

What to Expect at the VA-DC FLL Championship Tournament

The VA-DC FLL Championship Tournament is a 2-day event...

DAY 1: SATURDAY

LOCATION: James Madison University's Memorial Hall

ADDRESS: 395 S. High St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801

FLL EVENTS:

Opening Ceremony, Judging Sessions (Research Project, Core Values, Robot Design), Student Activities

NOTE: There will be NO PIT AREA for teams at this venue.

EVENT SCHEDULE:

7:45 am to 8:30 am – Team Sign-In

NOTE: Check the team's schedule provided at Sign-In for last minute changes.

8:30 am to 8:45 am -- Coaches' Meeting

8:50 am to 9:20 am -- Opening Ceremony in the Auditorium

9:30 am to 12:00 pm – Division 2 Student Activities

9:30 am to 1:30 pm -- Division 1 Judging Sessions

12:00 pm to 2:00 pm -- Lunch

Div 1 teams lunch after their last judging session.

Div 2 teams lunch after Student Activities or before their first afternoon judging session.

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm – Division 1 Student Activities

2:00 pm to 5:30 pm – Division 2 Judging Sessions

DAY 2: SUNDAY

LOCATION: Harrisonburg High School

ADDRESS: 1001 Garbers Church Rd, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

FLL EVENTS: Opening Ceremony, Robot Performance, Parade of Teams, Awards Ceremony

EVENT SCHEDULE:

7:30 am to 8:30 am -- Team Sign-In

8:40 am to 9:00 am -- Opening Ceremony

9:15 am to 3:45 pm – Robot Performance Rounds

LUNCH -- determined by the team coaches based on the team's robot game schedule

4:15 pm to 4:30 pm -- Parade of Teams

4:30 pm to 5:30 pm – Awards Ceremony

SPECIAL MESSAGE -- Activities at Harrisonburg on Friday Night: For families who choose to arrive at Harrisonburg on Friday, they may want to consider going to the Annual Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting at Harrisonburg. Details

at: <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/holiday-parade>

What to Expect at the VA-DC FLL Championship Tournament

ABOUT SATURDAY'S EVENTS:

What to bring for Saturday's Event:

- **For Team Sign-In:**
 - 1 Team Info Sheet
 - Print out of Team Roster from FIRST TIMS or signed FIRST Consent forms (or a combination of either one)
- **For Robot Design Judging:**
 - 1 to 2 Team Info Sheet for Judges
 - team robot and robot attachments -- keep these in a box or carrying case for safety
 - (optional) materials you may have to showcase robot programs and robot design
- **For Research Project Judging:**
 - 1 to 2 Team Info Sheet for Judges
 - (if any) Costumes/props
 - (optional) presentation materials
- **For Core Values:**
 - (optional) Core Values Poster

Coach's Arrival Time at JMU Memorial Hall:

You only need 1 coach or parent volunteer to be at JMU's Memorial Hall by the start of the check-in period. This person should submit these documents at check-in:

- 1 copy of your Team Info Sheet
- 1 print-out of the Team Roster from FIRST TIMS or signed FIRST Consent forms from each student, coach/mentor (or a combination of both)

At check-in, the coach or parent volunteer will receive...

- Team's official schedule, tournament events and building map
- List of assigned Student Activities for team members
- Information about JMU's Dining Hall

SUGGESTION: Assign 1 coach or parent volunteer to look for the location of your judging rooms (refer to the schedule and building map provided at check-in).

Team's Arrival Time at JMU Memorial Hall:

Plan for your team to arrive at JMU's Memorial Hall and proceed to the Auditorium at least 15 minutes before the Opening Ceremony (earlier is better). Be aware that parking is more limited the later you get to Memorial Hall. There are 100+ FLL teams invited to this tournament. Carpooling is highly-recommended.

Opening Ceremony in JMU Memorial Hall's Auditorium:

Opening Ceremony will last for about 30 minutes. Many parents ask if it is necessary for them to attend the Opening Ceremony. *Answer:* It is up to the family to make this decision. Be aware that this is the only FLL activity that parents and guests can attend on Saturday. **At a minimum, coaches and team members should attend the Opening Ceremony.** It does make the students feel extra special if they have a family member/guest at Opening Ceremony to cheer for them.

