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

FIRST® is the world’s leading youth-serving nonprofit advancing STEM education. For over 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.

FIRST® LEGO® League
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 – July
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 8 students) is $175. Reusable STEAM Park Sets start at $171.
• Explore: Team Registration is $99. Teams may use either SPIKE™ Essential: $265 (reusable) or WeDo 2.0.
• Challenge: Team Registration is $225. Challenge Set: $75. Teams may use either SPIKE™ Prime: $425 or LEGO MINDSTORMS® EV3.

Team registration includes guides for teachers and students.

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

FIRST® Tech Challenge
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 is $275.
• Teams may use either REV: $926 or TETRIX: $994 robot kit (both reusable).

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

FIRST® Robotics Competition
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 is $6,000.
• Existing Team Registration is $5,000.

Check our website for grants and scholarships. Participants and alumni have access to career discovery opportunities, networking, and the FIRST Scholarship Program, with $80 million made available by ~200 providers.

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

*Ages vary by country
Pricing does not include applicable taxes or shipping and handling.