

FIRST 2026 **CHAMPIONSHIP**

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VOLUNTEER EVENT GUIDE

Updated 03.11.26

FIRST **AGE**

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Qualcomm

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Welcome

Thank you for volunteering at the 2026 *FIRST*® Championship presented by BAE Systems. *FIRST* volunteers are a vital part of our global robotics community and support events around the globe annually, preparing young people for their future. *FIRST* competitions are exciting events that leave students with a sense of accomplishment and the understanding that they can do anything with their collective skills, leadership, and confidence. We are excited and grateful for you to be a part of our 2026 *FIRST* Championship experience!

Introduction to *FIRST* Championship presented by BAE Systems

The 2026 *FIRST* Championship will join thousands of students for the ultimate celebration of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and innovation. In this 2025-2026 season, *FIRST*® AGE™ presented by Qualcomm, every artifact we uncover holds a story. Each tool, each innovation, and each work of art connects us to the people and ideas that came before us. Using STEM skills and teamwork, today we can dig deeper into discoveries than ever before.

Remembering our *Gracious Professionalism*®

“*Gracious professionalism* is part of pursuing a meaningful life.” – Woodie Flowers

- A way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community.
- Gracious professionals learn and compete like crazy but treat one another with respect and kindness in the process.
- Teams and any *FIRST* Championship attendees are customers. Treat them all with *Gracious Professionalism*.

Where to Find Information Prior to Arrival

FIRST Championship App & Event Guides

For more information on *FIRST* Championship, download the [FIRST Championship App](#) for interactive maps, personalized schedules, activities, team info, volunteer info, alerts, and more.

- [FIRST Championship Event Guide](#)
- [FIRST® Robotics Competition Event Guide](#)[FIRST® Tech Challenge Event Guide](#)
- [FIRST® LEGO® League Challenge Event Guide](#)
- [FIRST® LEGO® League Explore Event Guide](#)

Volunteer Orientation Webinar

All 2026 *FIRST* Championship volunteers are invited to join us at the *FIRST* Championship Volunteer Orientation webinar on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 8 PM ET. This webinar will cover the following content: event building layouts, volunteer registration and badging, the volunteer café schedule, *FIRST* volunteer events & benefits, volunteer parking, and more. There will be time included at the end for questions.

- [Link to register](#)

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- The slides from the presentation and the recording will be posted on the [Volunteer](#) page of the *FIRST* Championship website after the webinar.

How to Apply and Register to Volunteer

Follow these steps to apply to Volunteer for *FIRST* Championship. Applications to volunteer for the 2026 *FIRST* Championship will no longer be accepted through the dashboard after **April 21**. Anyone who would like to volunteer and has not applied by **April 21**, can still volunteer as a walk-on volunteer at the event.

Step 1 – Apply for a Volunteer Role in *FIRST* Dashboard

- Create an account or Login to your existing [FIRST dashboard account](#).
- Under event volunteering, use the filters (dates: 4.28.26 – 5.1.26, location: Houston, TX) to find the *FIRST* Championship event for each program or follow one of these links to sign up for a volunteer role in a specific program.
 - [FIRST LEGO League Explore FIRST Championship](#) (Global Registration)
 - [Express Registration](#) (US & Canada)
 - [FIRST LEGO League Challenge FIRST Championship](#) (Global Registration)
 - [Express Registration](#) (US & Canada)
 - [FIRST Tech Challenge FIRST Championship](#) (Global Registration)
 - [Express Registration](#) (US & Canada)
 - [FIRST Robotics Competition FIRST Championship](#) (Global Registration)
 - [Express Registration](#) (US & Canada)
- Choose the day(s) you wish to volunteer and choose your top five roles.
- You will receive an email notification when your role has been assigned.

Step 2 – Complete any necessary training and certifications

- Complete the current *FIRST* Consent and Release form in the dashboard.
 - All volunteers must complete a current season *FIRST* Consent and Release form. Volunteers must sign the *FIRST* Consent & Release Form each season. Volunteers will see a notification if they haven't yet completed the form when they log into the [FIRST Dashboard](#) and can access via the profile drop down menu by selecting Acknowledgement Forms.
- Complete the Youth Protection Clearance.
- **You will not be able to volunteer without completing these items.**
- Complete required certifications for any roles requiring training.

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Step 3 - Complete event registration and book your hotel.

- After receiving an email notification that your role has been assigned, you will receive a registration invitation link in your email to register for the event (within 5-7 business days). This registration must be completed prior to attending *FIRST* Championship so you can be badged. All attendees at the event must be badged. See [appendix B](#) for a walkthrough of the registration process.
- In this registration form you will select your meal preferences (meals are provided on the days you volunteer) and what additional events you will be attending (to help *FIRST* estimate food amounts). Please make sure this information is accurate so *FIRST* can ensure food is available and ready for those who are volunteering. You can also designate any special dietary restrictions, and this information must be entered prior to **April 1**.
- You will receive a link in your email to sign up for the *FIRST* hotel block. These provide you with access to the *FIRST* hotel blocks with discounted rates. You are not required to use the *FIRST* hotel block.

