

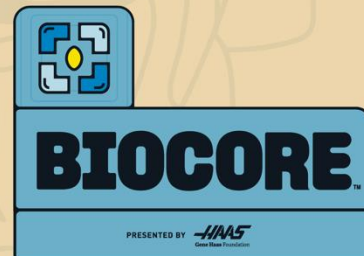
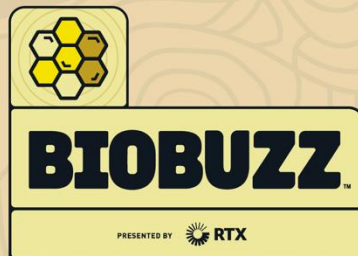
FIRST[®]

CANOPY[™]



September Coaches Chat

2026 / 2027 SEASON



Welcome FLL Challenge, FLL Future & FLL Explore Teams!

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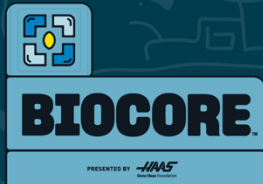
Volunteer and Program Support | *FIRST* Washington

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Agenda-

- FLL Blog
- Coaches Chat Format
- Season Timeline
- Important dates
- Innovation Panels!
- Participation rule reminder
- Registration
- Invoices
- Event Locations
- Western WA State Update
- Important links
- Questions?

**Please make sure to check the *FIRST*
Washington website and the FLL Blog for
all *FIRST* Washington information**

Blog's are posted weekly.

An email is sent to let you know its posted with a link to the blog.

<https://firstwa.org/fll-blog/>

Coaches Chat Format-

This season I will be mostly following last years format.

I will do a few meetings throughout the season with slides and info.

- Beginning of the season- September
- Before Qualifiers- November
- Before Semifinals/State- January

The rest will be informal drop-in meetings with no presentations where you can come and ask whatever questions you have. You don't need to sit through a presentation. All information is in the FLL Blog.

- October
- December

I may schedule drop-in times in addition to the once a month. I will post the info in the blog!

Also- would the ability to schedule 15 minute meetings with me be helpful?



Season Timeline -

May-

- Team Registration Opens

August-

- Challenge Released

September-

- Event registration opens
- Team registration closes for FLL Challenge

October-

- FIRST Washington invoices go out

December-

- Qualifier Competitions For FLL Challenge
- First Festivals for FLL Explore

January-

- Semifinals FLL Challenge
- Tentative FLL Future event

February-

- Western WA State

March-

- Spring Festivals for FLL Explore

April-

- World Festival

Important Dates for FLL Challenge!

September-

Now- *FIRST* Washington Registration and Grant open

30th- Team registration closes

October-

5th - *FIRST* Washington Grant Closes

Early Oct. *FIRST*WA invoices go out

December-

5th/6th - Qualifier weekend 1

12th/13th -Qualifier weekend 2

January-

23th/24th -Semifinals*

February-

20th /21st- Western WA State Championship- **this is a 2-day event!**

TBD-

Eastern WA State Championships

**Western WA only*

Important Dates for FLL Explore!

September-

Late Sept.-

Event registration opens

October-

Mid Oct.- First set of *FIRSTWA* invoices go out

December-

5th/6th - Winter Festival events

March-

Spring Festival Events

April*-

Registration closes

**Possible end of the season Festival depending on interest*

Important Dates for FLL Future!

September-

Now- *FIRST* Washington Registration and Grant open

October-

5th- *FIRST* Washington Grant Closes

Early Oct.- *FIRSTWA* invoices go out

Early Oct.- Team registration closes

January-

Tentative FLL Future event



Innovation Panels-

New this season!

FIRST WA Robotics invites teams to attend our *FIRST* LEGO League Innovation Panels. These panels will run with leaders from multiple partner companies from late September through October at 3-4:30 pm, giving students a broad look at real world environmental innovation.

Panelists will help inspire their Innovation Projects by sharing how their work supports environmental stewardship and biodiversity goals — showing students how major companies tackle the same challenges they're studying.

Your team will join a moderated 90 minute session with 4-5 professionals. Each panelist will give a short introduction, answer student questions, and share real examples of how their work intersects with environmental sustainability, biodiversity, and innovation.

Teams that sign up will be emailed the link to the meeting and some sample questions. Our first session is 9/29!

[Click here](#) to register!



