

**FIRST** 2026

# CHAMPIONSHIP

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**BAE SYSTEMS**

**FIRST** **AGE** PRESENTED BY  
Qualcomm

# 2026 Championship Volunteer Orientation

April 21, 2026 8pm EST

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**Thank you.**  
**This is only possible**  
**because of each of you.**





**Thank you to our sponsor!**

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## Introduction

- Slides from today's Orientation will be posted in the Q&A section.
- This Orientation is being recorded. The recording and slides will be available on the [Championship Volunteer website](#) on Wednesday April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Questions can be asked at any time in the Q&A section and a member of the Volunteer team will respond.
- If you have questions following the presentation, you can email us at [volunteer@firstinspires.org](mailto:volunteer@firstinspires.org).
- Get ready to play a quick, fun Kahoot game at the end to win \$50 to the *FIRST* Store!
- Additional Information can be found in the Appendix slides

## Topics

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- What's New?
- Overview of Championship
- Before You Go
- Travel & Arrival
- Venue Overview & Layout
- Access (Persons with Disabilities)
- Volunteer Registration & Badging
- Volunteer Central
- Championship Events & Activities
- Volunteer Information
- Onsite Points of Contact

## What's New?

- Expanded Event Footprint
  - Ground level security is outside the Venue
- Express Entry (Persons with Disabilities)
- Staff and Volunteer-Only Entrance
  - Level Three Hilton Skybridge
- Volunteer Registration Lines
  - Volunteer on LEFT, ADA on RIGHT
- Early Access to Pickup Badge for Volunteers
  - 6:15-7:00am on Wednesday and Thursday
  - Information Booth only
- Mentor Recognition
- Food Inside the Venue

# Overview of Championship

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# Welcome!

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## 2026 *FIRST* Championship

- Over 1100 teams
  - FLL Explore: 40
  - FLL Challenge: 160
  - FTC: 336
  - FRC: 600
- Over 1500 volunteers anticipated
  - FLL: 180
  - FTC: 400
  - FRC: 900
  - Non-Program: 50

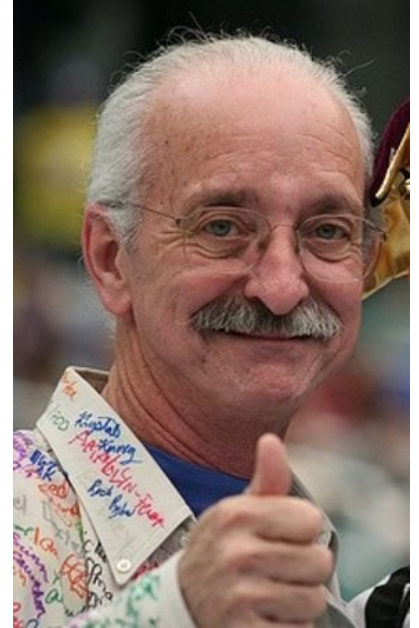


# Gracious Professionalism

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*...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.
- Let's treat all Championship attendees with *Gracious Professionalism*.



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# Before You Go

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# Before You Go



- [FIRST Championship Event Guide](#)
- [Volunteer Addendum](#)
- Volunteer Orientation
  - Go to [Championship Volunteer Webpage](#)
    - PDF of Volunteer Orientation slides
    - Recording of webinar
- [2026 FIRST Championship App](#)
  - Available in Apple Store & Google Play Store

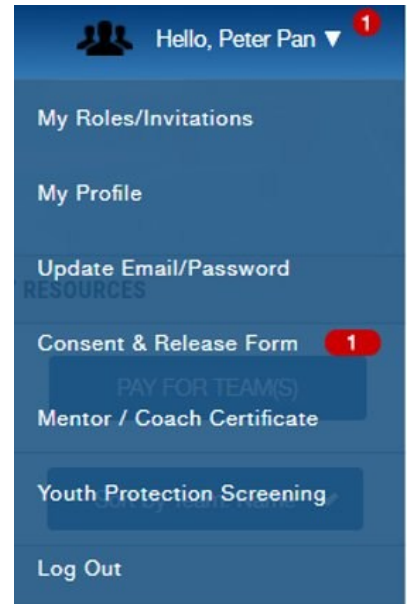
Download the App!



# Consent & Release Form



- Sign the Consent & Release Form electronically in your *FIRST* account: <http://my.firstinspires.org/Dashboard>
  - Log into your account and select 'Consent & Release Form' from the profile menu in the upper right-hand corner
  - Click 'Accept' at the bottom of the form
  - Completion of the current season *FIRST* Consent and Release Form is a requirement for participation at all official *FIRST* events, including the 2026 *FIRST* Championship
  - [Help Article](#)
- You can also complete your form through Express Volunteer:
  - <https://my.firstinspires.org/ExpressVolunteer/landing-page/>
  - You will be prompted to complete the form upon logging in



# Before You Go

All volunteers should have completed registration prior to arrival.

- Know Before you Go email:
  - Sent 4/17.
  - Another send on 4/24.
- Badge Confirmation
  - Sent 4/21.
  - Another send on 4/27.

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The screenshot shows an email titled "Confirmation" with the ID #26321966-793. It addresses Jacqueline Hooper and provides instructions for badge pickup. A sample of the badge is shown with the name "JACQUE HOOPER" and the company "ConferenceDirect". The badge also features a QR code and a star icon. Below the sample, there are three buttons: "VOLUNTEER", "YES my badge is correct", and "NO I need to edit my name". At the bottom, there is an "Edit Dietary Options" button. The email concludes with contact information for questions.

**Confirmation** #26321966-793

Hello Jacqueline Hooper,

We are looking forward to seeing you in Houston for the 2026 **FIRST**® Championship presented by BAE Systems on April 29 - May 2, 2026.

Please review and approve your name badge prior to your arrival. This is to ensure your on-site badge pick up is quick and efficient.

A sample of your badge can be viewed to the right. Please check your badge to ensure that all of your information is accurate. It is important to verify the following items:

- **Your name as it appears:** please ensure your first name, last name, and company appear as you would like it reflected on the badge.
- **Days of the week that you have been assigned to volunteer:** Days of the week you have been assigned to volunteer and will have access to the cafe will display to the right-hand side of the scan code. The scan code will display as a black square box in the badge preview image. For questions about your schedule, email [volunteer@firstinspires.org](mailto:volunteer@firstinspires.org).
- **Dietary Needs -** If you answered that you have any dietary needs, an image of a "star" should appear above the days of the week. If it does not and should, please scroll down to Dietary Requirements and select the gold "Edit Meal Options" button to edit this option. This will be the indication the Volunteer Cafe staff is looking for.

If necessary, take this opportunity to edit your badge so it is correct when you arrive and can be printed correctly the first time.

Sincerely,  
The 2026 **FIRST**® Championship Events Team

**Questions?**

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

Badge Confirmation Email

# What should you pack?

- Volunteer shirts will be provided
- 2-3 pairs of comfortable shoes
  - Should be closed toed AND closed back
- Water bottle
- Business cards
- Safety glasses
- Tiara
- Suspenders or Tutus
- *A can-do attitude!*



Before you go, print out:

- Your schedule
- Conference Direct registration Confirmation email
- Volunteer parking pass (if applicable). *Your volunteer coordinator will send these out in the next week.*



# ***FIRST* Traditions**

- ✓ **Tiara Friday**
- ✓ **Suspenders & Tutus Saturday**

***Join in on the fun with these optional traditions!***

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# Travel & Arrival

# Arrival Information



**Once you arrive at Houston, you will be responsible for your own ground transportation from the airport.**

- Renting a vehicle
- Shuttle
- Uber/Lyft/Taxi
- Hotel shuttle (if applicable, contact your hotel for details)