Pre-Event Role-Specific Information - Volunteer Coordinators

Your volunteer coordinator is your go-to resource for anything related to your volunteer position. When you are assigned a volunteer role, you will receive an email before the event from your volunteer coordinator with the contact information and details about your volunteer role. You can message your volunteer coordinator before the event through your *FIRST* dashboard at <https://my.firstinspires.org/Dashboard/>.

Under Pending Applications in the Volunteer Registration tab in your *FIRST* dashboard, find the Role Options button and select "Message Coordinator" from the drop-down menu. This option is also available under your Assigned Event Roles. (See screenshots below.)

For *FIRST* Robotics Competition, you can email frc-global-vcs@firstinspires.org. For *FIRST* LEGO League and *FIRST* Tech Challenge, your volunteer coordinator's email will be in your volunteer assignment email.

The screenshot shows the FIRST dashboard interface. At the top, there are navigation links for Programs, Community, Ways to Help, and About. The user is logged in as Jane Smith. The main navigation bar includes tabs for MY TEAMS, PARENT/GUARDIAN - YOUTH, VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION (which is active), and MY CLASS/SCHOOL PACK ACCOUNT. Below this are buttons for EVENT VOLUNTEERING, WORK WITH A TEAM, GIVE TO FIRST MISSION, and LOG VOLUNTEER HOURS. The 'Pending Applications' section is expanded, showing a pending application for the 'NE District Southern NH Event Qualifying Event - FRC'. The application details are as follows:

Status: PENDING	Setup Date: TBA	Location: Bedford High School
Role: Control System Advisor	Event Start: 3/27/2020	47 Nashua Rd
Days Assigned:	Event End: 3/29/2020	Bedford, NH 03110 USA
	Tear Down: TBA	Website: http://www.nefirst.org/

A map shows the location at Bedford High School. A red box highlights the 'ROLE OPTIONS' dropdown menu with the following options: Withdraw Application, Edit Application, and Message Coordinator.

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On-Site Volunteer Registration and Badging

Name Badging and Check-in

Volunteers must go to the Volunteer Registration Desk on Level One (see map in *FIRST* Championship Volunteer Orientation) to get their name badge when they first arrive at the event. Volunteers 15 and over who were not assigned roles before the event can sign up as walk-on volunteers at the Information Booth near the Registration Desk.

FIRST requires every *FIRST* Championship attendee to be registered and badged, including adult team mentors, youth team members, parents, family members, chaperones, etc. who are participating in the event. Attendee registration grants access to participant-only activities and increases the security of the event.

If you were assigned before the event, you should have received an email to RSVP for the event and register with *FIRST* Championship Registration. Completing this registration includes submitting any special dietary needs. If you registered with *FIRST* Championship Registration, please take the following steps:

- Print your personalized barcode found in the confirmation email from *FIRST* Championship Registration and bring it with you or pull up the email on your smartphone to be scanned.
- Bring a form of photo identification.
- Scan the barcode and staff will prepare your badge at the Volunteer Registration Desk.
- Any minor volunteers, ages 15-17, must bring the responsible adult who will be monitoring you to the Volunteer Registration Desk when picking up your name badge.

If you did not register with *FIRST* Championship Registration before arriving but have been assigned to a volunteer position:

- Bring a form of photo identification.
- Print your assignment email or be able to pull it up on a smartphone.
- Register and confirm your information with staff onsite at the Registration Desk on Level One to receive your name badge.

If you have not received an email from *FIRST* Championship registration but have been assigned to a volunteer position, please email volunteer@firstinspires.org to receive the registration email.

Volunteer Registration Hours

Central Registration Hours – George R. Brown Convention Center (GRB) Level One

Date:	Open:	Close:
Tuesday, April 28, 2026	7:00 AM	6:00 PM
Wednesday, April 29, 2026	7:00 AM	6:00 PM
Thursday, April 30, 2026	7:00 AM	6:00 PM
Friday, May 1, 2026	7:00 AM	6:00 PM
Saturday, May 2, 2026	7:00 AM	2:00 PM

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Early Access Registration Hours – For Volunteers Only at Information Booth

Early access registration is available at the Information Booth on Wednesday and Thursday mornings for volunteers who need to report to their assigned roles at 7am and were not able to check-in on the previous day.

