FIRST®: A Suite of Hands-On, STEM Learning Programs

FIRST® is the world’s leading youth-serving nonprofit advancing STEM education. For 30 years students from all walks of life have developed self-confidence in STEM and valuable, real-world skills through FIRST that open pathways to a better future.

Through a suite of team-based robotics challenges and backed by a global network of mentors, coaches, volunteers, alumni, and sponsors, FIRST helps young people discover a passion for STEM and develop the skills they’ll need to succeed in today’s competitive workforce.

Children can start their journey with FIRST® LEGO® League and progress through FIRST® Tech Challenge and FIRST® Robotics Competition, or join any of our three programs based on age or grade level.

Grades PreK-8 · Ages 4-16*

FIRST LEGO League introduces STEM to children through fun, exciting hands-on learning. Participants gain real-world problem-solving experiences through a guided, global robotics program, helping today’s students and teachers build a better future together. FIRST LEGO League’s three divisions inspire youth to experiment and grow their critical thinking, coding, and design skills through hands-on STEM learning and robotics.

Registration Open: May – October
Challenge Release: August
Event Season: September – March

Teams: Up to 10 students for Challenge division, formed by schools, after-school programs, homeschools, community groups. Smaller, age-appropriate teams for Discover and Explore divisions.

Team Commitment: One to three-hour meetings, generally held for 12 sessions.

Estimated Cost:
• Discover: Class Pack Registration (up to 30 students) – $395. Reusable STEAM Park Sets start at $161
• Explore: Team Registration – $99. LEGO® Education WeDo 2.0: $205 (reusable)
• Challenge: Team Registration – $225. Challenge Set – $75. Teams may use either – SPIKE™ Prime: $410 or LEGO MINDSTORMS® EV3: $535 (both reusable)
• Team registration includes guides for teachers and students.

Check our website for grants, scholarships, and classroom implementation options.

Grades 7-12 · Ages 12-18

FIRST Tech Challenge students learn to think like engineers. Teams design, build, and program robots to compete in an alliance format against other teams. Robots are built from a reusable platform, powered by Android technology, and can be coded using a variety of levels of Java-based programming.

Registration Open: May – April
Game Release: September
Event Season: October – April

Teams: Up to 15 students formed by schools, after-school programs, home schools, community groups.

Team Commitment: 90-minute to three-hour meetings, generally held twice a week for 9-12 weeks.

Estimated Cost:
• Team Registration – $275
• Teams may use either – REV: $896 or TETRIX: $964 (both reusable)

Check our website for grants, scholarships, and classroom implementation options. $80 million in scholarships from 200 Providers.

Grades 9-12 · Ages 14-18

FIRST Robotics Competition teams design, program, and build a robot starting with a standard kit of parts and common set of rules to play in a themed head-to-head challenge. Teams also build a brand, develop community partnerships for support, and work to promote STEM in their local community.

Registration Open: May – December
Game Release: January
Event Season: February – April

Teams: Students formed by schools, after-school programs, home schools, community groups.

Team Commitment: Teams typically meet several times a week, January through April.

Estimated Cost:
• New Team Registration – $6,000
• Existing Team Registration – $5,000

Check our website for grants & scholarships. $80 million in scholarships from 200 Providers.

*Ages vary by country

Pricing does not include applicable taxes or shipping and handling.

Learn more about FIRST and our suite of hands-on programs at firstinspires.org