**Whatever transportation you choose, reserve ahead of time to ensure you have a ride.**

*See Appendix for transport details and pricing*

# Area Map

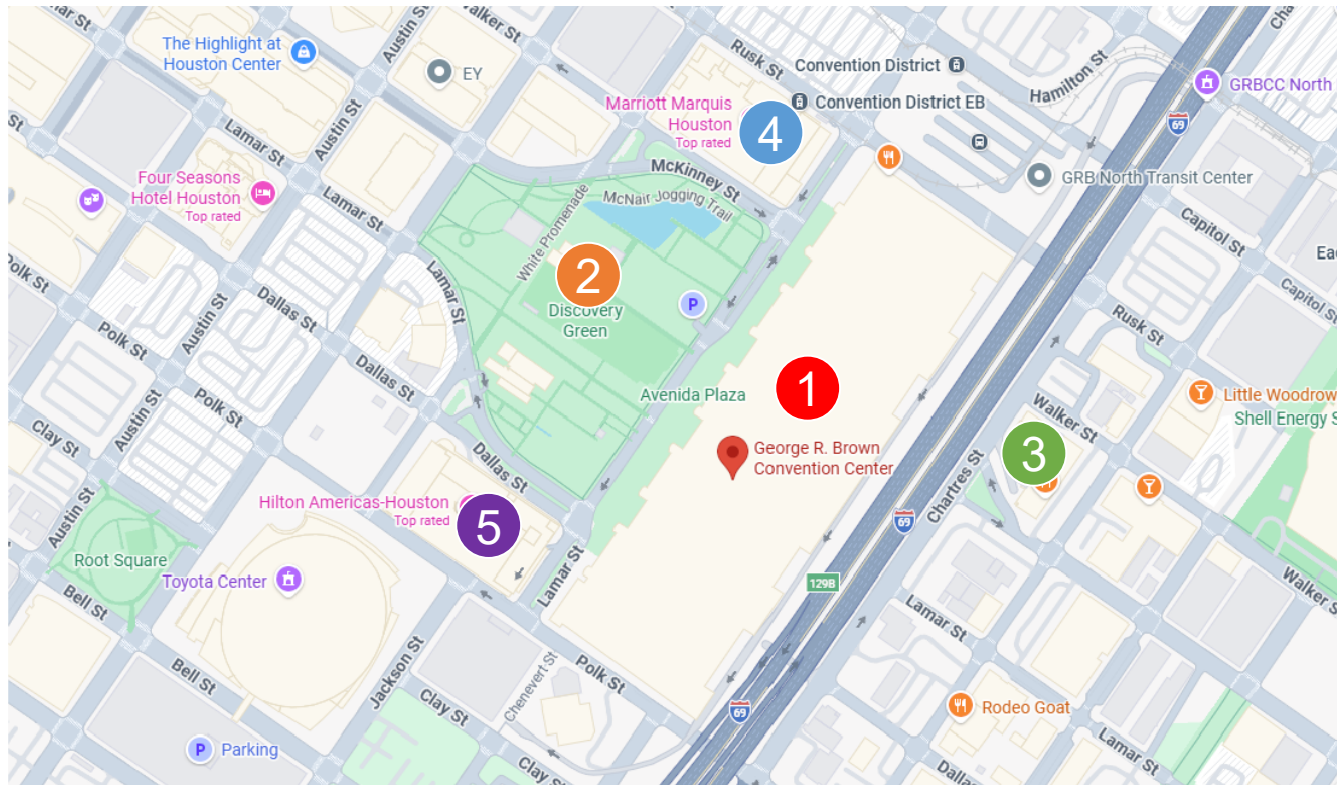
(1) GRB Convention Center

(2) Discovery Green

(3) Volunteer Parking Lot

(4) Marriott

(5) Hilton



# Volunteer Parking Lot



## Free Volunteer Parking is LIMITED. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.

- Located at the [GRB Convention Center](#) loading dock off Chartres
- Enter the loading dock gates by taking a left into the open gate across from Walker St. Off Chartres
- **Volunteer Coordinators will send parking passes to volunteers in the days leading up to Championship**
- **PRINT PASS**. Make sure it is visible on car's dashboard
- Trailers and buses are NOT permitted in the volunteer lot
- Lot open Monday-Saturday from 5:30AM-10PM
  - Wednesday is Team Load-In. Team Vehicles are allowed to start queuing at 7am. Plan accordingly.
- Early in the morning, it may be dark, bring a flashlight or phone light.
- There is no security-**PARK AT YOUR OWN RISK**

*See Appendix for transport details and pricing*

# Metro Passes (discounted)



**TAP AND GO TO THE 2026 FIRST ROBOTICS CONFERENCE**

METRO invites you to explore our city with the all-new **METRO FIRST ROBOTICS PASS**. This **ALL-ACCESS** pass includes **UNLIMITED** travel using **METRO Local Bus**, **METRORail**, and our **Downtown Direct** service to the airports. Enjoy our all-you-can-ride service, **April 28 through May 3, 2026**, with just the tap of your pass!

**METRO FIRST ROBOTICS PASS\***

<b>Students:</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>Adults:</b>	<b>\$20</b>

\*METRO First Robotics Pass is not required to ride METRO services. General one-way fare starts at \$1.25 each way.



METRO



RideMETRO.org | Call or text 713-635-4000



[Click here to buy discounted pass.](#)

Or use the [Championship App](#)

*See Appendix for metro info*

# After you Arrive



- Check into your hotel
- Pick up your badge at registration on Level One
- Check in with your volunteer coordinator or program staff
- Stop by Volunteer Central
  - We have gifts for you!
  - George R. Brown Convention Center, Level Three

# Venue Overview & Layout

# Venue Overview



## George R. Brown Convention Center

- Convention Center [Website](#)
- 1001 Avenida De Las Americas, Houston, TX 77010
- Venue has Three levels with escalators and elevators available.
  - *Wear comfortable shoes!*

# Venue Overview



## GRB has three main levels:

- Level One: Registration and Info Booth, *FIRST* Store, *FIRST* Robotics Competition
- Level Two: Innovation Faire, Skybridge Access from Marriott, Skybridge access from Hilton, Prayer Rooms, Starbucks, Mamava Lactation Pods
- Level Three: *FIRST* Tech Challenge, *FIRST* LEGO League, Conference, Judging, Quiet Room, Volunteer Central & Café, Skybridge Access from Hilton

# Venue Access

## Outside Points of Entry / Expanded Perimeter

- Open at 6 AM
- Perimeter closes around 8-8:30pm

## Interior Points of Entry

- Hilton Skybridge on Level 2
  - **EARLIEST ACCESS:** opens at 5:30 AM
- Hilton Skybridge on Level 3
  - **Staff and Volunteers ONLY** opens at 6 AM
- Marriott Skybridge Level 2
  - Open at 6:00 AM

Badges are not required to enter the GRB building or Discovery Green.

Passing through security is required.

Go to registration on Level One to have your badge printed or re-printed.