Date:	Open:	Close:
Wednesday, April 29, 2026	6:00 AM	7:00 AM
Thursday, April 30, 2026	6:00 AM	7:00 PM

Walk-On Volunteers

Walk-on volunteers must be 15 years or older. QR Codes will be available for you to scan to complete a form with your availability and area(s) of interest at the Information Booth on Level One. Once the form is completed, there will be a wait time to receive your assignment if you are selected, so please be patient. **Completion of the form is not a guarantee of a walk-on volunteer role.** A Volunteer Coordinator will contact you by phone call or text (international numbers will be contacted by email) with assignment details. Once you are assigned a volunteer role, the Information Booth will assist you in upgrading your credentials to 'volunteer.' *Please note, volunteers 15-17 must have a parent or guardian present to complete the walk-on volunteer application process.*

Volunteer Arrival & Parking

Metro Bus 500 Service to Venue

[Metro Bus service](#) is now available between the George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) Terminal C with non-stop service to the George R. Brown Convention Center for only \$4.50 one way. This service is available seven days a week from 5:30am - 8:30pm and runs every 30 minutes. For more information visit [RideMETRO.org](#).

Early Entrance to GRB

The Hilton Skybridge on Level Three opens at 5:30 AM. The Marriott Skybridge and street entrances open at 6:00 AM.

Volunteer Parking (subject to change)

The Volunteer parking is located at the GRB Convention Center loading dock off Chartres. Volunteer Parking passes will be emailed to volunteers by Volunteer Coordinators. **Parking is first come, first served.** Parking in the Volunteer lot may be limited due to construction or space limitations. This lot is reserved for volunteers only and should not include team trailers.

Drivers should enter the loading dock gates by taking a left into the open gate across from Walker St. off Chartres. A map of the parking lot for volunteers will be available in the *FIRST* Championship Volunteer Orientation presentation and in the posted slides which will be available on the Volunteer page of the *FIRST* Championship website.

Please note the following:

- From Monday to Saturday of *FIRST* Championship week the lot will be open from 5:30 AM and close at 10:00 PM.
- Overnight parking is not permitted.
- There is no code to enter the lot.

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- There is no security. The lot is not connected to the GRB convention center. After parking, you will enter the Convention Center through a street or skybridge entrance.
- Park at your own risk.
- Your Volunteer Coordinator will email you a parking pass which is required to access the lot. Please print it in advance and make sure it is visible on your car's dashboard.
- Free parking options are limited. This lot's availability is first come, first served. Parking may fill up quickly in the morning.
- You may park in any available open spot in the lot.
- This lot is utilized by events staff and volunteers.
- Other than parking permission the pass is also important so that volunteers can circumvent the lanes being utilized by teams for the load in and load.
- Do not park along the loading docks.
- Do not park trailers in the Volunteer Parking lot, this takes additional parking spaces away from other volunteers. Trailers are NOT permitted in this lot.
- Buses are NOT permitted in this parking lot.
- Information on these additional paid parking options will also be provided on <https://www.firstchampionship.org> closer to the event.

Alternate parking is available in other locations around the GRB and in the downtown area. Prices are subject to change. More information on the [Houston Downtown parking webpage](#).

Venue Information

Campus Locations

The *FIRST* Championship Event is a multiple point campus, which will include four venues/spaces that contribute to the overall event goal of making a unique, transformative experience for all teams, sponsors, volunteers, and supporters of *FIRST* in a fun and safe environment in the city of Houston:

George R Brown Convention Center

FIRST LEGO League Explore, *FIRST* LEGO League Challenge, *FIRST* Tech Challenge, *FIRST* Robotics Competition, *FIRST* Championship conferences, the *FIRST* Store and select VIP events, which will feature the Innovation Faire including Scholarship Row.

The George R. Brown Convention Center is located on Avenida de las Americas. Visit the venue site here:

<http://www.grbhouston.com/>

Discovery Green

FIRST Championship Block Party

The Marriott Marquis Hotel

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A range of meetings and events

The Hilton America's Hotel

A range of meetings and events

Quiet Room

For those participants who need a decreased noise space. Location is on Level 3 of the George R. Brown Convention Center, room 362CF .

Prayer Rooms

There will be two prayer rooms available for anyone wishing to observe religious practice onsite during event hours. Prayer rooms are located across the skybridge in the Marriott Marquis Hotel; Montgomery A&B.

Lactation Pods

Two [Mamava](#) lactation pods will be conveniently located inside the GRB (location TBD). Nursing parents can access these private, clean, and comfortable spaces to breastfeed or pump using the free Mamava app available on the Apple iOS Store or Google Play Store. [Click here](#) for guidance on using the app and locating the pods.

Rules Inside All Venues

- Volunteers must follow the [FIRST Code of Conduct](#). Persons who do not comply with this Code of Conduct may be barred from participating in *FIRST* activities or events.
- Please follow the Health & Safety guidelines listed in the main [FIRST Championship Guide](#).
- You are not allowed to volunteer while taking care of a child. If you are attending the event with children, please have another responsible adult watch any children in your care while you volunteer.
- Have FUN!

Restrooms

Single stall restrooms are available. Locations of these restrooms can be found on the *FIRST* Championship Campus Map located in the App or in the accessibility information links above. These are also the family/companion care restrooms.

