

FIRST[®]

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PRESENTED BY **Qualcomm**

District Championship Briefing
March 17, 2026

Logistics of this Webinar

This presentation is going to move very quickly!

Please keep your microphone muted

Feel free to ask questions by typing or hit the raise hands button. If you raise your hand, we may ask you to un-mute.

We will attempt to summarize and answer similar questions in mass.

These slides and a recording of this presentation will be posted on

<https://firstwa.org/webinars/>

Overview of Briefing

Qualifying for District Championships

Event Specific Information

- General Logistics: Parking/Busses/Food
- Load in / Load Out

Progressing to Championships

We need your help!

We are having more issues than in previous years with participants stepping over the side will of the competition field

- It is unsafe
- It is against the rules (See G102 & G211)
- It is discussed at the drivers meeting
- We recognize that practice fields may not have the same rule but please make sure your students understand the rule at events

Am I actually going?

Visit the following website to see the team rankings:

<https://frc-events.firstinspires.org/2026/district/PNW>

Predicting is getting too hard but there is a website called <https://frclocks.com/districts/pnw.html> that does a great job.

In 2025, you had to have more than 64 points to qualify

Am I actually going?

Sunday evening or Monday morning after week 4 events (March 29/30) Adrienne Collins will send an email to all teams that have qualified for District Championships

- The window to register is small, we ask that teams be registered for District Championships by **5:00 pm Tuesday, March 31st**.
 - **It is critical you monitor your email even if you are on spring break. We do not have time to chase you down, if you do not register by 5:00 pm March 31st, we will go to the next team on the list!**
- If you do **not** plan to attend, please fill out the registration form ASAP noting that so we can invite the next team on the list as soon as possible.

New this season!

Teams that qualify to compete with their robot will need to pay the \$4000 Registration Fee.

No later than Wednesday morning, April 1st registered teams will receive an invoice from FIRST Washington (just like with the PNW Registration)

Your invoice will need to be secured by 5 pm **Thursday, April 2nd**.

You can secure your invoice by:

- Emailing a PO to acollins@firstwa.org
- Pay with your booster account (email boosters@firstwa.org to use booster funds to secure your invoice)
- Paying by credit card (instructions will be on the invoice)
- Paying by check (To meet the Thursday deadline, email a copy of the check to acollins@firstwa.org to secure your team and then drop it in the mail that day.

I am a *FIRST* Leadership Semi-finalist/Woodie Flowers Nominee. Should I attend?

You are not required to attend the event to move on, but you are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The Woodie Flowers Finalist awards will be given out Saturday morning during opening ceremonies.

- We will be having a breakfast Saturday morning to honor the Woodie Flowers Nominees.
- The Woodie Flowers nominees should receive an invitation at the event they are recognized at (If your nominee did not receive an invitation have them email stokely@firstwa.org)
- We get 2 Finalists this year

The *FIRST* Leadership finalist awards will be given out Saturday night during closing ceremonies.

- If you are unable to attend the event in person, a remote interview will be scheduled
 - Adrienne will send you a registration link after week 4 events are complete so you can let us know if you will be attending in person or if we need to schedule a remote interview
- We get 4 *FIRST* Leadership Finalists this year

I won the Engineering Inspiration/Rookie All-star team but I did not qualify by ranking points

You are invited to attend the event to compete for Engineering Inspiration/Rookie All-Star award but you will not be competing with your robot

You will be given a 6' table with power for your event (you will not be given a full pit space)

Judging will happen on Friday and Saturday, you do not need to be there earlier than Friday morning (though you are welcome to arrive earlier)

You are not required to attend the event to win the Engineering Inspiration or Rookie All-Star award.

- Adrienne will send you a registration link after week 4 events are complete so you can let us know if you will be attending in person or if we need to schedule a remote interview

Accommodations at District Champs

If your team has qualified for District Championships and you need an event accommodation, please fill out our [accommodation form](#) (If you have already filled out the form for a district event, then no need to fill it out again.) This form is not for hotel rooms, it is for special accommodations at the event like ADA seating, prayer room, Interpreters on the field etc... This will help us to see what accommodations are needed and do our best to meet everyone's needs.