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## CAMPUS MAP

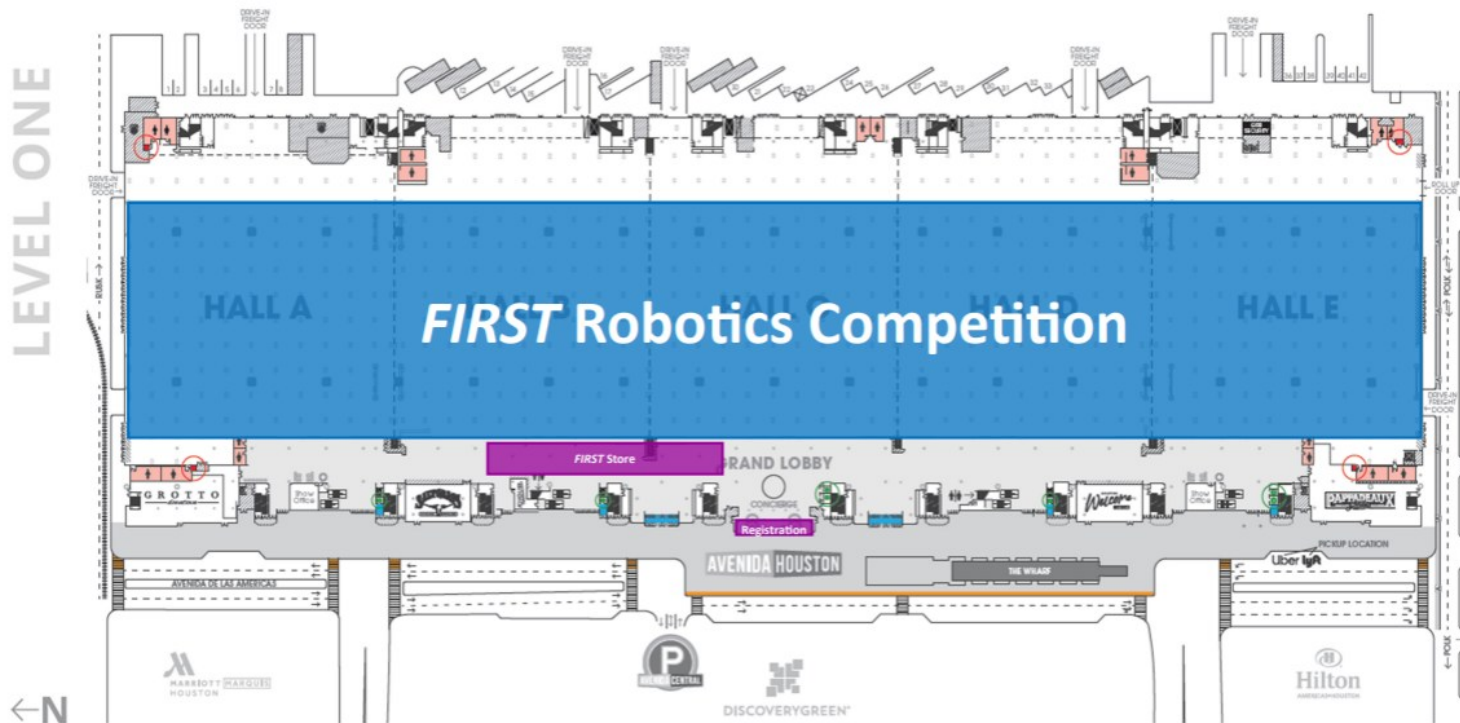


HOUSTON

# Level One

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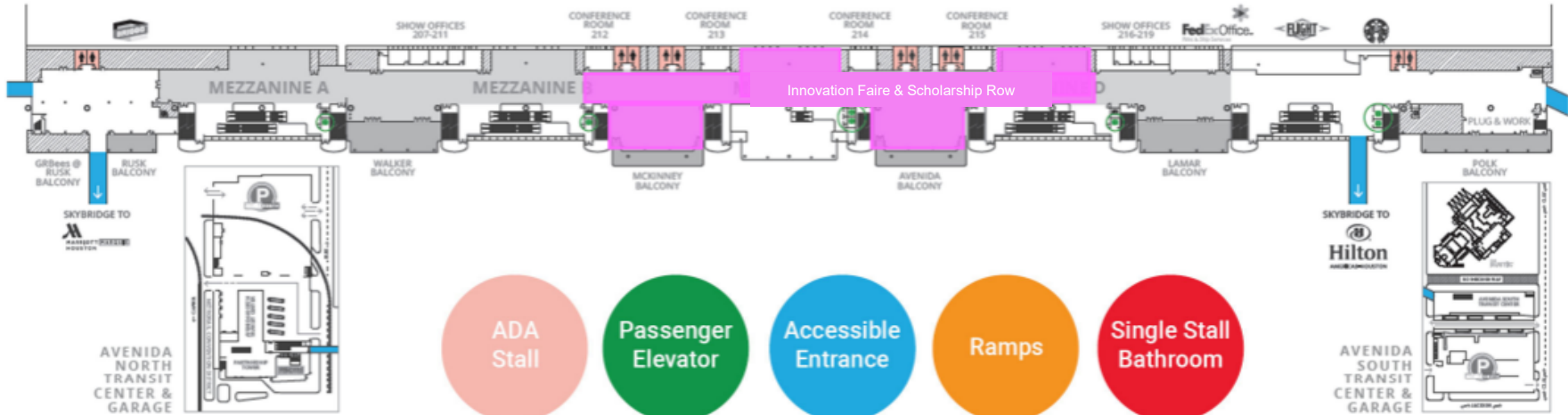
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- ADA Stall
- Passenger Elevator
- Accessible Entrance
- Ramps
- Single Stall Bathroom

# Level Two

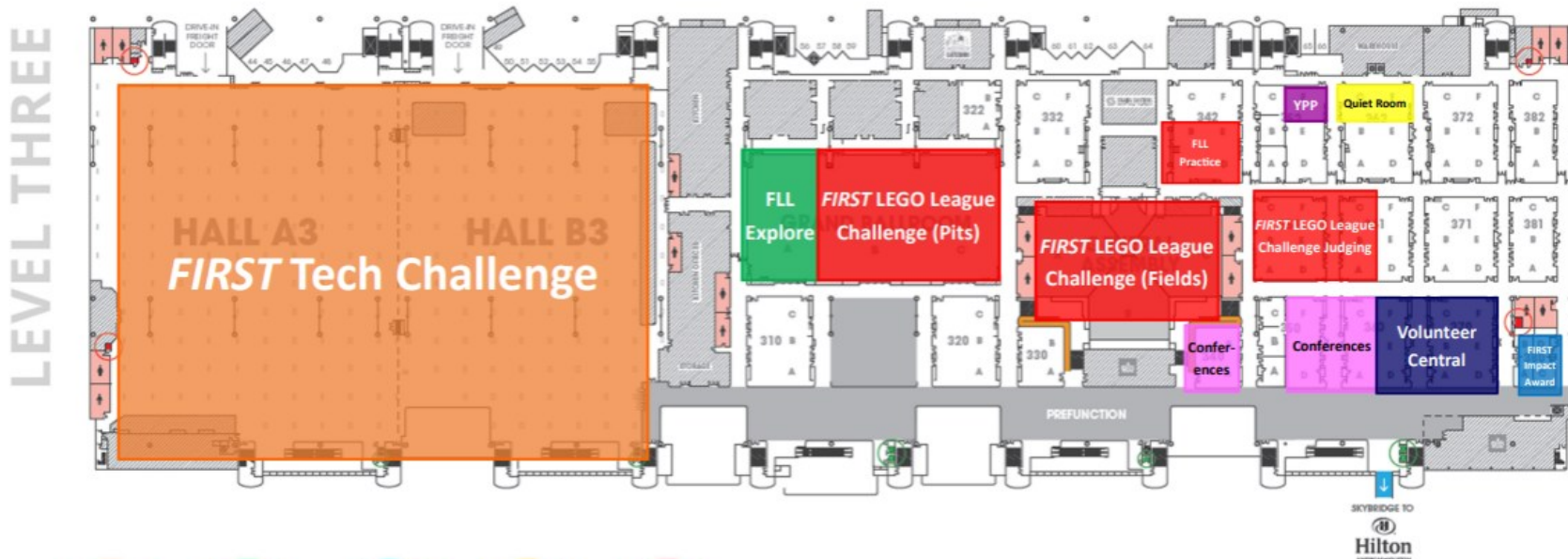
LEVEL TWO



# Level Three

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- ADA Stall
- Passenger Elevator
- Accessible Entrance
- Ramps
- Single Stall Bathroom

# Food around the Venue



## GRB Food Kiosks

- There are several food kiosks managed and run by the GRB throughout the venue. **All food kiosks are cashless (only accept cards).**

## Food Trucks in Discovery Green

- Some food trucks might accept cash.

**You can bring your own food into the venue; no large coolers allowed.**

- Some areas within the venue, such as pits, will not allow food.