Lost and Found

Items for lost and found will be logged in at the Information Booth located near the Registration Desk for the duration of that day. At the end of the day, the items will be delivered to building security where they will remain through the event. At the end of the event and for up to 30 days post event, please call the facility directly for missing items.

George R. Brown Convention Center

800-427-4697

GRBinfo@houstonfirst.com

Items lost under the bleachers: Items of extreme importance such as medication, a purse or wallet, please note where you were sitting and check in at pit administration. Pit Administration will then contact security to retrieve your lost item. For all other items, security will make periodic sweeps and deliver found items to the Lost and Found at the Information Booth where you can then retrieve your items.

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Under no circumstances should anyone but security go under the bleachers.

Where to Find Information Onsite

If you have any questions or need information at the event, the following resources are available to assist you.

Information Booth

The Information Booth is located near Registration on Level One and can answer volunteer, event, and city questions. This is also where lost and found is located. If your volunteer specific questions cannot be answered by the Information Booth, please come to Volunteer Central. For program-specific information, please go to Pit Administration for that program.

Volunteer Central (Rooms 360 D-E and 370)

Stop by Volunteer Central, your one-stop shop for all things volunteer! We will have answers to any questions you have about your volunteer experience. Pick up free volunteer swag, buttons, stickers, pins, and more! On your way to the Volunteer Café for your meal, make sure to take a spin on our prize wheel or enter our *FIRST* Championship Volunteer raffle for a chance to win a prize! (Must be 18 years or older to enter raffle due to data privacy policies). *QR Code available onsite.*

Volunteer Central is located on Level Three of the George R. Brown Convention Center in Rooms 360 E-F and 370.

- Volunteer Office: Room 360 E
- Volunteer Lounge: Room 360 D
- Volunteer Café: Room 370
- Overflow Volunteer Café Seating (Thursday-Saturday): Room 371

On-Site Program Points of Contact - Pit Administration

For program-specific questions, please see the “Pit Admin” desk, located in each program area. They are your best source of information about each program, such as schedule or specific volunteer role questions. Pit Admin desks can be found in each program area (locations below). Your volunteer coordinator might also give you an additional point of contact for questions during the event.

FIRST Robotics Competition

- Pit Admins: Level One, Halls A and E
 - Hall A Pit Admin Area and Divisions:
 - Archimedes
 - Curie
 - Daly
 - Galileo
 - Hall E Pit Admin Area and Divisions:
 - Hopper

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- Johnson
 - Milstein
 - Newton
- Additional Points of Contact: Ask your Volunteer Coordinator who is your go-to-contact (Point Person) throughout the event. They will manage your breaks. They will be in teal shirts in the pit and field areas.

FIRST Tech Challenge

- Pit Admin: Level Three, Hall A3

FIRST LEGO League

- Pit Admin: Level Three, Grand Ballroom

Events

Block Party at Discovery Green

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 – Friday, May 1, 2026

The *FIRST* Championship Discovery Green Block Party is the outside extension of our campus. A variety of activities will be available throughout the week such as giant family and lawn games, Live Band Karaoke, Silent Disco and musical acts. Discovery Green is directly across from the George R. Brown Convention Center. A detailed schedule of activities will be available in the app.

***FIRST* Championship Conferences**

The *FIRST* Championship Conferences will be held Wednesday - Friday. The conference includes sessions and workshops on topics of interest to all members of the *FIRST* community in the following conference tracks:

Sessions are either 15 or 45 minutes in length and will be held in rooms 340, 350 and 360 on the 3rd floor of the convention center. For a full list of conferences please download the app.

Innovation Faire Night

Thursday, April 30, 2026, 6-8:30 PM

Along with *FIRST* Leadership, Staff, and Sponsors, *FIRST* Championship Volunteers are invited to a special Innovation Faire Night. You will have an opportunity to explore the Innovation Faire while enjoying light snacks and appetizers. The Innovation Faire is located on the mezzanine Level Two of the convention center.

Volunteer Appreciation Celebration

Saturday, May 2, 2026, 1:30-6 PM

FIRST will be hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Celebration in the Volunteer Café for *FIRST* Championship Event Volunteers. Sit back, relax, and watch the *FIRST* Championship Finale from the comfort of the Volunteer Café while you enjoy a snack and celebrate the conclusion of your hard work at another successful *FIRST* Championship. The Volunteer Appreciation Celebration will kick off with the *FIRST* Championship Finale festivities at 1:30 PM and is expected to end in the early evening.

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Volunteer Food

When you registered for *FIRST* Championship, the days of your volunteer shifts were automatically included in your registration to grant you access to the Volunteer Café. You are welcome to eat in the Cafe on the days you are volunteering.

The Volunteer Café is in Room 370. Additional seating will be available in Room 371 from Thursday to Saturday as well as the foyer space at the front of the main hallway on Wednesday. You are welcome to sit and eat in the Volunteer Café, sit in the overflow seating Room 371, sit in the prefunction hallway space, or take your meal elsewhere.