Please remember we may not be able to accommodate everyone's needs though we will do our best. Please be gracious to the volunteers on site event. They are donating their time and should be treated with kindness and respect even if the accommodation you receive is not exactly what you were hoping for.

The sooner you fill out the Accommodation form for District Championships, the more likely we will be able to accommodate your need.

Driver Buttons

FIRST HQ will be sending is DCMP drive buttons so there is no need to bring you drive buttons from your district events.

Team Communication

FIRST Washington communicates directly to Team Main and Alternate Contact

- **PLEASE** be sure to forward to the rest of your team and volunteers any appropriate information regarding event specifics
- Please also pass along messages about volunteer opportunities for students and for parents.

Schedule Overview: Whole Event

Wednesday, Day 0: Team load in (register for assigned time if arriving between 2 & 5) & Inspections

Thursday, Day 1: Inspections, Drivers Meeting, Practice Matches and Qualification Matches

Friday, Day 2: Qualification Matches

Saturday, Day 3: Qualification Matches & Final Rounds



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2026 PACIFIC NORTHWEST District Championship

Competition Schedule

Wednesday, April 8, 2026 (Day 0)	
2:00PM – 5:00PM	6 Team Reps to Load In
5:00PM – 7:30PM	Pits Open, Inspections, Load in Period

Thursday, April 9, 2026 (Day 1)	
7:45AM	6 Team Reps to Load In
8:00AM	Pits, Machine Shop, Registration, and Inspection Open
8:30AM – 9:00AM	Driver's Meeting
9:00AM – 10:00AM	Field Open for Measurement and Calibration
10:00AM – 12:30PM	Practice Rounds
12:30PM – 1:30PM	Lunch
1:30PM – 6:15PM	Qualification Matches
6:30PM	Pits and Machine Shop Close

Friday, April 10, 2026 (Day 2)	
8:00AM	Pits and Machine Shop Open
9:00AM – 9:15AM	Opening Ceremonies
9:15AM – 12:30PM	Qualification Matches
12:30PM – 1:30PM	Lunch
1:30PM – 5:45PM	Qualification Matches
6:00PM**	Pits and Machine Shop Close

Saturday, April 11, 2026 (Day 3)	
8:00AM	Pits and Machine Shop Open
8:30AM – 9:00AM	Opening Ceremonies
9:00AM – 11:00AM	Qualification Matches
~11:00AM - 11:30AM	Alliance Selections (begins 8 minutes after the end of Qualification Matches)
11:30AM – 12:30PM	Lunch
12:30PM – 3:30PM	Playoff Matches & Awards Ceremony
~4:00PM	Pits close 30 minutes following the close of the Closing Ceremony

**Schedule subject to change. All times are estimated based on flow of matches.
See Pit Admin for updated times.

District Event RSVP

For each of your district events, including DCMP, we need you to RSVP. You can find the form on each event page on firstwa.org

On the form, please fill in:

- The onsite main contact for each team
- We need a contact mobile phone number for your team – **Please don't list a school number, you are not at the school when we need to reach you!**
- Due to the short turnaround time, we will use your table choice from your district event.

**Logistics: Where is the event:
Eastern Washington Univ.
Reese Ct.**



Load in Process – Day 0 prior to 5 pm

6 team members will be allowed to load in the evening Day 0 between 2 & 5 pm

- 2 of these members must be adults
- You will need to register for a load in time. (Everyone who is registered for the event will be sent a load in registration link on Wed, 4-1)
- We will post load in assignments by Friday, 4-3

Prior to 5:00 pm, your team will be allowed to:

- Load in their robot and pit equipment

Teams will **not** be allowed to:

- Set up your pit
- Work on their robot
- Check in your team
- Leave the pit area to view the field

Load in Process – after 5 pm

All team members will be allowed to load in after 5 pm Day 0

Your team will be allowed to:

- Load in their robot and pit equipment
- Check in their team
- Set up their pit
- Work on their robot
- Go through inspection

Load-in

We expect to see you on Wednesday evening. If you are not arriving until Thursday, please email acollins@firstwa.org so we know not to worry.

