FIRSTWA FTC Coaches Chat

November 20th, 2025

Upcoming Dates

- November 22nd – 23rd: Final League Meets

- December 6th – 20th: League Tournaments

- December 15th: Dean's List Submissions Due

- January 8th: Coaches Chat

- January 17th – 18th: Super Qualifying Tournaments

- January 31st: State Championship

Curie
Agnesi + Hopper

26 teams
8 Advance

Watt
Giblett + Lovelace

32 teams
10 Advance

Feynman
Bardeen + Lamarr

28 Teams
8 Advance

Wu
Noddack + Salk

28 teams
8 Advance

January 17th

Asimov

34 of 114 teams
15 advance

January 31st

State Championship

24 of 185 teams
?? advance

Tesla
Brattain + Spencer

23 Teams
7 Advance

Hawking
Maxwell + Turing

22 Teams
7 Advance

Pasteur
Knuth + Ritchie

26 Teams
8 Advance

January 18th

Capek

22 of 71 teams
9 advance

Preparing for your League Tournament

- Please make sure to bring your team roster, which should include

  - Your coaches & mentors
  - Your student participants

- Make sure to also bring your engineering portfolio and/or other supporting documentation for judging

  - This can include previous iterations of your robot or prototypes

What else should you bring?

- Safety glasses

- Robot and batteries

- Tools and repair supplies

- Everything required to drive the robot

- Power strip (in case you need more than 1 outlet)

- Extension cord

- **Safety glasses**

- Patience and Gracious Professionalism

Sample League Tournament Schedule (28 teams)

- 8:00 AM - Teams Arrive, Inspections Start
- 8:30 AM - Judging Starts
- 10:45 AM - Drivers Meeting
- 11:30 AM - Opening Ceremonies
- 11:50 AM - Qual Matches Start
- 12:40 PM - Lunch Starts
- 1:30 PM - Qual Matches Resume
- 4:30 PM - Qual Matches End
- 4:45 PM - Alliance Selection
- 5:15 PM - Playoffs and Awards Start
- 7:00 PM - End of Event

Event-specific schedules will be sent out as we get closer to the event

Team Avatars

- Teams can set a team avatar through the FTC Scoring System

  - https://ftc-scoring.firstinspires.org/

- Will show up next to your team number throughout the scoring system

- If you want to upload or change this, make sure to do it a few days before your event

Volunteering

FLL and FTC Volunteer Opportunities

**We need volunteers for FLL and FTC events in December
Please share this information with your teams...we'd love to
have them join us at an event!**

Volunteer Needs:
- **Judges** (minimum 18 y.o.)
- **Referees** (minimum 16 y.o.)
- **Scorekeepers** (minimum 18 y.o./post high school)
- **Field Resetters** (minimum 15 y.o.)
- **Queuers** (minimum 15 y.o.)

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FIRST LEGO LEAGUE CHALLENGE

FLL Qualifier Locations and Dates

LOCATION	DATE(S)	LOCATION	DATE(S)
Everett	December 6 and December 7	Shoreline	December 13 and December 14
Seattle	December 6 and December 7	Federal Way	December 13 and December 14
Beaver Lake	December 6 and December 7	Snohomish	December 13 and December 14
Spokane	December 6 and December 7	Issaquah	December 14
Wapato	December 6 and December 7	Oak Harbor	December 14
Tacoma	December 7 and December 14	Olympia	December 14

Click on date to learn more and volunteer for that event

FTC League Tournament Locations and Dates

NAME	LOCATION	DATE
Feynman	Mill Creek	December 6
Pasteur	Mill Creek	December 7
Curie	Liberty Lake	December 13
Wu	Bonney Lake	December 13
Hawking	Snoqualmie	December 14
Tesla	Issaquah	December 14
Watt	Olympia	December 20

Click on date to learn more and volunteer for that event

Judging

Dean's List

- Each team can nominate up to 2 students in the 10th or 11th grade as Dean's List Semi-finalists

  - Nominations consist of a mentor-submitted essay and then an interview with nominated students

  - More information at: Dean's List | FIRST Tech Challenge

- Essay submissions are due **December 15th at 11:59PM EST**

  - We highly recommend submitting at least a day ahead of the deadline in case issues arise

- Interviews will be held remotely over Teams between Monday January 12th and Sunday January 25th

  - No interviews will be held the weekend of the Super Qualifiers (January 17th & 18th)

  - The interview window may be shortened to Monday January 19th through the 25th, we will know the week of December 15th

Dean's List Process for Teams

1. Mentors submit nomination essays by December 15th

2. FIRST Washington will email student schedules to coaches the first week in January

   o If there are scheduling conflicts, try to resolve them between the nominees on your team(s) first

   o Please reply to the email confirming your schedule if it works for your students!

3. FIRST Washington will email student remote interview meeting links the second week in January

4. Please share the interview schedule and link with your students, FIRST Washington can communicate with coaches only! **It is your responsibility to pass on the information**.

   o **TIP**: Remind your students this award is about **them** and not the team. Interviewers want to hear about their individual contributions, efforts, successes, and leadership.

   o More recommendations for preparing for the interview can be found on page 19 of the Dean's List Nomination Guide

5. 4 Finalists will be announced at the FTC Washington State Championships on January 31st

Judging Changes

- Motivate Award removed

- Two new awards added:

  o **Sustain**: Celebrates a team who plans for and makes steps towards long-term success

  o **Reach**: Celebrates a team who has sparked others to embrace the *FIRST culture*

- Award language/criteria updated across existing awards

Judging Process for Teams - Structured Interviews

- The interview schedule will be created as teams check-in

- Teams need at least 2 students, and can have 1 optional silent adult observer and/or 1 optional support person to fill accommodation needs in the judge room

- Bring a printed copy of your portfolio (optional), any "show & tell" demonstration items like the robot (encouraged, but optional)

- Leave the Portfolio with the Judges

    - Will be returned at the end of the day

- All teams receive 10 minutes of dedicated time

    - Up to 5 minutes for uninterrupted prepared presentation to the judges (encouraged, but optional)

    - At least 5 additional minutes of open-ended questions from the judges

- Each team will be asked the same first two questions during the open-ended question period

Judging Process for Teams - Pit Interviews

- After initial deliberation, judges will come to your pit with further questions for your team

- Help the judges by keeping at least 1-2 team members in your pit whenever possible

- For all of our events, judges will be in a different color volunteer shirt.

  - Please watch for them

  - If you're busy they can come back later, but they have a limited amount of time

Judging Tips

- Read [Section 6 Awards](#) in the Game Manual carefully as the language has been updated this season

- Teams are judged on their accomplishments during the current season as presented at the current event

- Information taken into consideration for judging is limited to information shared during the structured interview and pit interview(s), match observation, and information documented in the portfolio

- Portfolios are not required for some awards but carry equal weight to what the team has discussed, displayed, or demonstrated to the Judges for those awards

- Feedback Forms are based solely on the content of the initial interview

- Teams have access to all [Judge/JA volunteer information](#). Especially useful:

  o [Judging Question Bank](#)
  o [Outreach Terms and Definitions](#)
  o [Judge Summary Sheet](#)

- Each set of judges sees only a few teams – the judges you see will be your advocates in the Judge room. Help them by giving them the information they need!