Volunteer Café Hours

Hours for the Volunteer Café are as follows:

Date	Monday, April 27, 2026	Tuesday, April 28, 2026	Wednesday, April 29, 2026	Thursday, April 30, 2026	Friday, May 1, 2026	Saturday, May 2, 2026
Breakfast	Café Closed	6:00 – 9:00 AM	6:00 – 9:00 AM	6:00 – 9:00 AM	6:00 – 9:00 AM	6:00 – 9:00 AM
Lunch	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Dinner	Café Closed	5:00 – 8:00 PM	5:00 – 8:00 PM	Café Closed; Innovation Faire 6:00-8:30 PM	Café Closed	Café Closed; Volunteer Appreciation Celebration 1:30 PM *working volunteers will eat in their areas

Special Dietary Needs

Register your dietary preferences in the *FIRST* Championship registration system when you RSVP for the event. Special dietary needs categories include vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, kosher or halal, and more ([see Appendix C](#)). We order special dietary meals based on the number of responses in the *FIRST* Championship registration system, so be sure to get your request in early. You can double check which type of meals you requested online in the *FIRST* Championship registration system. While we will make every effort to accommodate special dietary needs, we may not always be able to guarantee your request.

Please note the following:

- There will be a table in the Volunteer Café marked as the Special Dietary Needs table. Please see this table for allergen-free food and other special dietary options.

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- Food items will be marked with allergen and other ingredient info when available.
- If you have questions about ingredients or where to find various food options, please see the Volunteer Café Representative at the Special Dietary Needs table.
- Kosher and halal meals are not kept on the Special Dietary Needs table and only available upon request. That request needs to be submitted in your 2026 *FIRST* Championship Volunteer Registration ([see Appendix B](#)).
- If you did not register your request in advance, we may not be able to accommodate your request.

Be sure to let a *FIRST* Volunteer Central staff member know if you cannot find what you need! We are here to help!

Volunteer Café Menu

Menus for the Volunteer Café will be displayed outside the entrance to the Volunteer Café.

Volunteer Snacks & Drinks

Drinks will be available to all volunteers in the Volunteer Café during event hours. Please be considerate and only take what you will consume so *FIRST* can do our part to eliminate any unnecessary waste. Water bottle refill stations are available around the venue.

Snacks will be available for volunteers at the program pit admins and in the Volunteer Cafe.

FIRST Store

The *FIRST* Store is your on-site source for merchandise made exclusively for the *FIRST* #STEMsquad, including limited edition *FIRST* Championship must-haves. Get your *FIRST* gear now!

The *FIRST* Store is located on site on Level 1, outside Hall C.

Hours of Operation:

Date:	Open:	Close
Wednesday, April 29, 2026	6:00 AM	6:00 PM
Thursday, April 30, 2026	6:00 AM	6:00 PM
Friday, May 1, 2026	6:00 AM	6:00 PM
Saturday, May 2, 2026	6:30 AM	After Closing Ceremonies

Volunteer Gratitude Boards

Located in each of the *FIRST* program areas, the Volunteer Gratitude Boards are large whiteboards on which teams and parents can leave messages thanking volunteers. Have a look to see the amazing impact you have on the *FIRST* community!

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Gracious Professionalism® Pins

To help promote and recognize *Gracious Professionalism* at all levels, volunteers at the *FIRST* Championship will be able to give out special edition pins to individuals they see expressing *Gracious Professionalism*. These pins will be available for volunteers to pick up from Volunteer Central, with instructions included.

Reporting Medical Incidents

FIRST requires that physical injuries and medical problems, however slight, be documented and reported to the party conducting the event or his or her designee and to *FIRST* Headquarters within 48 hours of the occurrence. Medical incidents can be reported electronically from any Wi-Fi enabled device using the Medical Incident Form on the [FIRST Reporting Portal](#). Pit Admins have tablets that can be utilized to report incidents to *FIRST*.

Reporting Youth Protection and Youth Safety Concerns

The Youth Protection Concern form on the [FIRST Reporting Portal](#) can be used to report concerns related to Youth Protection and Youth Safety that do not involve medical incidents or physical injuries, such as bullying, harassment or inappropriate conduct involving or impacting youth participants. Feedback about issues such as game play, rule changes, awards, and event management (other than medical/safety issues) are considered program related concerns and not youth protection issues and should be shared with *FIRST* via customerservice@firstinspires.org. Please note that match results and award results are final and that we will not review match videos.

Mental Health Counselors available at FIRST Championship

Mental Health Support at FIRST Championship

Taking care of your mental well-being is just as important as your team's performance on the field. If you're feeling overwhelmed, stressed, or need someone to talk to, confidential counseling services are available on-site for adult and youth participants. The Harris Center for Mental Health will provide trained counselors who will offer confidential, on-site counseling services to *FIRST* participants Wed-Sat from 7:00AM to 6:00PM.

