FIRST® LEGO® LEAGUE Coaches’ Handbook
My Team

Team number: __________  Team name: ____________________________________________

Team coaches: ________________________________________________________________

Team mentors: ________________________________________________________________

My team meets at ________________________________ (location)
from: _______ (AM/PM) to _______ (AM/PM) every _____________ (day/days of week)

Meeting goals

Week 1: _________________________________________________________________

Week 2: _________________________________________________________________

Week 3: _________________________________________________________________

Week 4: _________________________________________________________________

Week 5: _________________________________________________________________

Week 6: _________________________________________________________________

Week 7: _________________________________________________________________

Week 8: _________________________________________________________________

My event

Event date: ________________  Event location: __________________________________

Start time: __________  End time:_________  Event organizer:_______________________
FIRST® LEGO® League is the result of an exciting alliance between FIRST® and the LEGO Group.
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Team Registration Payments

**FIRST® FINANCE**

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Email: ar@firstinspires.org

Fax: (603) 206-2079

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**FIRST**
Attn: Finance
200 Bedford Street
Manchester, NH 03101 USA

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Phone: 1-800-361-0378  
Fax: 1-514-273-8627  
or 1-514-273-9186  
Address: Attn: Eric Patenaude  
700 Avenue Beaumont  
Montreal, Quebec H3N 1V5 Canada

Replacement LEGO® Parts
Web: http://service.lego.com  
Phone: 1-800-422-5346

Questions on the Challenge or Judging
FIRST® LEGO® League Robot Game Questions: flrobotgame@firstinspires.org  
FIRST® LEGO® League Project Questions: flprojects@firstinspires.org  
FIRST® LEGO® League Judging Questions: fljudge@firstinspires.org

For event questions, contact your local Partner. Find your Partner at https://www.firstinspires.org/about/contact-us.

Questions on LEGO® MINDSTORMS®
Support: https://www.lego.com/en-us/mindstorms/support

FIRST® LEGO® League Team Support
(General Questions and Information)
Phone: 1-800-871-8326  
Email: firstlegoleague@firstinspires.org  
Websites: www.firstlegoleague.org  
www.firstinspires.org/fll (Live Chat Support Available)

Find your Local Contact by Country and Region
Website: www.firstlegoleague.org
Running your team

📍 New coaches, start here FIRST Steps (step by step meeting modules):
http://info.firstinspires.org/fll-first-steps-request

Diversity & Inclusion training
https://www.firstinspires.org/resource-library/training-equity-diversity-inclusion

Participation rules
http://www.firstlegoleague.org/challenge#block-block-17

Team Management downloads
https://www.firstinspires.org/resource-library/fll/team-management-resources

📍 Event Guide for Teams (Available Aug. 1)
📍 Robot Game Rules
📍 Budget Worksheet

LEGO® MINDSTORMS® EV3 curricula and activities
http://legoeducation.com/downloads

Key release dates

Challenge Materials http://firstlegoleague.org/challenge

📍 Robot Game Mission Model Build instructions – Aug. 1
📍 Challenge – Overview of Robot Game Missions and Project Parameters – Aug. 1
📍 Challenge Guide – Rules and Resources for the Project and Robot Game – Aug.1
📍 Field Setup – Where to place your Mission Models – Aug. 1

Event Guide for Teams
What to expect and how to prepare for an Official Event – Aug. 1

FIRST LEGO League Tournament Dates
Check with your local FIRST LEGO League Partner on tournament dates.
Find your Partner at https://www.firstinspires.org/about/contact-us

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**TIP**  Do not worry if you are not an expert on some skill or aspect of the Challenge. You can work through it with your team. In fact, children love to solve problems that befuddle adults. Encourage them to find their own answers.

**Fundraising**

Fundraising Toolkit:
https://www.firstinspires.org/resource-library/fundraising-toolkit

**Event preparation**

**Community events**

Community Event Guide – Access via FIRST Steps
http://info.firstinspires.org/fll-first-steps-request

**Official events**

Awards: https://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/fll/awards
Judging FAQ: http://www.firstlegoleague.org/challenge
Judging rubrics: https://www.firstinspires.org/resource-library/fll/judging-rubrics
Youth Protection Program: https://www.firstinspires.org/youth-protection
Connecting with others

Team Social Media Guide

Channels

Blog  fliblog.wordpress.com

Instagram
FIRST® — www.instagram.com/legoeducation/first_official
LEGO® Education — www.instagram.com/legoeducation/

Pinterest
FIRST — www.pinterest.com/firstinspires/
LEGO Education — www.pinterest.com/legoeducation/

Twitter
FIRST — twitter.com/FIRSTweets
FIRST® LEGO® League — twitter.com/firstlegoleague
LEGO® Education — twitter.com/lego_education

YouTube
FIRST — www.youtube.com/user/FIRSTWorldTube
FIRST LEGO League — www.youtube.com/user/fllglobal
LEGO Education — www.youtube.com/user/LEGOeducationUS

Thank you, coach!

Coaches are a huge part of what makes FIRST® LEGO® League possible. Whether you are a teacher, parent, or volunteer, you help us bring FIRST LEGO League to your team. This program would not succeed without you. We just cannot say it enough – we think you are awesome!
What is FIRST® LEGO® League?

VIDEO

The Project and the Robot Game are what the students do. FIRST Core Values are how they do it.