Call if you are going to be late 206-795-5775

- Safety glasses are mandatory.
- Follow instructions from onsite staff.
- You may NOT park in the loading area. The driver MUST stay with the vehicle. Drop it and park in designated area. Staff your unload team appropriately to make this happen.

Directions for loading in

There will be a 6 person team load in scheduled from 2-5 pm Wednesday, Day 0. Teams can drop their stuff in their pit and then leave

After 5:00 pm, there will be no limit on numbers allowed for load in

After you register for the event, your main contact will receive an email with survey link to sign up for your load in slot

All team members will be allowed in the pits at 5 pm Wednesday to unload and work on the robot



Logistics: Parking at EWU

The lots behind the stadium are free

Trailers and large vehicles can be parked in the upper lot (by the red arrow) **Be sure your tires are chalked**, it can get windy!

Busses may also use this lot



Safety Glasses

- There will be a sign-up sheet at pit admin for safety glass table coverage. To check in, your team will need to sign up for a time slot at the safety glass table.
- Teams are expected to provide safety glasses for their team members and spectators to use in the pits
- The safety glasses FIRST Washington brings are for special guests, not for teams or spectators affiliated with teams

What you should bring to check in

Team Rosters with all your STIMS information to EACH (A printed copy is expected, we have had several teams show up with out this printed so a reminder for all of your events! This includes handwritten consent forms for anyone not listed on your TIMS roster) – The expectation is that your students/mentors have registered online, please only bring printed rosters for those who absolutely can't get registered online

All cords should be labeled with your team number on BOTH ends so we can figure out what plugs in where.

You **MUST BRING YOUR OWN SAFETY GLASSES**

- For your entire team, parents, mentors and **visitors**
- We will not have safety glasses on site for participants or spectators

You must bring

- 1 each 15' extension cord 16ga or 14 ga
- 1 each 40' extension cord 16ga or 14 ga
- 1 6 outlet power strip
- 1 each 2' x 2' x $\frac{3}{4}$ " Plywood pounding board

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Inspection Process

Be ready! Use the inspection sheet

As soon as you can, bring your robot to the inspection station for size and weight check.

After your robot has been weighed and sized, if ready, put your team number on the inspection request list.

The first available inspector will come to your pit to complete your inspection

- It is rare for a robot to pass on the first attempt. It is an iterative process.
 - Inspection time at district (first visit) ~ 30 - 40 minutes
 - Average Number of visits at district: 3
- If you do not pass, fix your problems and then put your team back on the inspection request list.

Finish Early

- Be through with inspection by 10:00 am Thursday, Day 1!

Arriving

You will be required to stand outside or in designated areas until the facility opens to the public

If you happen to find a door that is open and it is **before** the posted pits open time, please show Gracious Professionalism and remain outside or in a designated staging area until the pit opening time. We are working hard to get things ready for your team to have a great event and don't want to have to spend out time policing teams who attempt to enter early.

Seat Saving

Teams are not allowed to save seats. It is a *FIRST* rule (E801)

We understand that you want a little bit of space to allow for your team members & mentors that may be in the pits and come to the field for matches but please do not save a large area that remains empty throughout the entire day.

If someone comes and sits in a space you have saved, allow them to sit there. They probably just want to watch a match or 2.

Seat saving was a big problem last year but I don't expect it to be a problem this year because you will all do an amazing job of following the rule!

Pit Etiquette

Chairs are allowed within the confines of your pits (unless there is an area specifically designated), please do not place chairs in the robot aisles between pits (or anywhere in the pits)

No running in the pits!! We know that sometimes your students need to move quickly but **it is a hazard to run in the pits!**

Our venues will have power cord covers (aka Yellow Jackets)

- Our yellow jackets are 2" tall

Your FRC robot cart **MUST** have > 3" diameter wheels

- Wheels must be in good working order. No damaged or stuck wheels. Soft rubber. No hard plastic or steel tread wheels.
- Maximum weight for your carts, tool boxes, etc will be 50 lbs per inch of wheel size (1 cart, 4 x 3" wheels, 600lbs max)

All wheels must be non marking rubber or synthetic wheels

- No steel wheels. No sharp wheels.

