

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE



FIRST LEGO League (FLL) is a science and technology-based educational program for 9-14 year olds. FLL was developed by *FIRST*[™] (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), a non-profit organization, and the LEGO Company. FLL presents an internationally organized robotics competition for teams of up to ten students led by adult coaches. An annual challenge defines robotics "missions" and a research project related to each year's science theme. Each team constructs and programs an autonomous (not remote controlled) LEGO Mindstorms robot to solve the challenge. At regional and state tournaments, teams present and discuss their robots and their project, as well as perform the challenge in a friendly competition. Team members learn life skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, personal responsibility, and time management. As a result of the FLL experience, participants gain new confidence, discover skills and interests, and display greater interest and involvement in their science and math lessons as they see the importance of science and technology in everyday life.



The FLL Challenge is unveiled each fall. Teams have eight weeks to design, build, program and test their autonomous robot to perform the challenge missions and to plan and complete the challenge research project.

"Climate Connections" is the 2008 challenge. Embark on an exploration of the earth's climate in the FIRST LEGO League's 2008 Climate Connections Challenge! Discover the links between science, people, resources and communities. Unearth how we learn about past climates and delve into questions surrounding our current and future climatic conditions. Join FIRST LEGO League teams in creating a global game plan as they make these Climate Connections! This challenge is designed to get the kids to: Participate intelligently in discussions surrounding the climate; Unite people and resources in a common direction; and Decide a course of action.

Tournaments, the Highlight of the Season, are regional and championship events held in November and December. Teams participate in presentations and question-and-answer sessions with judging panels, and compete in a competitive, yet friendly environment. All participants are recognized for their achievement of completing the FLL program. Team awards are given in research and presentation, robot design, robot performance and teamwork.

Costs - New Teams: \$760 for 1st team (Robot & Field Setup Sets, table, etc.), \$650 2nd team at site (no add'l table cost)
Returning: \$370 for 1st team, \$300 for each add'l team at same site (plus possible shirt & team giveaway costs)

Starting a New Team:

1. Identify coach(es) and 4-10 team members.
Teams may be any group of kids - school, club, church, company, neighborhood, etc.
Find a location and a computer for the team.
2. Register each team & order FLL robotics sets. See "FLL Registration" at www.usfirst.org and order:
 - A. "FLL Team Registration", \$200
 - B. "FLL NXT Robot Set", \$325 (reuse each yr)
 - C. "2008 Field Setup Kit", \$65 (share one/site)
3. Attend a free Virginia FLL Coaches Workshop.
4. Build playing table, \$40-60. (Share/Reuse each yr.)
Table plans and materials list are on FLL web site.
5. Register for a VA/DC FLL Regional Qualifying Tournament at www.vadcfl.org. Pay \$50 team registration fee at regional tournament.
6. Championship Tournament. 66 teams qualify at Regionals. Tournament registration fee is \$100, paid at tournament. Possible travel costs.

2007 Virginia Schedule:

May 1 - Sept.....Team Registration Opens, order FLL Robot Sets and FLL Field Setup Kit. See www.usfirst.org.
Late May....Registration materials & FLL Robot Sets begin to ship if payment has been received.
Aug 1.....FLL Field Setup Kits start shipping.
Aug - Sept.....Free Coach & Mentor Workshops: Details will be posted at www.vadcfl.org.
Sept ??.....FLL Team registration closes when all slots are filled.
Early Sept.....2008 Challenge details released on the *FIRST* LEGO League Web site. See www.firstlegoleague.org.
Early-Mid Oct.....Qualifying Regional Tournament registration - Virginia/DC teams register at www.vadcfl.org.
Nov 8-16.....Regional Tournaments: 2007 tournaments held in Ashburn (x2), Chantilly, Charlottesville, Christiansburg, Gate City, Halifax, Harrisonburg, Lynchburg, Midlothian, Newport News, Norfolk, Richmond (x2), Stafford, Stuart
Early Dec.....Virginia/DC FLL Championship Tournament - James Madison University, Harrisonburg. Teams qualify at a regional tournament.

FIRST LEGO League www.firstlegoleague.org (then click United States) • Virginia/DC FLL www.vadcfl.org
Learn about Mindstorms robotics at www.legomindstorms.com • About *FIRST* & FLL www.usfirst.org

Virginia/DC FLL Contact: questions@vadcfl.org