



The Coach/Mentor role is vital to the success of a *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> Tech Challenge Team. They provide guidance, structure, encouragement, and most of all, encourages fun! Mentoring is an important part of the *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> experience and largely contributes to the program's success. If done correctly, this learning process builds and expands a Team member's self-confidence as well as their knowledge. If the process has a strong foundation and works properly, adult Team members come away with as much as students do. Read more about the [Impact a Coach/Mentor](#) has in our *FIRST* Tech Challenge blog post.

There are many resources a Coach/Mentor has here on the [FIRST website](#). The first one a new (or even returning) Coach/Mentor should take a look at is the [Mentor Manual](#). It provides a comprehensive overview on the position as well as the [FIRST Tech Challenge season](#). It also:

- Provides new Coaches/Mentors with a foundation of knowledge and ideas to get their Teams up and running smoothly.
- Familiarize new Coaches/Mentors and Team members with the *FIRST* experience.
- Help returning Coaches/Mentors develop a deeper understanding of the Mentoring process as their *FIRST* Tech Challenge Team evolves.

**HELPFUL HINT:** The Mentor Manual is meant as resource, not as a required reading for Coaches/Mentors to be strong their first year. Consider reading the table of contents and highlight what sections really pertain to your needs and investigate further. There are only two key requirements in being a successful Coach/Mentor - knowing where to seek out help and continuously inspiring your students. You are one of the main reasons *FIRST* Tech Challenge is so amazing.

The Manual focuses on the skills and concepts needed for the development of the following general goals:

- Making the Mentoring process easier for rookie and veteran Teams.
- Providing a clear understanding of the Mentoring process and relationship.
- Developing reciprocal learning between student and Mentor.
- Providing Mentors with general information, tips, best practices, organizational tools and strategies, planning tools, and guidance to manage a Team effectively throughout the season.
- Direct Mentors to other resources to support them in their role.





It is not expected that a Rookie Coach/Mentor take in the Mentor Manual all at once. It is meant to help throughout the season and act as a starting point when looking for answers.

In addition to the Mentor Manual, make sure to check out and save these additional resources:

- [Start a Team Checklist & Resources](#) - *Just starting out? Make sure you have fully registered your team, paid for registration, and ordered your product.*
- Stay Connected - keep engaged with the *FIRST* Tech Challenge community and stay up to date with what's current.
  - [Team Blasts](#) - *for the most up to date information, make sure you have subscribed to the FIRST Tech Challenge Team Blasts. All previous Team Blasts will be saved here.*
  - [FIRST Tech Challenge Blog](#) – *we take a more in-depth look at topics relevant to you and showcase the amazing things both Teams and Volunteers are doing in the field.*
  - [Facebook](#) – *not only is there current updates being posted, but also challenges, grant opportunities, and fun ways to engage with the FIRST community.*
  - [FIRST Tech Challenge Forum](#) – *bookmark this site. Not only is this your primary source to have your questions asked about the game, but this is a great community to have your technological or programming based questions answered.*
  - [Google+](#) - *connect with us on Google+! We host our summer virtual conference here as well as any Google Hangouts on Air with experts in a wide range of relevant topics.*
  - [Twitter](#) – *the absolute up to the minute updates on what is going on at FIRST, FIRST Tech Challenge, and the community as a whole.*
  - [YouTube](#) – *always a great resource for tutorials, promotional material, and the latest conferences FIRST Tech Challenge is promoting.*

Thank you for taking part and making the *FIRST* Tech Challenge an amazing experience. If you find that you need additional help, please feel free to contact us at [ftcteams@firstinspires.org](mailto:ftcteams@firstinspires.org).

Updated 5.11.2016