Who to bring on Day 0 evening

You really want your core robot builders and mentors who will help the team get through in inspection on Wednesday evening.

Depending on your team's logistics, you might consider having a partial team on Day 0 evening and the whole team starting Day 1 afternoon

Machine Shop Open: 9 am Day 1

We have a volunteer machine shop onsite to help you fabricate replacement parts. The shop has small mills, lathes, and various other tools.

ONLY AUTHORIZED MACHINE SHOP VOLUNTEERS MAY USE THESE TOOLS!

We have excellent volunteer machinists. However, there are limits to what they can do for your team.

We have a TIG welder.

The machine shop has request forms for your team. It will be located near the loading ramp on the arena floor.

In general, the machine shop will NOT loan you tools.

Drivers Meeting at 8:30 am Day 1

- The Drivers Meeting is scheduled for 8:30 am Day 1
- Drive Team members will remain in the stands for the Drivers Meeting
- Q & A will be handled the same way as last year
 - Pit Admin will have a paper Q & A form
 - Team members can fill out the form with their questions and turn them in at Pit Admin
 - The deadline to turn in forms is **8:10 am Day 1**
 - Forms turned in after 8:10 am Day 1 may not be addressed at the drivers meeting but you can always stand in the question box to get your questions answered

Practice Rounds

Practice matches are scheduled and will run 10:00 am to 12:30 pm (The FTA will go over whether there will be a practice match schedule or not.)

You do not have to pass inspection to run in your scheduled practice match.

It is very common for teams not to be ready for their scheduled match in the mornings. We will accept inspected teams on a first come/first served basis who wish to take an unscheduled practice round. Check in with the Lead Queuer to get on the list.

Priority will always be given to teams scheduled and/or teams who have not been on the field at least once. Be gracious and professional if you get bumped for a higher priority team.

Just a reminder, you need to be through inspection to use any of the practice fields

Thursday afternoon (Day 1)

Matches will start at 1:30 pm **Thursday afternoon**

Queueing will begin at 1:15 pm sharp

We will have no opening ceremony that day so if you are in an early round, be prepared to play at 1:30 pm Thursday.

Logistics: Food

Concessions will be open. We are still confirming the days & times with the venue.

Participants will be allowed to bring in food

- No food allowed in the pits
- You may eat in event seats, hallway between comp area and pits & courtyard outside.
- You may set up a table at this venue to serve lunch to your teams from **but you must take it down every day**. Remember, we are at a public venue that is also open to the public during our event, please take down your tables and don't make more work for the volunteers at the end of the evening. Also please remember there are 49 other teams looking for table space so be considerate of the amount of space you take up for your team
- We are trying to confirm if BBQ's will be allowed this year. Watch for details after you have registered!
- **Please do not bring crock pots to plug in**, it can create power issues and even if it does not at a specific venue, we can't accommodate 50 teams wanting power for crockpots.

Menstrual Equity & Quiet Rooms

Menstrual Equity Host:

2412 is signed up at the Menstrual Equity host for this event (and we expect some more teams to sign up as well)

Products will not be put in the bathrooms at this event but you will be able to find them at Pit Admin and the Menstrual Equity Host's pit.

Quiet Room Host:

We will not have a quiet room at this event

Activities

See schedule for times

DCMP Mentor Lounge

A quiet place for mentors to get away from the hustle and bustle of the tournament and collaborate with adults from other teams

Dates/Time:

- Thursday (4/9): 10am to 5pm
- Friday (4/10): 10am to 5pm
- Saturday (4/11): 9am to 2pm

Light snacks, water and coffee will be provided

FIRSTWA Listening Session

Hosted by FIRSTWA staff and community members

FIRSTWA strives to make your team's experience the best it can be!

Support us in this mission by dropping by our listening session and telling us:

- What is working for your team
- What has negatively impacted your team
- Where you most need support



Sessions will be held at all FRC District Events and the District Championship Event.
Please see the individual event schedules for workshop date and time.