What to Expect at the VA-DC FLL Championship Tournament

What can parents/guests do after Saturday's Opening Ceremony:

OPTION A: Parent/guests can choose to stay at Memorial Hall and wait for their child's FLL team to finish their judging sessions. There may be A LOT of "down time" in between judging sessions. A kid-friendly movie will be showing in the Auditorium all day. Parents/guests can take their FLL child to lunch after their last judging session on Saturday. If they child is signed up for a Student Activity then they have to return to Memorial Hall by the scheduled activity time.

OPTION B: Parents/guests can choose to leave Memorial Hall and enjoy Harrisonburg in the morning then return to Memorial Hall to meet their child for lunch. NOTE: If the parents choose to do this, coaches have to be aware that they are responsible for the student team members who are left with them. Parents/guests can take their FLL child to lunch after their last judging session on Saturday. If the child is signed up for a Student Activity then they have to return to Memorial Hall by the scheduled activity time.

OPTION C: Parents/guests can choose to leave Memorial Hall and enjoy Harrisonburg for the rest of the day. NOTE: This means that coaches will be responsible for their team members all day. This includes lunch and drop-off/pick-up for Student Activities as well as a return trip to their hotel.

WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SATURDAY'S STUDENT ACTIVITIES...

- Participating student must be pre-registered in order to participate in a Student Activity.
- For Division 1 teams, Student Activities will be in the afternoon after lunch. For Division 2 teams, Student Activities will be in the morning after the Opening Ceremony.
- Students will assemble at Memorial Hall's Auditorium to meet with volunteer college students who will escort them to their assigned activities. Free shuttle buses are provided. Your child will be returned to Memorial Hall at the end of their activities.
- Unless absolutely necessary, **parents DO NOT escort their FLL child to their activities.** Parents who choose to escort their child to their activities are not allowed to enter the activity room. They are welcome to ride the shuttle bus with their child (if space is available) but they have to wait outside the activity room while their child is doing their activities.
- **Please know that VADCFLC cannot guarantee that team members will be placed in the same activity.** This is a great way for your FLL child to meet other FLL kids from other teams and make friends.
- **Participation in these student activities is optional.** FLL students may decide to just stay with their family during this period and enjoy what Harrisonburg has to offer.

What to Expect at the VA-DC FLL Championship Tournament

What are the team's lunch options for Saturday?

Coaches have to decide whether the team will eat lunch together or will families make their own plans for lunch.

OPTION A: Enjoy JMU's award winning Dining Services. Discounted lunch tickets will be sold at the check-in table in Memorial Hall on Saturday morning. Free shuttle to and from Memorial Hall to the JMU's Dining Hall will be provided throughout the lunch period.

OPTION B: There is a small cafe at Memorial Hall--but the choices are limited. Still, you don't have to leave the building if you choose to go there.

OPTION C: Parents can bring their FLL kid's lunch to Memorial Hall or choose to take their kid out to lunch.

OPTION D: Team can plan a group lunch and bring the food to the kids at Memorial Hall or take the entire team out for lunch somewhere else.

What can the team do after the events at JMU's Memorial Hall?

This is "free time" – ENJOY HARRISONBURG! Some coaches may decide to have a team social activity. Other coaches may decide to let families enjoy Saturday evening on their own.

What is a "CALL BACK"?

Judges deliberate about the results of judging sessions on Saturday afternoon/evening. If they feel, after their deliberations, that they need to revisit the presentations for certain teams in order to determine awards eligibility, they will call your tournament coach to inform your team that they need to present/repeat their Judging Session again on Sunday at Harrisonburg HS. They will adjust that team's Robot Game Rounds schedule in order to accommodate this "call back" request. If this happens, VADCFL will call the number of the tournament coach provided on the on-line regional tournament registration site. Please make sure that that particular coach has his/her mobile phone with him/her at all times on Saturday. These call backs can happen as late as 11:00 pm.

What to Expect at the VA-DC FLL Championship Tournament

COACHES' CHECKLIST TO PREPARE FOR SATURDAY:

- Decide which coach/parent volunteer will be at check-in to submit the required paperwork.
- Decide which coach/parent volunteer can check the venue to find out where the judging rooms are for your team. This can be the same coach/parent volunteer who checks-in.
- Decide if all of you or just one of you will attend the Coaches' Meeting prior to the Opening Ceremony. If all of you attend, make sure you assign 1 or 2 parents to manage your team prior to the Opening Ceremony.
- The coaches/parent volunteers who will manage the team prior to the Opening Ceremony should meet all the team members in the Auditorium and find a place for all of them to sit together. With over 100 FLL teams in attendance, the Auditorium can get very crowded.
- There will be no PIT AREA for FLL teams on Saturday. After the Opening Ceremony, you may need to find a place at Memorial Hall that would be a good "home base" for your team in between judging sessions.
- Based on your team's judging schedule, you have to decide when to bring your project presentation materials inside the venue. You can put these materials back in your car once you are done with the judging session.
- Decide on the team's lunch plan (group team lunch vs. individual family lunch).
- Make sure all your team members are aware of the team's plan for Sunday.