To Schedule an Appointment, complete this form (coming soon).

Check in for your appointment at the Youth Protection Office (Room TBD).

If you have questions, email safety@firstinspires.org.

Note about Confidentiality: All appointments are private, and the limited data collected via the form is used only for scheduling. It will be deleted after the event.

Attire and Safety

Be aware of apparel and hair safety issues while working on your robot. Sandals, open-toed shoes, and Crocs are not allowed in the Pits, fields, or other teamwork areas. Wear relaxed, fun and appropriate clothing; remember, you represent your team and *FIRST*. Body paint in lieu of clothes, bathing suits and other revealing clothes are not appropriate.

Attire

Please dress in comfortable, appropriate attire that will allow you to carry out your volunteer role safely. Closed-toe shoes are required. We suggest choosing supportive footwear. You will be provided with a volunteer shirt and name badge to wear during your shift. Keep your name badge with you throughout the event as it is required to enter certain areas.

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Teams may be decked out in team uniforms or other fun attire to show their spirit. Volunteers are welcome to join in the fun and bring a silly hat or other fun accessories. Keep safety in mind and avoid dangling or loose items. All attire should reflect Gracious Professionalism.

- **Tiara Friday** - Many volunteers and team members wear tiaras on Friday. Feel free to bring your tiara and take part in a *FIRST* Championship tradition!
- **Suspenders/Tutus Saturday** - Many volunteers and team members wear suspenders or tutus on Saturday. Feel free to bring your own and take part in a *FIRST* Championship tradition!

Safety Glasses

Safety Glasses are required in some areas of the venue and for some volunteer roles. *FIRST* Robotics Competition and *FIRST* Tech Challenge programs require that everyone wear safety glasses in the pit and field areas. It is recommended that you bring your own safety glasses or protective side shields for prescription glasses to ensure fit, cleanliness, and ability to move freely throughout the venue.

Consult the [Safety Manual](#) for up-to-date safety information for *FIRST* Robotics Competition and *FIRST* Tech Challenge.

Emergency Procedures

For urgent situations, report instantly to the nearest pit admin, *FIRST* staff member, or Volunteer Coordinator. There are medics and security onsite in the venue. They can be radioed by pit admin or staff for immediate assistance.

If the building is being evacuated, please exit the building as directed.

When there is risk of major harm:

- Medical – tell pit admin, VC (Volunteer Coordinator), staff –they will radio the EMT's /Medic onsite
- Safety issue – go to closest pit admin or event staff – they will know who to contact.

You can read further details on *FIRST* Emergency procedures in this Emergency Response Document (coming soon).

Health Guidelines

[CDC \(Centers for Disease Control\) guidelines](#) encourage the following preventative actions, which are also applicable to preventing the spread of many viruses:

- Stay home if feeling unwell, developing a cough, or running a fever (Call or message your Volunteer Coordinator if you need to stay home)
- Practice hand hygiene, including frequent hand washing, use of hand sanitizer, and avoiding touching eyes, nose, and mouth (there will be hand sanitizer available throughout the venue)
- Practice respiratory etiquette, including covering cough and sneezes with a tissue, and then disposing of the tissue in the trash
- Clean frequently touched surface and objects daily (including tablets and cell phones)
- Perform self-monitoring, and seek medical care immediately if feeling unwell (You can see a medic available onsite at the event)

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Safety Equipment

- Bring your own safety glasses and enough masks for the duration of the event. Masks/face coverings are not required but are recommended.

Safety Outside the Venue

- Do not wear your badge outside the venue.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Always walk in groups.
- Use main streets and boulevards.
- Whenever possible, avoid walking downtown at night. If you cannot avoid walking downtown at night, pay attention, walk in a group, and get where you are going as fast as possible.

Security

Be sure to keep valuable items with you always or placed in a lockable compartment in your Pit station. *FIRST* and the George R. Brown Convention Center do not guarantee security of personal items. We strongly recommend that you do not leave behind valuable items in your Pits at any time, such as personal computers, cell phones, cameras, etc. You can report any lost items to the Event Information Desk (see Lost and Found).

Remember, the Pits are open to the public. Please take proper security measures to protect your valuable items.

Prohibited Items

- Abusive, foul, or disruptive language
- Aerosol containers of any kind
- Animals (except service animals to aid guests with disabilities)
- Coolers*
- Fighting, taunting, threatening remarks, gestures, or harassment of any kind
- Fireworks, firearms, and weapons of any kind (including parking lots)
- Glass containers of any kind
- Illegal substances, drugs, and drug paraphernalia
- Knives of any length except pocketknives no longer than 4"
- Laser Pointers
- Noisemakers (musical instruments, bullhorns, air horns, whistles, etc.)
- Outside Alcohol/Flasks
- Outside food or beverages*
- Smoking or the use of vapor (or similar) devices
- Throwing objects
- Trespassing, soliciting, peddling, and loitering
- Unauthorized/unlicensed vendors are not allowed.
- No unauthorized solicitation and materials including handbills, flyers, stickers, giveaways, samples, etc.
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems & Radio-Controlled Model Aircraft/Drones
- Any other item or action deemed dangerous or inappropriate

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Event security reserves the right to deem any other item inappropriate. No prohibited item will be accepted at the entry gates for safekeeping.