# Rules Inside the Venue

- Follow the [FIRST Code of Conduct](#)
  - Persons who do not comply with this Code of Conduct may be barred from participating in *FIRST* activities
- Have another responsible adult watch any children in your care-you are not allowed to volunteer while taking care of a child
- Please follow the guidelines on health and safety in the [Event Guide](#).
- Please limit phone use to break times



# Security at the Venue

## Metal Detector Screening

- At all Entrances
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Check if the detector is activated

## Canine Screening

- Team Load-In
- Car/Truck Checks
- Will not impact the load in times

Review the [Event Guide](#) for the list of prohibited items



# Where to Find Info Onsite



## Information Booth:

- Information booth located near Registration on Level One
- Staff & Volunteers to answer questions and provide directions
- **Pit Admins:**
  - The Pit Admins are in each of the program areas to assist with program-specific questions:
    - FLL Level Three, Grand Ballroom
    - FTC Level Three, Hall A3
    - FRC Level One, Halls A & E
- **Volunteer Central:**
  - Welcome Table located in Volunteer Central on Level Three
  - Staff & Volunteers to answer questions and provide directions

*Download the  
Championship App!*



# Specialty Rooms



## Prayer Room

- Marriot Marquis, Level Two, Rooms Montgomery A&B
- Accessible from GRB, Level Two Skybridge, North of Mezzanine A

## Quiet Room

- GRB, Level Three, 362 C&F
  - Wednesday, April 29 – Saturday May 2: 8:00AM-6:00PM each day

## Lactation Pods

- Two Mamava lactation pods will be located on the North and South Side of Mezzanine Level 2. Nursing parents can access these private areas using the free [Mamava](#) app.

# Specialty Rooms



## Counseling Room

- Check-In with the *FIRST*® Youth Protection Team | Room: 352C | [safety@firstinspires.org](mailto:safety@firstinspires.org)
  - Wednesday, April 17: 8:00AM-7:00PM
  - Thursday, April 18: 8:00AM-6:00PM
  - Friday, April 19: 8:00AM-6:00PM
  - Saturday, April 20: 8:00AM-6:00PM

## Youth Protection Program Office

- GRB, Level Three, 352C
- Contact: [safety@firstinspires.org](mailto:safety@firstinspires.org)

# Access (Persons with Disabilities)

# STEM for Everyone™ Statement



*FIRST is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of unity. We embrace and celebrate our global community. Exploring, developing and implementing strategies to ensure opportunities for any young person who engages in our programs is critical for FIRST to fulfill its mission. ALL young people should have the opportunity to become science and technology leaders who have the skills, confidence, and resilience to build a better world.*

# General Customer Service Reminders



- Proof of disability is not required - No person is required to show proof of their disability - nor should they ever be asked for proof. This includes people who request accommodations, ask for accessible seating, attend with a service dog, or have an invisible disability.
  - Learn more in [ADA's event planning guide](#)
- Invisible Disabilities - Invisible disabilities are physical, mental, or neurological conditions that can limit or challenge a person's movements, senses, or activities, and can impact that person's ability to learn or work.
- Be mindful of words you use - It is important to use respectful language when communicating with or talking about people with disabilities.
  - Reference the [Stanford Disability Language Guide](#) for additional tips on communication
- [Championship Accessibility Guide](#)

# Additional Mindful Practices



- Be sure to listen with care and embody *Gracious Professionalism*<sup>®</sup> in all interactions
- Remind participants that Pits are working areas and may be hard to navigate
- Provide chairs with backing (if requested)
  - They will be available at Pit Admin
- Ensure accessible seating is not blocked by other spectators
  - VIPs/PDPs and others who have not indicated they need accessible seating should not remain in that area longer than moving through
- Ensure entrances/exits, walkways and concession lines are clear
- Call for cleaning crews to address potential hazards such as spills on floor surfaces
- Championship is a heavy presence and heavy noise event. There is a Quiet Room located on the 3rd floor of the George R. Brown Convention Center

# Express Entry Volunteers



## New this year: Express Entry Volunteers

- Express Entry volunteers are responsible for ensuring the process of accessible (persons with disabilities) entry for attendees at *FIRST* Championship
  - Wednesday and Thursday shifts are from 7am-9am and 11:30am-1pm

# Contact Information



- For any issues that do not arise to a 911 (Command Central) please ask a *FIRST* staff member to contact Daphne Galatas, Specialist, Social Impact and & Engagement (SI&E) team
  - For matters that do not need in person presence please email [sie@firstinspires.org](mailto:sie@firstinspires.org)

# Volunteer Registration & Badging

# What to Expect



Go to the Registration desk at GRB Level One to get your Volunteer badge. Badges are required to get into program areas, the Volunteer Café and Lounge, event areas, and more. Every attendee must be badged.

What you will receive at the Registration Desk as a Volunteer:

- Championship Volunteer Name Badge
- Championship Volunteer T-Shirt(s)
- Championship Volunteer Gift
- Championship Volunteer Emerson (NI) Button

April 28 - May 2	
Tuesday	7:00AM - 6:00PM
Wednesday	7:00AM - 6:00PM
Thursday	7:00AM - 6:00PM
Friday	7:00AM - 6:00PM
Saturday	7:00AM - 2:00PM

**Designated line for volunteers- on the LEFT!**

# Early Access Registration



Early access registration for **volunteers only** 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.

What you will receive when you register:

- Name Badge
- T-Shirt(s)
- Gift
- Button

April 29 – April 30	
Wednesday	6:15AM - 7:00AM
Thursday	6:15AM - 7:00AM

# What do you need for Registration?



You need to bring **your personalized QR code and photo ID** to the registration desk to get your badge. Your personalized code will be in the 'Know Before You Go' email sent on 4/17 or 4/24.

- Minors must have a responsible adult accompany them

If you do not have your QR code, you can bring your registration confirmation email (printed or accessible on your phone) along with your photo ID.

*See Appendix for registration details*

# What do you need for Registration?



Registration Desk will print your badge onsite.

Days of the week printed on badge. If you selected **any dietary restrictions** on your registration, there will be a star on your badge (see example on right).

A badge confirmation email will be sent to you on 4/21 or 4/27.

- Please confirm your days of volunteering are correct and your dietary restrictions are correct.
- You can click 'Edit dietary options' in that email to make updates.



*See Appendix for registration details*

# If you DID NOT Register Before Arriving



## Go to the Level One Registration Desk to Register:

- Bring photo ID
- Bring a copy of your volunteer assignment email
- Confirm your information with the Registration desk onsite

# Walk-On Volunteers



For those who **have not registered and been assigned a volunteer role prior to the event**, you may apply to be a walk-on volunteer. After arriving, go to Level One Registration Desk with your photo ID.

- You must be 15 years old to be a Walk-On Volunteer.
  - Minors aged 15-17 must have their parent/guardian complete these Forms.
- Completing an Application does NOT guarantee you a role.
- This is NOT an Application for the Student Ambassador Program.
- We will prioritize applicants with ALL-DAY availability.
- A Volunteer Coordinator will contact you if you are selected.
- It is required to complete the 2025-2026 season Consent and Release Form and Walk-On Volunteer Form as part of the Application.

# Volunteer Central

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# Volunteer Central

Located on Level Three of GRB:



Volunteer Office:  
Room 360 E

Volunteer Lounge:  
Room 360 D

Volunteer Café(s):  
Room 370 & 371

# Volunteer Central



**Volunteer Central is your one-stop shop for all things Volunteer!**

- Find answers to your volunteer Championship questions
- Pick up your exclusive 2026 Championship Volunteer lapel pin
- Snag your *FIRST* AGE swag
- Get your *FIRST* Volunteer Year of Service pin
- Get your Volunteer passport stamped with the 2026 Championship Stamp
- Spin the wheel each day to win a prize!
- Scan a QR code to enter the Volunteer Raffle each day!
- Tons of giveaways!

*See Appendix for registration details*



# Volunteer Lounge

## Gracious Professionalism Pins



- Volunteers at *FIRST* Championship will be able to give out special edition pins to individuals they see expressing *Gracious Professionalism* at Championship.
  - Pick up a pin and card in the Volunteer Lounge.
  - Give it out to someone who is showing Gracious Professionalism!
  - Share the story of Gracious Professionalism with us via a short form.