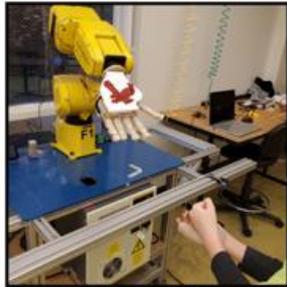
Mechanical Engineering & Technology

TOURS

Robotics, PLCs, Metallics, Wood, Materials, Project Labs & Clubs

Friday, April 10, 2026 | 11am OR 2pm

Meet at the Pit Admin in the Fieldhouse



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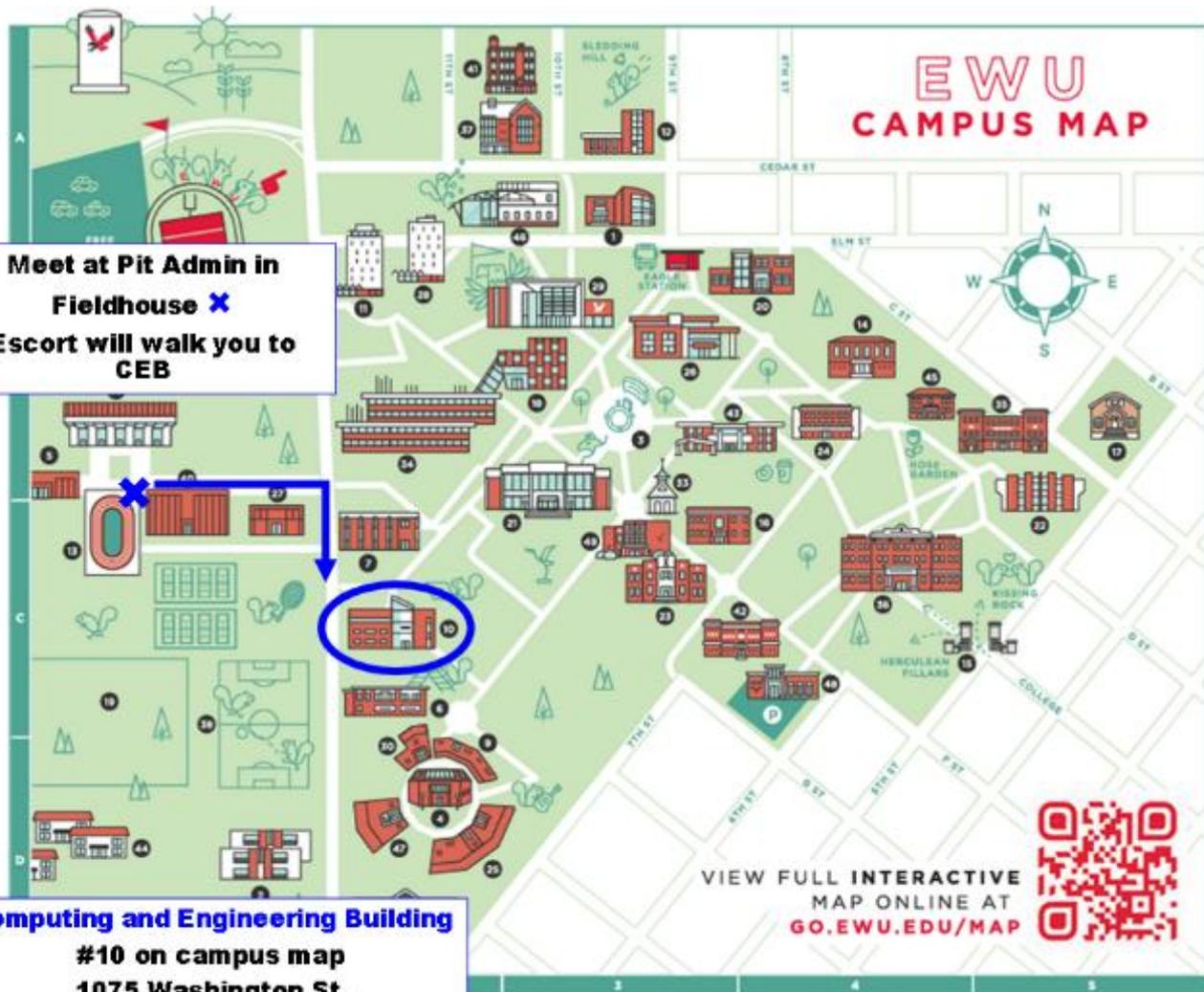
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Workshops

We will send out more info on workshops after teams have registered

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2412 PRESENTS...