FIRST® Core Values

We express the FIRST® philosophies of Gracious Professionalism® and Coopertition® through our FIRST® Core Values:

- **Discovery**: We explore new skills and ideas.
- **Innovation**: We use creativity and persistence to solve problems.
- **Impact**: We apply what we learn to improve our world.
- **Inclusion**: We respect each other and embrace our differences.
- **Teamwork**: We are stronger when we work together.
- **Fun**: We enjoy and celebrate what we do!

The FIRST Core Values help distinguish FIRST and FIRST LEGO League from other programs. By embracing the FIRST Core Values, participants learn that friendly competition and mutual gain are not separate goals, and that helping each other is the foundation of teamwork. Incorporating teamwork activities into each meeting will help your team learn to work together while having fun.

Suggested FIRST Core Values activities are included in every module of FIRST Steps (http://info.firstinspires.org/fll-first-steps-request).

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The Challenge

In the **Robot Game**, teams design, build, program and test autonomous robots using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® technology. The Robot Game playing field reflects the real-world theme for this season. Teams select which missions to solve in **2½ minute** matches. Season-specific rules release with the Challenge but some are evergreen (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chSLW55qBAA).

In the **Project**, teams **research** a real-world problem in the field of the season’s Challenge theme. Then they **create** an innovative solution to that problem (either by creating something that doesn’t exist or building upon something that does). Teams **share** their findings with others. Teams that go to events must prepare a **5-minute presentation** about their Project. Learn more about the Project in these videos (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLD25D83E836AB3AEB).

**FIRST LEGO League events**

Official events are a great way to celebrate accomplishments with other teams, family, and friends. Contact your Partner (https://www.firstinspires.org/about/contact-us) to find out more about the event schedule in your area or download our Community Event Guide to host an unofficial event at your school or organization (http://info.firstinspires.org/fll-first-steps-request).

If you plan to attend an official event, download the Event Guide for Teams (http://www.firstinspires.org/resource-library/fll/team-management-resources) on or after **Aug. 1**.

**FIRST LEGO League Partners Make it Possible**

**FIRST LEGO League** relies on great people to run the program at many levels, from managing a region to coaching an individual team. We call the leaders in each region the Partners. They are a tremendous resource for you as a coach, and **FIRST LEGO League** would not exist without them.

Our Partners agree to maintain **FIRST LEGO League** global standards for tournaments, the Challenge, and overall program administration. Your local Partner is an important resource for information. Contact your Partner about training, events, or other resources available in your area.
Pre-Season Preparation

- Register your team with FIRST LEGO League (Check your region’s website for instructions on how to do this).
- Pay your registration fee and order the materials you need.
- Provide a valid email address when you register, and check that inbox often throughout the season for information from FIRST LEGO League and your Partner.
- Review the FIRST Core Values. (Chapter 2, Page 11)
- Decide how team members will be identified or selected
- Identify at least 1 computer your team may use (must have internet access).
- Install robot programming software on the computer(s) your team will use.
- Build your Robot Game table (or just the borders).
- Find out about your region’s tournament structure and event registration process or download our Community Event Guide to help you plan your own event.

Begin Meeting with Your Team

- Check your email!
- Create a meeting schedule
- Review the FIRST Core Values with parents and team members (and keep discussing them at each meeting!).
- Set up a practice competition area and storage for equipment between meetings.
- Have team members begin researching this year’s Challenge theme to get a head start on the Project.

After Challenge Release (August 1)

- Check your email regularly for communication from FIRST LEGO League.
- Download the Challenge from www.firstlegoleague.org and review it as a team.
- Download the Mission Model building instructions on www.firstlegoleague.org and build the Mission Models from your Challenge Set.
Have team members begin **designing, building, and programming** your team’s robot.

Have team members begin **brainstorming** ideas for innovative solutions.

**Register** for an official event. Contact your FIRST LEGO League Partner if you are not sure how to apply for a tournament in your area.

**Review** the rubrics that will be used to judge your team at tournaments. Discuss them with your team.

**Assign** a team member to check the Challenge Updates and Judging FAQ frequently for any new information. ([www.firstlegoleague.org](http://www.firstlegoleague.org))

**Practice, practice, practice!**

**Prepare** any documents required by your tournament organizers.

Make a plan to **celebrate** at the end of your season.

**Optional Tasks**

- Complete several teambuilding activities with your team.

- Have your team build a practice robot and try some of the programming tutorials that come with your LEGO MINDSTORMS robot set or online. ([www.legoeducation.com/downloads](http://www.legoeducation.com/downloads))

- Attend an unofficial event or practice scrimmage if available in your area.
FIRST® programs inspire innovation and leadership through engaging, hands-on robotics challenges developed to ignite curiosity and passion in students in grades K-12.

FIRST is the world’s leading child-serving nonprofit advancing science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). For nearly 30 years, FIRST has evolved into a global movement by engaging millions of people with a proven game-changer for preparing kids to solve the world’s greatest problems.

FIRST builds powerful mentorship relationships between young people and STEM professionals, helping kids gain confidence to explore the innovation process while they learn valuable science, engineering, technology, teamwork, and problem-solving skills.

At the heart of FIRST are its FIRST Core Values, which emphasize the contributions of others, friendly sportsmanship, teamwork, learning, and community involvement. These include: Gracious Professionalism® – Respect for others, being a good sport, and sharing what you learn. Coopertition® – Competing hard, but also helping the other teams.

FIRST creates the people who will change the world – today and tomorrow.