# Volunteer Lounge

## Language Buttons



- Buttons will be available for volunteers to wear to indicate they can speak a language other than English.
- Buttons will be available for these languages:
  - Afrikaans
  - Amharic
  - Arabic
  - ASL
  - Dutch
  - Filipino
  - French
  - German
  - Greek
  - Hebrew
  - Hindi
  - Italian
  - Japanese
  - Korean
  - Lithuanian
  - Mandarin
  - Norwegian
  - Polish
  - Portuguese
  - Russian
  - Sindhi
  - Sinhalese
  - Spanish
  - Swedish

# Volunteer Lounge

## Year of Service Pins



### VOLUNTEER

- Year 1
- Year 2
- Year 3
- Year 4
- Year 5
- Year 10
- Year 15
- Year 20
- Year 25
- Year 30
- Year 35



### MENTOR

- Year 1
- Year 2
- Year 3
- Year 4
- Year 5
- Year 6
- Year 7
- Year 8
- Year 9
- Year 10
- Year 15
- Year 20
- Year 25
- Year 30
- Year 35

# Volunteer Office



## Get Information you Need!

- Looking for a *FIRST* staff member and cannot locate any in the Volunteer Café or Volunteer Lounge?
- **Check the Volunteer Office for staff assistance.**

# Volunteer Cafe



Open to all volunteers on the day(s) of their shift(s)

	MON 4/27	TUES 4/28	WED 4/29	THUR 4/30	FRI 5/1	SAT 5/2
<b>Breakfast</b>	Closed	6-9am	6-9am	6-9am	6-9am	6-9am
<b>Lunch</b>	11am-2pm	11am-2pm	11am-2pm	11am-2pm	11am-2pm	11am-2pm
<b>Dinner</b>	Closed	5-8pm	5-8pm	Closed (Innovation Faire 6- 8:30pm)	Closed	Closed* (Volunteer Celebration 1:30-6pm)  *working volunteers will eat in their areas

# Volunteer Cafe



## Meals on the Day you Volunteer

When you registered for 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.

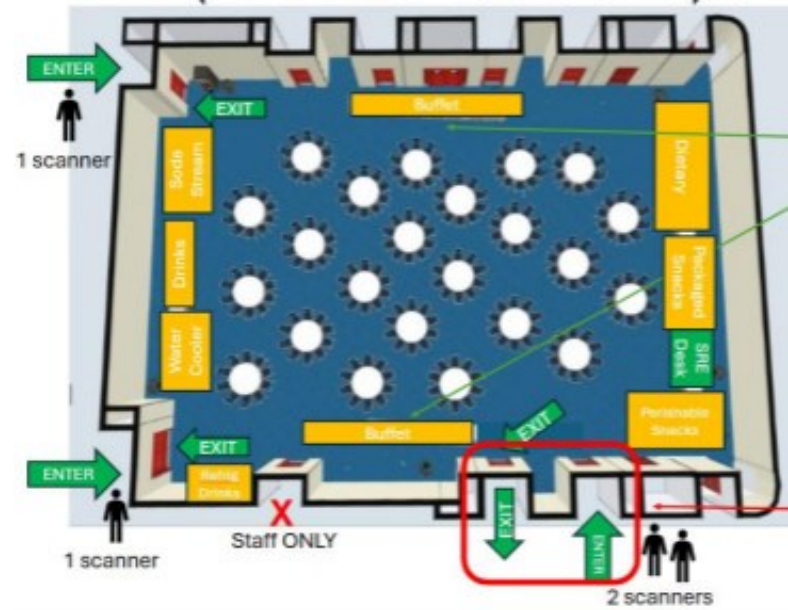
- If you make a change to the days of your shift(s) on-site at Championship, **please ask your volunteer coordinator to contact the information desk to have your badge reprinted.**
- Walk-on volunteers can also eat in the café on the days they volunteer.
- Badges will be scanned at mealtimes at entrance to the café

*Menu available on-site*

# Volunteer Cafe

## Cafe Layout

- Volunteer Central staff will scan and direct volunteers into appropriate doors
- Multiple buffet lines
- Drink table and snack table



# Volunteer Cafe



## Dietary Restrictions

- For those who requested dietary accommodations in their registration:
  - **Halal meals** will be provided from a Halal food station inside GRB. Tickets for these meals can be picked up at the Information Booth on Level One.
  - **Kosher meals** will be available by request in the Volunteer Café.
  - All other special dietary meals will be available on the Dietary Restrictions table in the Volunteer Café.
  
- Menu available on site.

# Volunteer Cafe



## Drinks

- Bottled drinks and drink machines will be available during event hours in Café for all volunteers. Drinks will also be available in Pit areas for volunteers.
- 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

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

# Championship Events & Activities

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# Volunteer Gratitude Boards



**Located in each program near Pit Admin.**

Stop by and feel the love from teams, parents, mentors, participants, and all the people who appreciate YOU!



# Mentor Recognition

## NEW! Mentor & Lead Coach Badge Ribbons

- Available at Pit Admins by request
- Available at Volunteer Lounge



## NEW! Mentor Year of Service Lapel Pins

- Available at Volunteer Lounge



## NEW! Mentor Raffle

- QR Codes available at Pit Admins

## Mentor Gift & *FIRST AGE* Coach Mentor Pins

- 2 per team at team check-in
- Extras available in Volunteer Lounge



# Discovery Green Block Party

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## The outdoor extension of our campus

- Wednesday, April 29 - Friday, May 1

A variety of activities including: giant family and lawn games, Live Band Karaoke, Silent Disco and musical acts.

Check the [app](#) for a detailed schedule



# Innovation Faire

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## Visit for Hands-On Innovative FUN!

- Wednesday, April 29 - Friday, May 1
- 10:00AM - 4:00PM
- Mezzanine, Level Two
- Alumni Row available Wed - Fri

## Innovation Faire Night

- Thursday, April 30, 6-8:30PM
- ***You are invited*** to explore the Innovation Faire while enjoying light snacks and appetizers.



# FIRST Charity Auction

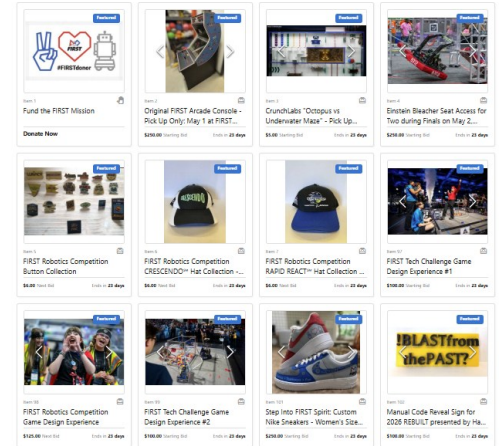
[FIRST Charity Auction live now.](#)

Discover unique collectibles, fan-favorite experiences, and exclusive items you won't find anywhere else, all while supporting programs that inspire the next generation of innovators. Show your team spirit, explore Houston through food and local attractions, and much more. The auction has something for everyone.

Visit us at the Donation Station in Innovation Faire at *FIRST* Championship April 29 – May 1 or participate virtually now through auction close at 1:00 PM CT on Friday, May 1, 2026.

Bid for a cause and help fuel the *FIRST* mission:

<https://pro.gofundme.com/live/auction/first-charity-auction-2026/b0ecd2f3-a753-456e-aea5-1fa8851bb844>



# Conferences



The *FIRST* Championship Conference 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 topics: business, marketing, outreach, engineering, game strategy, programming, implementation & success stories, workforce development, and education. All sessions are first come, first serve. You must be present and, in the line, waiting prior to the session start to get in. Once we are full, we will close the doors.

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 [download the app](#).

# ***FIRST*** Closing Ceremonies



**Saturday May 2, 1:30-6pm**

- Global broadcast throughout the GRB
  - Highlights from each program
- Key awards and recognition
- Each Program will have a custom experience that includes:
  - Final matches
  - Individual Program content



# Volunteer Appreciation Celebration



**Saturday, May 2, 1:30PM**  
**Volunteer Café Room 371**

- Watch the Closing Ceremonies in comfort
- TV wall streaming the finale with sound
- Enjoy delicious snacks and drinks
- Celebrate your hard work at Championship
- Win raffle prizes! Prizes are given out throughout the celebration.



