

2026 FIRST® Championship

George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, TX

Load Out Guide

START HERE!

How did your Robot arrive?

- If you shipped your robot to Championship using the FedEx Voucher, read Section A.
- If you freight shipped your robot or other materials **not** using the FedEx Voucher, read Section B.
- If you brought your Robot to Championship with your own vehicle, read Section C.
- If your robot arrived through a Community 53' Truck Trailer, read Section D.

How do you want to return your Robot?

- To ship your robot back in its crate, read Section E.
- To carry your robot back to your transportation vehicle, read section F.

PREPARE FOR LOAD OUT BEFORE SATURDAY

A – Shipped to Championship on the FedEx Voucher

1. Visit the FIRST Ship Desk to build shipping documentation for your Robot Crate.
2. The FIRST Ship Desk will be open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 9:00AM to 5:00PM. There is usually no line on Thursday and Friday. We encourage you to come early and avoid the rush!
3. Bring with you the return address for the Robot Crate and contact information for onsite personnel.
4. Fill out and give the included Load Out Sign to your team vehicle driver to have for Saturday Load Out.

Important Notes:

- All teams who shipped their robot using the FedEx Voucher must visit the FIRST Ship Desk before Saturday Load Out, even if the robot is not shipping back with the FedEx Voucher.
- The FedEx Voucher is only available for your Competition Robot. Tool Crates or a Robot Crate retrofitted to ship only pit materials must use a separate service using Section B below.

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to FedEx for their generous donation. With contributions like theirs, we can make a meaningful impact and create positive change. Thank you, FedEx, for being a valued partner in our mission.

B – Shipped to Championship without FedEx Voucher

1. Visit the AEX Desk near the FIRST Ship Desk. Shepard staff will review any outstanding fees, if any.
2. Any return shipping documents you have already prepared should be shared with AEX to confirm pickup coordination. If you do not have return documents or freight pickup set, AEX has access to freight options and will work with you to coordinate.
4. Follow instructions provided by AEX staff for preparing the crate for shipping during Saturday Load Out.
5. Fill out and give the included Load Out Sign to your team vehicle driver to have for Saturday Load Out.

C – Brought Robot to Championship with you

1. Teams that hand-carry their Robot with their own vehicle must also return their Robot this way too.
2. Teams that brought their Robot to Championship do not have any task prior to Saturday Load Out. These teams do not need to see the FIRST Ship Desk.
3. Fill out and give the included Load Out Sign to your team vehicle driver to have for Saturday Load Out.

D – Brought Robot to Championship on a Community 53’ Trailer

- Teams that hand-carry their Robot with a Community Trailer must also return their Robot this way too.
- Teams shipping on a Community 53’ Trailer do not have any task prior to Saturday Load Out. These teams do not need to see the *FIRST* Ship Desk anymore.
- Communicate with your Community Trailer’s Lead Contact to ensure preparations for Saturday are good.
- The included Load Out Vehicle Sign is not needed and can be ignored.

HOW TO LOAD OUT ON SATURDAY

Important Notes:

- Hall E teams will be moved to Load Out of Hall D. Signage will be available to direct teams to the correct location. Hall D Loading Dock access will then close at approximately 4:00PM. Any additional teams in Hall E should move to Hall A to Load Out.
- Any team vehicle that arrives to Chartres Street without their Access Code will be turned away from the line. Do not approach Chartres Street until your team has received their Access Code.

E – Ship Robot, and Load Out Pit Materials

1. Begin the process of Load Out only when your team is no longer competing.
2. Robot Crates can be requested at the Robot Crate Service Desk which opens Saturday morning.
3. Crate your Robot securely. Follow all provided instructions from the *FIRST* Ship Desk.
4. Teams that completed their shipping paperwork will have received a Load Out Ticket. Bring this Ticket to the Load Out Desk within your team’s pit when your team is fully packed and ready to leave.
5. Confirmed teams will receive an Access Code at the Load Out Desk. Message the Access Code to your team vehicle driver, and the driver may enter Chartres Street for Loading Dock access.
6. When your Driver has parked in the Loading Dock, your team may bring your pit materials out to the loading dock and into your vehicle.