What to Expect at the VA-DC FLL Championship Tournament

ABOUT SUNDAY's EVENTS:

What to bring for Sunday's Event:

- **For Robot Performance:**
 - team robot and robot attachments -- keep these in a box or carrying case for safety
 - (if needed) laptop with LEGO Mindstorm software and USB cord to download programs
 - robot charger or extra batteries
- **For team's PIT table display:**
 - (if any) team posters
 - (optional) other materials to showcase your team's work
- **For fun & sharing:**
 - (optional) team giveaways or brochures to promote your team

Coach's arrival time at Harrisonburg H.S on Sunday:

Select 1 coach/parent volunteer for Team Check-in before Opening Ceremony. This coach/parent will pick up their team's packet which includes the team's final/official schedule and their "practice table magnet" (this is how they reserve a practice table). This coach/parent should also find the team's PIT table and set-up the team's display.

Team's arrival time at Harrisonburg H.S. on Sunday:

All team members should be at Harrisonburg HS at least 15 minutes before Opening Ceremony. Be aware that parking is VERY LIMITED at this venue and strict rules (as to where to park) is enforced. Unfortunately, everybody drives to this venue since it is in the outskirts of town.

NOTE: This venue is a good distance from all the hotels at Harrisonburg. Please make sure you take into account the travel/driving time from your hotel to Harrisonburg HS to make sure that you can get to Sunday's venue on time.

Robot Performance:

Robot game rounds are in the gymnasium. Teams have to be at the gymnasium for their robot rounds 5 to 10 minutes prior to their scheduled robot round. Student team members should take care of their own robot but assign 1 or 2 parents/coaches to oversee the robot for safety. Bring power cords and surge protector to charge your robot.

What can team members do in between judging and robot rounds:

Use the practice robot tables. Visit other FLL team displays. Cheer for other FLL teams at the gymnasium during robot rounds. Maintain gracious professionalism at all times.

What to Expect at the VA-DC FLL Championship Tournament

What are the team's lunch options for Sunday:

Coaches have to decide on the team's lunch time based on the team's robot game rounds.

NOTE: There are no restaurants within walking distance from this venue.

OPTION A: Support Harrisonburg HS booster clubs and purchase food from their concession stands at the venue.

OPTION B: Parents can bring their FLL kid's lunch to Harrisonburg HS.

OPTION C: Team can plan a group lunch and bring the food to the kids at Harrisonburg HS.

Will there be a "PIT AREA" on Sunday:

Yes...but it will be a very small table. Your team should still set up their team posters and displays at their assigned "PIT table". However, you may want to find a corner somewhere close to your PIT table where your team members can gather in between the practice table runs and official robot game rounds. Suggestion: Have at least 2 student team members and an adult at your PIT table as much as possible on Sunday (when they are not in robot competition).

Roaming judges are present at all times to visit the team displays.

What can parents/guests do on Sunday:

Parents can attend the brief Opening Ceremony in the morning. Parents/guests can watch and cheer for all the FLL teams as they do their robot game rounds in the gymnasium. Parents/guests can visit other teams PIT tables and check out their project display. Division 1 teams are separated from Division 2 teams--so make sure you visit the Div 2 teams in the Auxiliary Gym.

Div 1 teams will be in the cafeteria area. The best part of this tournament is the Parade of Teams and Awards Ceremony at the end of the event--which will also be in the gymnasium. This can get very loud with lots of cheering.

COACHES' CHECKLIST TO PREPARE FOR SUNDAY:

- Decide which coach/parent volunteer will be at check-in.
- Decide which coach/parent volunteer can find out how to sign up for the practice tables.
- Get a coach/parent to find the team's PIT table. If your team has a project poster or core values poster -- display these materials at your team's PIT table.
- Decide which coach/parent will oversee the team's robot and other belongings.
- Decide on your team's lunch time (depending on the team's robot round schedule). Make a decision whether your team will plan a group lunch or will families take care of their own lunch/snacks.
- During the "Parade of Teams", coaches can join their team members and sit with them on the gymnasium floor.
- DON'T FORGET to pick up your team's Comment Sheets and any other team materials after the Closing Ceremony.