# Volunteer Information

**FIRST** 2026  
**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
PRESENTED BY BAE SYSTEMS

# Personal Items

## Volunteer Central

- Volunteer central is **NOT** constantly staffed; please do not leave items unattended
- Do not leave valuables
- ***If you cannot carry it, please do not bring it***

## Lost & Found

- Lost & Found is located at the Information Booth in the Lobby on Level One
- Items held onsite 30 days after the event
  - 1-800-427-4697 or [online](#)

## Lost Under Bleachers

- Report items of extreme importance lost under bleachers to Pit Admin
- Pit Admin will contact security
- Under no circumstances should any but security go under the bleachers

# WiFi and Hotspots

**Free wireless internet is available in the common areas.**



- This access is not available on the Pit floor or in the playing field areas
- When not actively using your Wi-Fi, please switch it off
- **Hotspots are NOT allowed in playing field areas**

# Safety Equipment

- Bring your own safety glasses
- Safety glasses are available for purchase at the *FIRST* Store outside of Hall C on Level One
- Sandals, open-toed shoes, and Crocs are not allowed in the Pits, fields, or other teamwork areas
- If you are feeling ill, please do not volunteer
- Keep your name badge with you throughout the event



# Health & Safety



## Health and Safety Emergencies

- Follow [CDC \(Centers for Disease Control\) guidelines](#)
- If you become ill, please stay in your hotel room/lodging and contact your Volunteer Coordinator (VC)
- In case of an incident which should be reported (medical or non-medical), talk to your VC
- In case of an emergency that requires evacuation, please evacuate with the teams and guests
- For an emergency, volunteers on-site should look for a Staff person, VC, or go to Pit Admin

# Non-Urgent Concerns

## Non-Urgent Concerns: Medical Incidents and Youth Protection

- Non-urgent medical incidents and Youth Protection concerns:
  - [FIRST Report a Concern](#)
- Feedback about issues surrounding game play, rule changes, and awards is best shared by contacting support at [FIRST](#).
- Handout with QR code link to the Reporting Portal from Pit Admin
- Youth Protection Program Staff:
  - (603) 206-2050
  - Room 352 C
  - [safety@firstinspires.org](mailto:safety@firstinspires.org)
- All children under the age of 12 must always be accompanied by an adult when in the pit area



# Safety Outside the Venue

- Do **NOT** wear your badge
- Always be aware of your surroundings
- Always walk in groups of two or more
- 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 quickly as possible
- [Tips for getting around Houston](#)



# Onsite Points of Contact

# Onsite Points of Contact



## ***FIRST* Robotics Competition**

- Pit Admin: Level One Halls A & E
- Hall A Pit Admin Divisions:
  - Archimedes
  - Curie
  - Daly
  - Galileo
- Hall E Pit Admin Divisions:
  - Hopper
  - Johnson
  - Milstein
  - Newton
- Your Volunteer Coordinator
  - **Teal** shirts in field and pit areas

## ***FIRST* LEGO League Challenge and Explore**

- Pit Admin: Level Three, Grand Ballroom

## ***FIRST* Tech Challenge**

- Pit Admin: Level Three, Hall A3

# Onsite Points of Contact



## Volunteer Central

- Level Three, Rooms 360 D & E

*See You in  
Houston!*



**Need assistance before the event?**

Contact us at [volunteer@firstinspires.org](mailto:volunteer@firstinspires.org)

# Test Your Knowledge with Kahoot!



Test your knowledge from today for a chance to WIN \$50 to the *FIRST* store!

- For the winner - email [volunteer@firstinspires.org](mailto:volunteer@firstinspires.org) with your player name!

# Appendix

# Arrival Information



## [George Bush Intercontinental Airport \(IAH\)](#)

Uber/Lyft/Taxi: Outside Baggage Claim and Arrivals-All Terminals

Super Shuttle:

- Advanced reservations highly recommended
- [www.supershuttle.com](http://www.supershuttle.com)
- Pickup: outside Baggage Claim and Arrivals level, Terminals A, B, C, and E
- Ticket Counters in Terminals A, B, and C in Baggage Claim; Terminal E in Arrivals

# Arrival Information



## [Hobby Airport \(HOU\)](#)

Uber/Lyft: Curb Zone 5 outside Baggage Claim and Arrivals

Taxi: Curb Zone 2 outside Baggage Claim and Arrivals

Super shuttle:

- Advanced reservations highly recommended
- [www.supershuttle.com](http://www.supershuttle.com)
- Pickup: Curb Zone 1 outside Baggage Claim and Arrivals
- Ticket counter located in Baggage Claim

# Arrival Information

Taxis are available at the airport.

- [Hobby Airport Taxi](#)
- [IAH Taxi](#)

**Uber/Lyft Apps**

- Price fluctuates depending on location activity



*Prices subject to change*

# Arrival Information

## Super Shuttle

- Reserve in advance- can do round-trip or one-way

## Omega Royal

- Reserve in advance- can do round-trip or one-way



*Prices subject to change*

# Additional Parking

[Surface Lot & Garage Parking](#) is available around the George R. Brown Convention Center. Check out the [interactive map](#) to find and reserve parking in real time.

### Parking in Downtown Houston

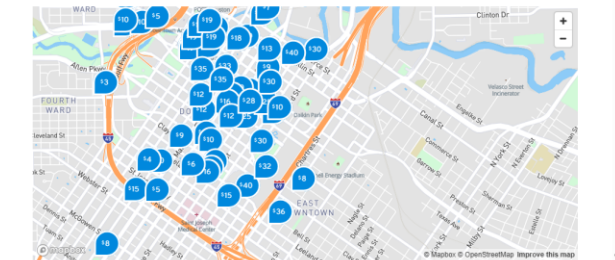
Parking abounds in Downtown, convenient to any destination.

Check out the interactive map below to find and reserve parking in real time. For on-street parking, download the [ParkMobile app](#).

[Reserve Parking Online >](#)

Set parking times and select a facility

Parking Starts Today 12:00 PM Parking Ends Today 3:00 PM



This map shows parking that can be reserved via ParkWhiz; additional parking options may be available.

# FIRST 2026 CHAMPIONSHIP

PRESENTED BY BAE SYSTEMS

## GRB HOUSTON

### PARKING GARAGE RATES

**AVENIDA NORTH GARAGE**  
701 Avenida de las Americas (entrances on Rusk and Capitol)  
1,848 parking spaces  
Located at Partnership Tower and connected to the GRB and Marriott Marquis Hotel via skybridge  
Max daily regular rate: \$42  
Clearance: 7 ft.

**AVENIDA CENTRAL GARAGE**  
1002 Avenida de las Americas  
663 parking spaces  
Located under Discovery Green Park, directly across from the GRB  
Max daily regular rate: \$35  
Clearance: 7 ft.

**AVENIDA SOUTH GARAGE**  
1710 Polk Street  
1,450 parking spaces  
Connected to Hilton Americas Hotel and GRB via skybridge  
Max daily regular rate: \$42  
Clearance: 6.9 ft.

**TUNDRA GARAGE**  
1515 Jackson Street  
2,478 parking spaces  
Connected to the Toyota Center  
Clearance: 7 ft.

*Please take ticket with you to pay at kiosks adjacent to garage elevators. No cashier on duty.*  
*\*Hourly rates apply unless special event pricing is in effect. Special event rates are posted at garages and are paid upon entrance.*  
*\*Nearby privately-owned surface parking lots and garages rates vary.*  
*\*New billing cycle begins at 2:00 am.*



# Metro Passes (Not Discounted)



- [METRO Fares](#)
- Day Passes can be purchased:
  - [Online](#) and will be mailed to you within 7 business days
  - [In-person](#) at 1001 Travis St Metro Ride Store
    - Card is free
- [Online Ride Store](#) has other options, including Metro Q Ticketing App for iPhone and Android

Download for iPhone

Scan the QR code using your iPhone to download the METRO Q Ticketing App from the App Store