*Exceptions will be made for those with medical requirements and/or special needs. Individuals with these special needs should contact a security person at their entry gate for special attention.

Thank You!

Thank you for volunteering! If you have additional questions before the event, please reach out to your Volunteer Coordinator or email us at volunteer@firstinspires.org. See you soon!

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Appendix A – Maps of the George R. Brown Convention Center
(coming soon)

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Appendix B – Sample email invitation from *FIRST* to register as a volunteer

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Invitation

Dear Volunteer Test One,

Thank you for volunteering at the 2025 *FIRST*[®] Championship presented by BAE Systems, April 29 - May 2, 2026.

FIRST Championship is the culmination of the season's *FIRST* programs - *FIRST*[®] LEGO[®] League, *FIRST*[®] Tech Challenge, and *FIRST*[®] Robotics Competition, bringing together a global community for the ultimate celebration of innovation and STEM.

In an effort to provide exceptional customer service to our attendees, we are utilizing a badging and hotel booking system.

Completing this process for badging is required for admittance and will provide you all necessary Volunteer credentials while onsite.

REGISTER NOW

DECLINE INVITE

Registration Sponsored By 

Invitations are non-transferrable

If you need assistance regarding the event registration or housing process, please contact ConferenceDirect at FIRSTChampionship@Conferencedirect.com. For all other questions please contact volunteer@firstinspires.org.



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Appendix C - Registration Process Screenshots

Registration Step 1 – Personal Information

April 29 - May 2, 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Personal

First Name *

Last Name *

Badge First Name
(Name as you would like it to appear on your badge)

Contact Information

Email Address *
(Confirmations will be sent through e-mail only)

CC Email

Title

Company/Organization

Telephone: *
(Please enter your phone number without any dashes or brackets, numbers only)

Address

Address 1 *

Address 2

City *

State / Province *

Country *

Zip/Postal Code *

Emergency Contact Information

Emergency Contact First Name *

Emergency Contact Last Name *

Relationship to Registrant *

Emergency Contact Phone *
(Please enter your phone number without any dashes or brackets, numbers only)

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17 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 **29 30 1 2**
3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Demographics

Are you a *FIRST*® student program participant alumnus? *

Lodging Information

Where are you staying or where do you plan to stay while you are in Houston? *

Donate Today to Inspire Innovation Tomorrow

Help *FIRST*® build a future where every student has the opportunity to explore, innovate, and thrive. Your donation helps students access meaningful STEM education, connect with mentors, and discover confidence in their potential. Thank you for generously contributing to the *FIRST* mission.

Please indicate the amount you would like to contribute. A *FIRST* staff member will follow up with you to complete your donation.

Continue

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Registration Step 2 – Dietary Information & Meal Selection

✓ 2 3 4 5

STEP 2 MEAL SELECTION LOGOUT

April 29 – May 2, 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

MEAL SELECTION

* Indicates required fields

Dietary Requirements

Please note: You will be provided meals only on the days you are scheduled to volunteer.

To best serve your needs and identify any special dietary requirements you may have. Please select below. *

<input type="checkbox"/> Nut Allergy	<input type="checkbox"/> Kosher	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegan
<input type="checkbox"/> Gluten-Free	<input type="checkbox"/> Lactose Intolerance	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Halal	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None

Meal Information

Meals will be provided during the shifts that you are scheduled for on the below day and meal types.

Monday - Lunch
Tuesday - Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Wednesday - Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Thursday - Breakfast & Lunch
Friday - Breakfast & Lunch
Saturday - Breakfast & Lunch

Your Scheduled Volunteer Days

The dates listed below are your confirmed volunteer days. If you need assistance or have questions about your schedule, please email volunteer@firstinspires.org.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tuesday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thursday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Saturday
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wednesday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Friday	

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Registration Step 2 – Special Events for Volunteers

19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 **29 30 1 2**
3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Innovation Faire Night

Thursday, April 30th, 6:00pm-8:30pm

Along with FIRST® Leadership, Staff, and Sponsors, Championship Volunteers are invited to the Innovation Faire Night. You will have an opportunity to explore the Innovation Faire while enjoying a snack.

Will you be joining us for the Innovation Faire Night on Thursday?*

Yes

Volunteer Appreciation Celebration

Saturday, May 2nd, 1:30pm

FIRST® will be hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Celebration in the Volunteer Café for Championship Event Volunteers. Sit back, relax, and **enter for a chance to win awesome raffle prizes**. Watch the Championship Finale from the comfort of the Volunteer Café while you enjoy a snack and celebrate the conclusion of your hard work at another successful Championship.

