Tues., Mar. 5
Membership Meeting	Wed., Mar. 13 (in person)
Polar Bear Regatta	Sat., Mar. 16
Regional Park Regatta	Sat., Mar. 23
Walter Mess Regatta	Sat., Mar. 30
Darrell Winslow Regatta	Sat., Apr. 6
George’s Steaks & Things Fundraiser	Tues., Apr. 9
Membership Meeting	Thurs., Apr. 11 (virtual)
Ted Phoenix Regatta	Sat., Apr. 13
Ryz Obuchowicz Regatta	Sat., Apr. 20
Al Urquia Regatta/Charlie Butt Regatta	Sat., Apr. 27
VSRC Day 1	Sat., May 4
Membership Meeting	Wed., May 8 (in person – Board Elections)
USRowing Mid Atlantic Championships (Mercer, NJ) & VSRC Day 2	Sat., May 11
USRowing Mid Atlantic Championships (Mercer, NJ)	Sun., May 12
Stotesbury Cup Regatta	Fri.-Sat., May 17-18
SRAA Championships (Cooper, NJ)	Fri.-Sat., May 24-25
USRowing Youth Nationals (Sarasota, FL)	Thur.-Sun., Jun 6-9

Thank you to our 2023-2024 Sponsors!

GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSORS



Peter K. Cocolis Jr.
DMD, PLC





Robinson Crew is open to boys and girls in grades 9-12. It gives students the opportunity to be part of a team at Robinson, a team that values commitment and rewards effort.

Our 2023-2024 Sponsorship Goal is \$12,500



Robinson Crew Boosters Club Inc.
 5616-i Ox Road #7086
 Fairfax Station, VA 22039
 EIN: 54-1648227
 A 501(c)(3) Organization
www.robinsoncrew.org



Look who sponsored us last year!

Dear valued member of the Robinson community:

We are asking for your help in supporting Robinson Crew, a self-funded club of Robinson Secondary School. Crew is a team sport that teaches commitment, dedication, and teamwork.

In the 2022-2023 season, Robinson Crew had 90+ team members and we expect the 2023-2024 to be just as strong. Our team begins winter conditioning at the end of November, but when water season starts at the end of February, practice will be on the Occoquan River six days a week. And every rower will have the opportunity to race in regattas against other high school and club teams.

This year is a big year for investing in Robinson Crew as we aim to purchase a new 4-person boat (shell), eight new rowing machines (ergs), and a new set of oars for our teams.

We are seeking your support to help fund new equipment.

Rowing is an expensive sport: each 'shell' or boat can cost \$40,000 to \$60,000, oars are nearly \$500 each, and rowing machines cost \$1,000 each. Our team is self-funded, meaning that it does not receive any funding from Robinson Secondary School. All costs including coaches' salaries and boat maintenance come from individuals, fundraisers, and sponsorships.

Your sponsorship will support an amazing team of talented youth while also helping us share your company's name, logo, and website with our community.

Sponsorships are available at all levels. As a sponsor, your company will be recognized on Robinson Crew's website, team t-shirts, weekly newsletters, and proudly displayed on a banner that will be posted at our team shed at Robinson Secondary School and at our out-of-town regattas.

Can you help us reach our goal?

Please see the attached flyer for details on sponsorship levels. Payment can be made via check to Robinson Crew Boosters Club or via Venmo. We are also available at (703) 624-8706 or at sponsorship@robinsoncrew.org to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your support!

Kate Mattice
 Sponsorship Chair
 Robinson Crew Booster Club

Ready to sponsor?
 Scan the QR Code or [click here](#) to start the process.



Robinson Crew Team Member Obligation

To keep Robinson Crew an elite Virginia Scholastic Rowing organization, we need every team member to contribute the following each season:

Accumulate 10 Volunteer Points
Raise \$200 In Fundraising

“Ten & Two for Our Crew”

1. Volunteer your time to accumulate 10 points.

Sample volunteer opportunities:

- Carpool Driver - 0.5 points (per trip)
- Tag Day Cashier - 1 point
- Regatta Food Tent - 1 point (per set up or take down)
- Regatta Launch Boat Driver - 2 points (per regatta)
- Regatta Concessions Stand - 2 points (per regatta)
- Carpool Coordinator - 5 points each (two coordinators)



The Robinson Crew Booster Club (RCBC) assigns point values to each volunteer position based on expected level of effort and time commitment.