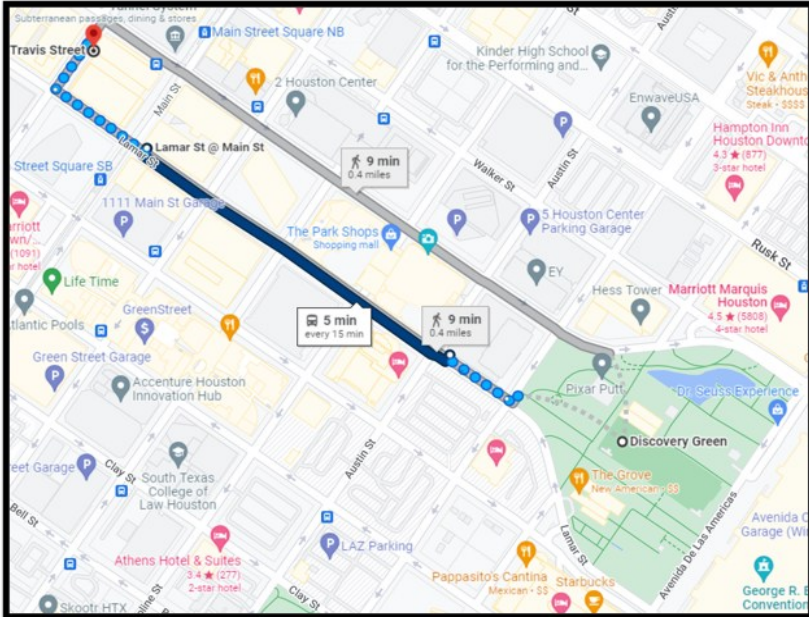


Download for Android

Scan the QR code using your Android phone to download the METRO Q Ticketing App from Google Play



# Metro Info



**Nearest location to purchase DAY pass is at 1001 Travis St., 8am-5pm**

- You CANNOT get a refund
- Only buy what you need!
- **Customer Service: 713-635-4000**
- Online Ride Store: 713-652-8994

# Metro Day Pass



## METRO Day Pass

Functions as a debit card for riding METRO. It allows you to ride **local service** as often as you like during the day for a maximum of \$3 (regular fare) or \$1.50 (discounted fare). Using a day pass on **Park & Ride service** may require an upcharge.

### What services can you pay for with it?



Local Bus



Park & Ride Commuter Express Bus



METRORail



METRORapid



METRO curb2curb

### Where can you get one?

#### Obtain and load - or reload a card

- METRO RideStore | [See locations](#)
- Participating retailers | [Find a store](#)

#### Obtain and load only

- [METRO Online RideStore](#)

#### Reload only

- [Online](#)
- Select vending machines | [More info](#)
- Reload machine on all local buses | [More info](#)

### What can you use to load or reload money on it?

- ✓ Cash
- ✓ Credit card
- ✓ Debit card

#### Exceptions:

- Reload machines on local buses accept cash only (no coins).
- Oval-shaped vending machines at METRO Park & Ride lots and select transit centers accept credit/debit only.
- METRO RideStore at Downtown Transit Center accepts check or money order as well.
- METRO RideStore at Main Street Square doesn't accept cash.
- METRO Online RideStore doesn't accept cash.

# Metro Services

## Metrobus 500



### Local Bus

More than 80 routes; thousands of shelters and stops



### Park & Ride Bus

Express bus service for suburban communities



### METRORail

Three light rail lines in and around downtown Houston



### METRORapid

It looks like a bus, but runs like rail



### METRO curb2curb

On-demand rideshare service in specific communities



### METROLift

Shared-ride paratransit service for preapproved customers



### METRO STAR Vanpool

Rideshare service offering a fast, cost-efficient commute



### HOV/HOT Express Lanes

Barrier-separated lanes on Houston's busiest freeways



All METRO buses are ADA accessible, offer free Wi-Fi, come equipped with video surveillance security cameras and can carry up to two bikes at a time on an easy loading bike rack attached to the front of the bus.

The regular fare to board is \$1.25. The discounted fare is 60 cents.

Local bus routes are color-coded. During most hours each day:

- Red routes run at least every 15 minutes
- Blue routes run every 16-30 minutes
- Green routes run every 30-60 minutes

[Learn More](#)

# Volunteer Registration Information

---

Sample email  
invitation from  
*FIRST* to register  
as a volunteer

**FIRST 2026**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
PRESENTED BY **BAE SYSTEMS**

## Invitation

Dear Volunteer Test One,


[REGISTER NOW](#)

Thank you for volunteering at the 2025 *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> Championship presented by BAE Systems, April 29 - May 2, 2026.

*FIRST* Championship is the culmination of the season's *FIRST* programs - *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> LEGO<sup>®</sup> League, *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> Tech Challenge, and *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> 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.

**Registration Sponsored By** 

# Volunteer Registration Information

## 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**  
(Please use your badge ID 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)

**Demographics**

**Are you a FIRST® student program participant alumna/s? \***

---

**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**

# Volunteer Registration Information

## STEP 2 – Dietary Information & Meal Selection

*Meal selection can  
be updated  
anytime before  
badge printing.*

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](mailto: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	

# Volunteer Registration Information

---

## 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** **CONTINUE**

# Volunteer Registration Information

## STEP 3 – Terms and Conditions

**FIRST 2026**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
PRESENTED BY **BAE SYSTEMS**

✓ ✓ 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**

# Volunteer Registration Information

## STEP 4 – Registration Verification

STEP 4 - VERIFICATION
SEARCH

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 Fair 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

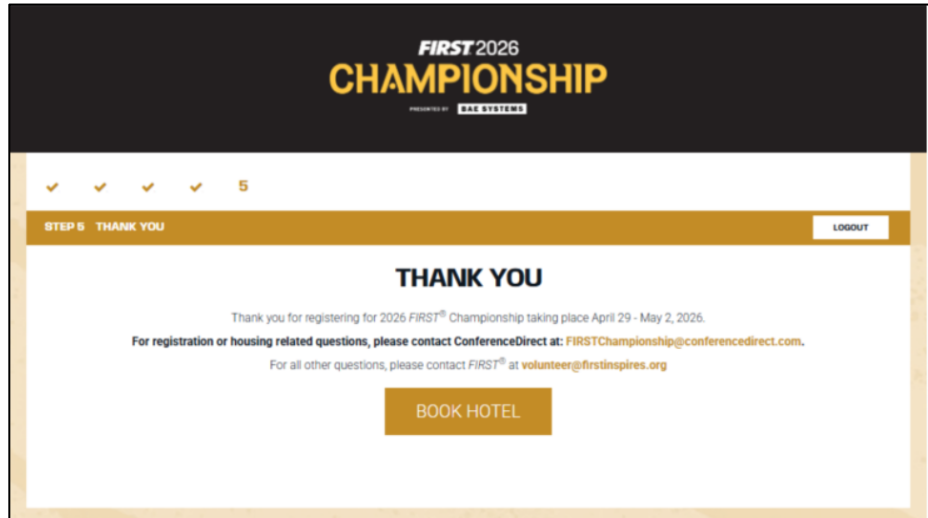
#	Item	Qty
1	Lisa Test	
	Volunteer	1

BACK
CONTINUE

# Volunteer Registration Information

---

**STEP 5 – Thank  
you!**



# Registration Confirmation Email

*Select 'edit registration' to update the days you are volunteering if needed.*

**Confirmation** #26250991-787

Dear Lisa Test,

Thank you for registering to attend the 2026 **FIRST**® Championship presented by BAE Systems on April 29 - May 2, 2026.

We look forward to seeing you!

**EDIT REGISTRATION**

**BOOK HOTEL**

**MODIFY EXISTING HOTEL**

---

**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:	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

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](https://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](https://firstinspires.org/donate).

**DONATE TO FIRST**

# Badge Confirmation Email

4/21 & 4/27

**FIRST 2026**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
PRESENTED BY **BAE SYSTEMS**

**Confirmation** #26321966-793

Hello Jacqueline Hooper,

We are looking forward to seeing you in Houston for the 2026 **FIRST**® Championship presented by BAE Systems on April 29 - May 2, 2026.


Please review and approve your name badge prior to your arrival. This is to ensure your on-site badge pick up is quick and efficient.

A sample of your badge can be viewed to the right. Please check your badge to ensure that all of your information is accurate. It is important to verify the following items:

- **Your name as it appears:** please ensure your first name, last name, and company appear as you would like it reflected on the badge.
- **Days of the week that you have been assigned to volunteer:** Days of the week you have been assigned to volunteer and will have access to the cafe will display to the right-hand side of the scan code. The scan code will display as a black square box in the badge preview image. For questions about your schedule, email [volunteer@firstinspires.org](mailto:volunteer@firstinspires.org).
- **Dietary Needs -** If you answered that you have any dietary needs, an image of a 'Star' should appear above the days of the week. If it does not and should, please scroll down to Dietary Requirements and select the gold 'Edit Meal Options' button to edit this option. This will be the indication the Volunteer Cafe staff is looking for.