Will you be joining us Saturday for the Volunteer Appreciation Celebration?*

Yes

BACK

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Registration Step 3 – Terms and Conditions

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✓ ✓ **3** 4 5

STEP 3 POLICIES LOGOUT

April 29 - May 2, 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

POLICIES

Terms and Conditions

- I consent to my personal information being collected and processed in accordance with the **FIRST[®] Privacy Policy**. *
- I affirm that anytime I submit data to **FIRST[®]** on behalf of another person, I shall obtain and maintain a record of all required legal consents before collecting or submitting any such data. *
- I understand and acknowledge that by attending **FIRST[®] Championship** I will be subject to audio and video recordings, photography, and public broadcast, and that the voice and likeness of attendees, volunteers, and participants may be collected by **FIRST[®]** and used as a record of the event and for the non-commercial promotion of **FIRST[®]**. *

BACK **CONTINUE**

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Registration Step 4 – Registration Verification

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LOGOUT

STEP 4 VERIFICATION

April 29 – May 2, 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

REGISTRATION VERIFICATION

Please review the information below.

Edit Personal Information
Edit Dietary Requirements
Edit Policies

If all of the information is correct, press the continue button to finalize your registration. To make changes or modify, please click one of the edit buttons to the right. After making revisions, always remember to press continue to ensure the new information is properly captured.

Personal Information

Dietary Requirements	None
Select which days you are volunteering for to opt-in for the provided meals	Tuesday,Wednesday,Thursday,Friday,Saturday
Will you be joining us for the Innovation Faire Night on Thursday?	Yes
Will you be joining us Saturday for the Volunteer Appreciation Celebration?	Yes

First Name	Lisa
Last Name	Test
Organization	FIRST
Address 1	123 Main St
City	Town
Province / State	Hawaii
Country	United States
Postal Code/Zip Code	11111
Telephone (Business)	1234567890
Email Address	email@email.com

Registration Details

Item	Qty
Lisa Test	
Volunteer	1

BACK
CONTINUE

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Registration Step 5 – Thank you!

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✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 5

STEP 5 THANK YOU LOGOUT

THANK YOU

Thank you for registering for 2026 FIRST® Championship taking place April 29 - May 2, 2026.

For registration or housing related questions, please contact ConferenceDirect at: FIRSTChampionship@conferencedirect.com.

For all other questions, please contact FIRST® at volunteer@firstinspires.org

[BOOK HOTEL](#)

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Registration Confirmation Email – print out or bring with you on your mobile device to receive your badge at registration.

Confirmation	#26250991-787
Dear Lisa Test,	EDIT REGISTRATION
Thank you for registering to attend the 2026 FIRST® Championship presented by BAE Systems on April 29 - May 2, 2026.	BOOK HOTEL
We look forward to seeing you!	MODIFY EXISTING HOTEL
<hr/>	
Personal Information	
First Name:	Lisa
Last Name:	Test
Title:	
Company:	FIRST
Address 1:	123 Main St
City:	Town
State:	Hawaii
Zip/Postal Code:	11111
Country:	United States
Mobile Phone:	1234567890
Email Address:	<input type="text" value="email@email.com"/>
Mobile Phone:	1234567890
Dietary Requirements:	None
Other Dietary Requirements:	
Volunteer Days:	Tu, We, Th, Fr, Sa
Innovation Faire Night:	Yes
Volunteer Appreciation Celebration:	Yes

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FIRST[®] 2026 CHAMPIONSHIP

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Donation:

Donation Other:

Review Your Registration

Item

Lisa Test

Volunteer

Registration Sponsored By  Mouser

FIRST[®] Inspires

To learn more about FIRST[®] and its programs go to firstinspires.org.

Help Support Our Mission

A donation to FIRST[®] will help us sustain our programs all over the world for future generations. A donation to FIRST[®] can be made here: firstinspires.org/donate.

DONATE TO FIRST

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FIRST 2026 **CHAMPIONSHIP**

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Policies

Here are the policies you have agreed to.

- **FIRST[®] Privacy Policy**
- I affirm that anytime I submit data to **FIRST[®]** on behalf of another person, I shall obtain and maintain a record of all required legal consents before collecting or submitting any such data.
- I understand and acknowledge that by attending **FIRST[®] Championship** I will be subject to audio and video recordings, photography, and public broadcast, and that the voice and likeness of attendees, volunteers, and participants may be collected by **FIRST[®]** and used as a record of the event and for the non-commercial promotion of **FIRST[®]**.

Questions?

For registration or housing related questions, please contact Conference Direct at: FIRSTChampionship@conferencedirect.com. For all other questions, please contact **FIRST[®]** at volunteer@firstinspires.org.

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