F – Carry Robot and Load Out Pit Materials to your Vehicle

1. Begin the process of Load Out only when your team is no longer competing.
2. Visit the Load Out Desk within your team’s pit only when your team is fully packed and ready to leave the door. Teams will only have access to enter the Loading Dock once.
3. Confirmed teams will receive an Access Code at the Load Out Desk. Message the Access Code to your team vehicle driver, and the driver may enter Chartres Street for Loading Dock access.
4. When your Driver has parked in the Loading Dock, your team may bring your pit materials out to the loading dock and into your vehicle.

Important Note:

- Teams shipping though a Community 53’ Trailer may only access the Loading Dock once all teams on that Trailer are no longer competing. Each Community Trailer is responsible for having their loading out workforce ready at the time all teams have been staged to load out and the truck is docked. There are no volunteers available to assist with Community 53’ Trailer Load Out.

EXTRA RESOURCES

For more information on the Community 53’ Trailer, refer to the [Community 53’ Trailer Rules and Information](#) document.

Not at Championship yet? Email firstroboticscompetition@firstinspires.org.

At Championship? Visit the *FIRST* Ship Desk, Thursday through Saturday 9:00AM to 5:00PM.

1st FLOOR

LOAD-OUT VEHICLE

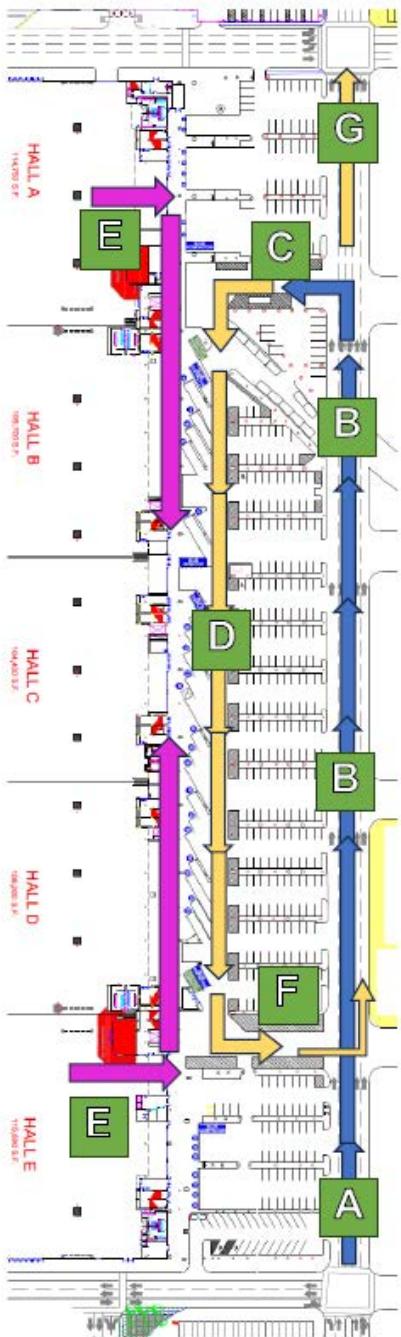
Team(s): _____

Driver Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Access Code: _____

Place this tag on your vehicle dashboard or window while within Loading Dock



Load Out Process

[A] – Team Vehicles approach and get into line on Chartres Street. Wait for instructions from Volunteers.

Only team vehicles with an Access Code obtained at the Load Out Desk will be allowed to wait on Chartres Street for Load Out.

[B] – Vehicles stay in lane and approach slowly. Follow all instructions from Houston Police and others. No team members should exit the vehicle to the street.

[C] – Once entrance to the Loading Dock is made, team vehicles will be given a Dock Number. Wait for instructions from Volunteers.

DRIVE SLOW AND WATCH FOR PEOPLE IN THE DOCK.

[D] – Drive to and park at your Dock Number only.

[E] – Team Reps move items from Loading Dock and bring them to their team vehicle in the Dock. Quickly and safely load all items in a timely manner.

WHILE DRIVING IN DOCK TOWARD EXIT, TURN VEHICLE HAZARD LIGHTS ON.

[F] – Follow instructions from Volunteers to exit Loading Dock. Turn Hazard Lights off before entering the street.

[G] – There is no reentry to the Loading Dock.

VEHICLE PARKING

GRB Parking Garage Locations:

Avenida North Garage:

701 Avenida de las Américas

Avenida Central Garage:

1002 Avenida de las Américas

Avenida South Garage:

1710 Polk Street

Tundra Garage:

1506 Jackson Street

**Above-Ground Parking can be
found using the
Downtown Houston website:**

