

## **KIDS DO THE WORK**

### ***What does this mean?:***

- The kids design the robot
- The kids build the robot
- The kids build the attachments for the robot
- The kids develop the strategy for the Robot Game
- The kids program the robot
- The kids pick the Innovative Project
- The kids do the research for the Project
- The kids reach out to the experts
- The kids write the presentation for the Project
- The kids make the presentation posters and prototype

### ***What else does this mean?:***

- Adults do NOT design or build the robot or attachments
- Adults do NOT program the robot
- Adults do NOT pick the project, do the research, write the presentation, or make the posters/prototype

### ***What can adults do?:***

- Adults teach rather than do (but trust that the kids can also teach themselves through trial and error)
- Adults ask questions to help guide the team's path and curiosity
- Adults facilitate contact with experts (by providing email if students are underage but not by writing the email)
- Adults help organize meetings with the goal that the team will eventually lead themselves as the kids get older
- Adults encourage and motivate team members, and teach Core Values by example

### ***Why do we do this?:***

- Because it is the rule: *FIRST* is built on the premise that **KIDS DO THE WORK**
- Because doing something for the kids robs them of the opportunity to learn, fail, achieve, grow, and believe in themselves

***Remember, the purpose of FLL is to teach kids the habits of learning, confidence, and teamwork, all skills that they will carry with them into high school and adulthood if done right. And the purpose of tournaments is to give the kids an opportunity to show what they've learned and to celebrate what they've accomplished. It is important to not base your team's success on awards or how they did compared to other teams. After all, no other team came into the season with the exact same skill set and challenges as your team. Instead, compare your team against where it was at the beginning of the season, or last season, or the season before. If you see growth in that comparison, then you've had a successful season. FLL is about playing the long game. The foundation you build now with the kids will serve them well in the future.***