The RCBC will continuously track and report point totals and will assess team members a fee of \$50 per point for any shortfall at the end of the season to ensure every rower's membership remains "in good standing."

There is no "buy out" option for volunteering, as our team needs your time in these areas.

2. Raise at least \$200 profit through these two events:

- Letter Writing Campaign
- Bundt Cake Sales

If you are unable to participate, reach \$200, or prefer not to fundraise, you have the option to "buy out" and pay the remainder of the fundraising obligation. Team members can buy out, fundraise, or use a combination of both methods to reach the \$200 fundraising obligation. These fundraisers are necessary for our program to operate and to keep our registration fees relatively low.

Tag Day is a mandatory fundraising event (all rowers) and is not included in this \$200 individual goal. We also need your help finding and engaging corporate sponsors (more in the FAQs).

Please help us keep our proud tradition of Ram Rowing thriving by completing your share of the team member obligation.

Rowing is a team sport – the strength of a boat is the combination of our individual efforts.

We need each of you to row hard for our program.

Robinson Crew Team Member Obligation FAQs

Q: Why is rowing so expensive?

A: Robinson Crew is completely self-funded and receives no money from Robinson Secondary School or Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). The RCBC has been able to keep registration fees relatively low compared to other local high school programs because of strong volunteering and generous contributions by our community and families like you.

Q: Why has the RCBC decided to change the current service hour structure?

A: The RCBC listened to feedback from members past and present and decided change was necessary. The RCBC had three goals when changing the structure: 1) That the requirement be less daunting, 2) That the requirement be transparent, and 3) That the requirement still meet the team needs.

Q: How did the RCBC determine that 10 points and \$200 is the right amount?

A: The RCBC used an average of both volunteer and fundraising needs over the past several seasons (considering inconsistencies during COVID) to keep the program operating at its highest levels and still keep registration fees relatively low. The RCBC feels that the resulting "Ten & Two for Our Crew" satisfies those needs and will continue to re-evaluate program needs each season.

Q: When does the season for accumulating points begin and end?

A: Beginning with the 2023-2024 season, the RCBC "membership season" will run from July to June.

Q: Will the hours I've accumulated this season carry over next year under this new point structure?

A: Yes – every 15 hours accumulated since February 2023 will count as 1 point toward the 2023-2024 season. Example: if you have accumulated 40 hours in the 2022-2023 season, you will start the 2023-2024 season with 3 points; 20 hours will count as 1.5 points (rounded up to the nearest half point).

Q: If I find a corporate sponsor, does that contribute to my fundraising requirement?

A: Yes – 10% of corporate sponsorships secured go towards a rower's \$200 requirement. Example: a single \$250 sponsor would equate to \$25 off your requirement, \$1000 would be \$100 off, \$2000 would be \$200, etc.

Q: What happens to any extra points I have at the end of next season?

A: Beginning with the 2023-2024 Season, points will not carry over to the next season. Points will reset each year in November. In addition, members cannot "gift" any extra points to other members.

Q: What does it mean to be a member "in good standing?"

A: Membership in good standing is defined in the RCBC Bylaws found [here](#).

Q: What is Tag Day? Why is my rower required to participate?

A: Tag Day (door to door soliciting) is a two-day event occurring annually in February. All rowers are required to participate in Tag Day. Tag Day is the single largest fundraising event of the season, averaging over \$15,000 of contributions annually.

Q: What is Letter Writing Campaign?

A: Letter Writing Campaign consists of team members sending letters to friends and family members soliciting donations. This is our second largest fundraising event of the season. Specific details regarding the letter writing fundraiser will be provided in the winter.