Advocacy Workshop!

an interactive presentation with **strategies** and **advice** to advocate for **STEM education** and **team needs** (funding, club space, STEM credit, etc.) brought to you by Team 2412, the Robototes, who have held several **previous advocacy conferences** and used these strategies to **testify in favor of multiple bills!**

includes:

- ✓ WRITING/DRAFTING PRESENTATION
- ✓ HOW TO IDENTIFY AND BUILD ASKS
- ✓ OVERVIEW OF U.S. AND WA GOVERNMENT
- ✓ TIPS AND ADVICE FROM DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND CONGRESSMEN

Load OUT

Move *all* your packed gear to the specified holding area near pit exterior door

Driver proceeds to load out area

– please ensure that adequate personnel are available to haul gear when vehicle arrives!

The driver should be in the vehicle during load out. No cars should be parked in the load out area

Advancing to World Championships

The PNW has been allocated 21 slots at the World Championships in Houston

Advancing to World Championships will be

- 2 FIRST Impact award teams
- 2 Engineering Inspiration teams
- 1 Rookie All Star team
- Winning Alliance
- 13 teams based on their total district qualification points (or 12 if winning alliance has 4th alliance partner)

As individuals, we are sending:

- 4 *FIRST* Leadership Finalists
- 2 Woodie Flowers Finalists

Teams will be responsible for the \$5,750 registration fee

- Payment is made to *FIRST* Washington
- *FIRST* Leadership and Woodie Flowers Finalists have no registration fee
- Engineering Inspiration teams **WILL NOT** receive NASA funding this year

Registering for Championships in Houston

- Advancing teams will be announced at PNW District Championships (provided the District Ranking software is up and running)
- You will have the opportunity to fill out the Smartsheet at District Championships so FIRST Washington can secure your Championship registration. You can fill out the form at Pit Admin after the awards ceremony is completed. Because we secure registration and bill teams, you **MUST** fill out our form (so why not just do it at the event!)
- From what I understand on Sunday, April 12, the Lead and Alternate Coach will be sent an email prompting them to register for Championships. **It is important you fill this out ASAP.** (If you are not attending, please email me to let me know.)
 - The registration form will need to be filled no later than 5:00 pm EDT Tuesday, **April 14th**
 - FIRST Washington will invoice you and you will need to secure your registration by Friday, April 17.
 - You can secure with a PO, check or credit card or booster funds

Hotels for World Championships

All teams are required to book championship housing through *FIRST*.

Follow this link for more information on championship housing:
<https://www.firstinspires.org/first-championship-event-housing>

At a high level:

- Once your team qualifies, you'll receive an email from FIRSTteams@conferencedirect.com.
- Provide your team details (some fields will already be locked).
- After submitting, you'll get a confirmation email with a link to select your hotel.

Robot Shipping to World Championships

You have 3 options to get your robot to Houston this year:

1. Shipping your robot on a dedicated trailer from either the FIRST Washinton Fieldhouse or Wilsonville High School
2. Hand Cary your robot to the competition (either on the plane with you or in a private vehicle)
3. Ship the standard way via FedEx

We will ask you to let us know how you plan to ship your robot when you register on our smartsheet form.

You will also receive an email communication from FIRST asking how you plan to transport your robot

Shipping via dedicated FedEx Trailer

FIRST will once again be offering to ship robots direct to Houston from Wilsonville HS or the FIRSTWA Fieldhouse in Kent.