If necessary, take this opportunity to edit your badge so it is correct when you arrive and can be printed correctly the first time.

Sincerely,  
The 2026 **FIRST**® Championship Events Team



**JACQUE**  
HOOPER  
ConferenceDirect

26321966 \* TuTh

**VOLUNTEER**

**YES my badge is correct**

**NO I need to edit my name**

**Edit Dietary Options**

## Questions?

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

- Confirm that the days you are volunteering are correct on your badge.
- Confirm that if you selected any dietary restrictions, you have a star on your badge.
- If either of these are incorrect, select 'Edit Meal or Dietary Options' to make updates.
- If correct, select 'Yes my badge is correct'.

# Know Before You Go

4/17 & 4/24



**Confirmation #26321966-793**

Dear Jacqueline Hooper,

Please bring this confirmation with you onsite and scan the QR code at any registration counter. Your badge will be printed. Valid photo ID may be required. If your QR code is not displaying, please click above to view in a browser.

## Badge Pick-Up

Central Registration, located on the 1st Floor Concourse during the following hours:

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

## Volunteer Age Requirements

The minimum age for volunteering at Championship is 15 years. 13- and 14-year-olds can participate in the event by applying to be Student Ambassadors. They can reach out to [studentambassador@firstinspires.org](mailto:studentambassador@firstinspires.org) to learn more.

## Volunteer Café and Meals

Volunteer Café Schedule - Please note that meals are provided for volunteers during days you volunteer. Your badge will be scanned upon entry to the cafe and needs to be updated with the days you are volunteering. To make updates to your volunteer assignments, please speak with your Volunteer Coordinator on-site.

Meal	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Monday, April 27, 2026	Café Closed	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Café Closed
Tuesday, April 28, 2026	6:00 AM - 9:00 AM	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM	5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Wednesday, April 29, 2026	6:00 AM - 9:00 AM	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM	5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Thursday, April 30, 2026	6:00 AM - 9:00 AM	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Café Closed
Friday, May 1, 2026	6:00 AM - 9:00 AM	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Café Closed
Saturday, May 2, 2026	6:00 AM - 9:00 AM	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM	1:30 PM - Volunteer Appreciation Celebration

## Volunteer Parking

The volunteer parking lot is located at the George R. Brown (GRB) Convention Center loading dock off Chartres. This lot is first come, first served and available spots in this lot may be limited. 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 is available on the [Volunteer page](#) of the Championship website. Volunteer Parking passes will be emailed to volunteers by Volunteer Coordinators. Please note the following:

- From Monday to Saturday of Championship week the lot will be open from 5:30 AM and close at 10 PM.
- Overnight parking is NOT permitted.
- There is no code to enter the lot.
- There is no security.
- 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 building staff, events staff, and volunteers.
- Other than parking permission, the pass is also important to display so you can circumvent the lanes being utilized by teams for the load in and load out.
- 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.
- Information on these additional paid parking options will also be provided on <https://www.firstchampionship.org/houston> closer to the event.

Alternate parking is available in other paid lots around the GRB and in the downtown area. More information can be found on the Houston Downtown Parking webpage. [Houston Downtown Parking](#)

# Know Before You Go

4/17 & 4/24

## Questions about your Volunteer Assignment?

If you know which program, you are volunteering with reach out to the below program point of contact.

FIRST® LEGO® League Explore & FIRST® LEGO® League Challenge: Page Watt [pwatt@firstinspires.org](mailto:pwatt@firstinspires.org)

FIRST® Tech Challenge: Emily DeMille [edemille@firstpartners.org](mailto:edemille@firstpartners.org) & Lauren PeCoy [lauren.pecoy@vol.firstintexas.org](mailto:lauren.pecoy@vol.firstintexas.org)

FIRST® Robotics Competition: [FRC-Global-VCS@firstinspires.org](mailto:FRC-Global-VCS@firstinspires.org)

Other questions regarding volunteering at Championship: [volunteer@firstpartners.org](mailto:volunteer@firstpartners.org)

## Championship App sponsored by TE Connectivity

Download the FIRST® Championship App for interactive maps, personalized schedules, activities, team info, volunteer info, alerts, and more.



## 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 Level 1, outside Hall C.

Hours of Operation	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	6:30 AM	6:00 PM
Saturday, May 2, 2026	6:30 AM	After Closing Ceremonies

## Hotel Support Hours & Reservation Changes

### Housing Support Schedule (CDT)

Date	Onsite Desk	Phone Support	Overnight Support
Sun 4/26	—	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	—
Mon 4/27	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	5:00 PM – 10:00 PM	10:00 PM – 8:00 AM
Tue 4/28	7:00 AM – 6:00 PM	6:00 PM – 10:00 PM	10:00 PM – 8:00 AM
Wed 4/29	7:00 AM – 6:00 PM	6:00 PM – 10:00 PM	10:00 PM – 8:00 AM
Thu 4/30	7:00 AM – 6:00 PM	6:00 PM – 9:00 PM	—
Fri 5/1	7:00 AM – 6:00 PM	6:00 PM – 9:00 PM	—
Sat 5/2	7:00 AM – 6:00 PM	6:00 PM – 5:00 PM	—

### Important Information:

- Hotel Changes/Cancellations: Must be made directly with your hotel
- Onsite Housing Desk: GRB Center, 1st Floor Concourse (near Central Registration)
- ConferenceDirect Housing Support:
  - Phone: (916) 639-4934
  - Email: [FIRSTChampionship@conferencedirect.com](mailto:FIRSTChampionship@conferencedirect.com)
  - Available Starting - April 26 – May 2
  - Phone support is also available during all onsite desk hours
  - Overnight Support (Urgent Issues Only): April 27 – April 29 | 10:00 PM – 8:00 AM CDT  
Voicemails and emails will be monitored
- WhatsApp (International): Available during all listed support hours (including overnight monitoring where applicable) via (916) 639-4934.

# Get your Volunteer Swag!

**FIRST** 2026  
**CHAMPIONSHIP**

PRESENTED BY **BAE SYSTEMS**



# Follow us, “Like,” and Share!



## Connect with *FIRST*®

- [Instagram](#)
- [TikTok](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Facebook](#)

## Follow *FIRST* Programs

- Facebook: [@FIRSTRoboticsCompetition](#), [@FTCTeams](#) , [@FLLTeams](#)

## *FIRST* AGE Season Social Graphics

- [Find them here!](#)

# Engage with the Community



Post your videos and photos of the event on social media – tag *FIRST* handles and use the following hashtags:

- Event hashtag: [#FIRSTChamp](#) **Use this hashtag on all *FIRST* Championship content!**
- Narrative Hashtags: We are using [#StartARoboticsTeam](#) to spark a fun, authentic conversation that reflects the universal *FIRST* experience and celebrates what’s possible when students join a team. By highlighting the “why” – friendship and belonging, real-world skills, mentorship, and long-term impact – we aim to inspire more students to dig in and get involved.
- Additional Hashtags:
  - [#FIRSTAGE](#) (season hashtag)
  - [#REBUILT](#) (*FIRST*® Robotics Competition season hashtag)
  - [#DECODE](#) (*FIRST*® Tech Challenge season hashtag)
  - [#UNEARTHED](#) (*FIRST*® LEGO League season hashtag)
  - [#omgrobots](#)
  - [#morethanrobots](#)

# The Elements of a Great *FIRST* Story



- **It *Enlightens***

- Provides info to help the community understand your *FIRST* story, your unique perspective on how *FIRST* has impacted you, and the difference you are making through your work with *FIRST*.
- Captures the spirit of community-wide *FIRST* values, including: teamwork, *Coopertition*® and *Gracious Professionalism*®

- **It *Entertains***

- Grabs attention within the first three seconds – something relatable, engaging, light-hearted and easy to share. For inspiration, check out the *FIRST* Official channels and various *FIRST* team accounts to understand the types of content students are interested in seeing.

- **It *Evokes Emotion***

- Stories that inspire people to feel something, ignites conversation and interaction, prompts people to share, and allows the audience to see themselves in the story you are telling. Highlight how you are empowering others to realize their full potential through *FIRST*.