Teams can choose to bring their crated robot either to the FIRST Washington fieldhouse in Kent or Wilsonville High School to be shipped to Houston. The crates will be picked up at both locations date TBD. More info will be sent to interested teams after they qualify.

Same weight and packing rules apply.

Robot crate **must** be able to be offloaded with a forklift. **Plan accordingly!**

Using this method to ship your robot is not required. If you do not live close to either drop off location, you can ship your robot the traditional way.

Note: This is for robots only, not for your pit shipping

Robot Shipping to World Championships

Shipping from Kent

FIRST Washington Fieldhouse

22426 72nd Ave S

Kent, WA 98032

Contact: Eric VanBuren

ericvb@firstwa.org

Bring your robot to the FIRST Washington field house. We will confirm date & time before District Championships

If teams are shipping their pits with the 360 trailer, you may drop your stuff off when you drop your robot off. **Your pits need to be package per the pit shipment guidelines and be ready to load on to**

the truck

Shipping from Wilsonville

Wilsonville High School

6800 SE Wilsonville Rd

Wilsonville, OR 97070

Contact: Tim Bennington-Davis

dechouse@cs.com

Bring your robot to Wilsonville High School. We will confirm date & time before District Championships

Pick up from FedEx

Fill out the form FIRST sends you letting them know you plan to ship your robot the traditional way then they will send you the paperwork you need.

Please note: Form needs to be completed no later than Monday, April 7th and robot needs to be shipped by no later than Tuesday, April 8th.

Hand carry your robot

Fill out the form FIRST sends you letting them know you plan to hand carry your robot and follow their instructions

HOUSTON - PIT SHIPMENT

- Team 360 has secured an RXO Express - 53 foot trailer
- Contact: Dan Taylor (206) 571-0062 (cell) dan.taylor@nventure.com
- Awaiting Quote from RXO
- Estimated \$800 for a 4x4 spot. This is dependent on # of spaces secured at PNW Championships and fuel cost.
- We will sell additional space as it is available in 2x4 sections for approximately \$400
- Team 360 will generate an invoice for each team who secures a spot
- Forms of payment are CHECK made out to Bellarmine Prep Robotics or TRANSFER of funds to Team 360's FIRST WA booster account
- Payment or Purchase Order must be provided prior to departure

HOUSTON - PIT CONTAINMENT

- Pit contents **MUST BE** labeled with your team number
- Pit contents **MUST BE** contained (i.e. Shrink Wrap all stacked items)
- Pit contents **CANNOT** exceed 8 feet in height
- Pit carts **MUST BE** able to roll on and off the truck
- Pit carts **MUST USE** 5 inch Heavy Duty Caster locking wheels to avoid your load from shifting and wheels from breaking during the trip
- Longer items, like poles and tubes, will be allowed but must be wrapped together and labeled with your team number
- Set of 4 Wheels pictured on this page can be found on Amazon for \$22 <https://www.amazon.com/Humageiner-Industrial-Workbench-Furniture-Hardware/dp/B0CXY78MRP>



HOUSTON - PIT SHIPMENT DATES

ESTIMATED DATES, TIME AND LOCATION

Saturday, April 25	8:00 am - 9:00 am	- FIRST WA Warehouse	Load Pits for Transport
Saturday, April 25	1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	- TBD in Portland	Load Pits for Transport
Wednesday, April 29	Notified via Remind	- GRB Convention Center	Pits Arrive at Champs
Thursday, May 7	9:00 am - 10:00 am	- TBD in Portland	Pits return - Pickup window TBA
Thursday, May 7	1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	- FIRST WA Warehouse	Pits return – Pickup window Saturday, May 9 TBA

IMPORTANT: We will not be able to load out of the GRB until **ALL TEAMS** have staged in a designated area on **Saturday, May 2**. When you are done competing, you must get your Pit packed up and Staged before we can call the truck to load out.

HOUSTON - COMMUNICATIONS

- We will use Remind to communicate status of Pit arrivals and load outs

Questions??

Thanks for attending

You can contact acollins@firstwa.org with additional questions

These slides and a recording of this presentation are on

www.firstwa.org You can find them here: <https://firstwa.org/webinars/>