BIOGLOW



BIOBUZZ

PRESENTED BY  RTX



BIOCORE

PRESENTED BY  AAAS

Participation Rule Reminders for FLL Challenge-

Some highlighted rules-

- All work presented at events is the work of the children on the team.
- A competitive team consists of a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of ten (10) children listed on your team's roster.
- A team must be registered and fully paid in their national registration system to sign up for official events. Additional regional/local event fees may apply. (Washington charges a local fee of \$350)
- All team members attending an event are required to participate in the judging session and be present as a team at the Robot Game matches.

To read the full participation rules-





BIOGLOW



BIOBUZZ

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Participation Rules Cont.

Consequences

FIRST® gives authority to volunteers staffing *FIRST*® LEGO® League Challenge official events to interpret and implement the Participation Rules, guided by global *FIRST*® LEGO® League Challenge training materials.

- Teams, coaches, and supporters at official events are expected to demonstrate the Core Values and Gracious Professionalism®.
- Individuals interfering with, excessively instructing, prompting, or heckling a team or volunteer may be asked to leave.
- Severe infractions of these rules may result in a team's dismissal from the event. *FIRST*® LEGO® League Challenge official event volunteers are provided training to identify and respond to these situations (See *FIRST*® Youth Protection Policy).
- Individuals and/or teams who fail to abide by the Participation Rules may be ineligible for awards at a tournament. – **this includes having too many youth on your roster!**

Washington State FLL Challenge Rules and Guidelines-

Please remember that this is a day for the teams to share their ideas, compete and collaborate with each other.

The day is about what they have learned and accomplished throughout the season. It is for the team members to shine in their own unique ways in front of judges and volunteers and each other. General Public and Families are welcome to watch the robot competitions and walk through pits in the afternoon.

Overall-

We are in a school that is graciously hosting us, please be good ambassadors for FLL so they will have us back next year.

All volunteers running the event- judges, referees, queuers, etc., are exactly that, volunteers. They are donating their time. Please be respectful of them and their time.

No taping any items on floors, walls, etc.

This event is a celebration of your student/team's hard work! This day is all about them!

Pit Area-

Use only your assigned pit space. This area is for coaches and team members only. Parents and siblings should sit in the stands unless they are visiting/touring the pit area.

Please only use provided practice fields. Do not bring your own challenge set from home.

Always have a representative at your pit table that knows where your team is

Please eat in the designated area. No saving additional tables for lunch

Please do not move furniture, or bring additional furniture from home

No loud music or live music in the pit area

Do not move pit tables or pit numbers on tables

No running or screaming in the pit area- if your team needs to burn off some energy, take them outside

Judging-

There is no rejudging

Do not leave materials with the judges

Volunteers will be on the lookout for gracious (or ungracious) behavior by teams and such incidents may be reported to the judges during deliberations

Field-

There is no programing at the table.

2-minute time limit for inspection

Getting ready post inspection time limit- a couple minutes

Teams may bring 1 adult observer to the question box when the students are asking questions of the Head referee

Coaches are to enthusiastically cheer or provide emotional support at the field- no coaching or directing teams or students. You will receive 1 warning.

If you are talked to again, you will be asked to please go sit in the stands for the rest of the event.

Registration-

Team Registration-

- Open now at firstinspires.org

FIRST Washington Registration-

- Open now at firstwa.org

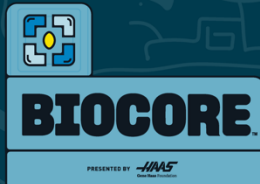
Event Registration-

- For **Explore** - Coming soon, late September. Fingers crossed!
- For **Challenge** – Same process as last season
- For **Future** – if applicable, coming soon!



***FIRST* Washington Invoices-**

Invoices for the *FIRST* Washington fees will go out in early to mid October. They will be emailed out to the person you listed on your *FIRST* Washington registration in the “Name of person who should receive *FIRSTWA* invoice” section.



Event Locations-

Not all venues are confirmed yet. Our new event manager is working on this and getting confirmations almost daily!

As soon as they are confirmed I will post the event schedule on *FIRSTWA.org*!

Most will be the same as last season with a few additions/changes!

Western Washington State Championship-

Change for this season-

- This event will take place over 2 days.
- Judging will be on Saturday
 - Saturday will be a later start and an earlier end time
- Robot game will be on Sunday
 - Teams will have a practice round in addition to their 3 official rounds.
- Practice tables will be available both days.
- Competition table practice will be available at least on Sunday. Saturday is a maybe for now.

Event will be February 20th /21st, 2027 at the Seattle Center Exposition Hall sponsored by Amazon

Other details to be announced later!

Important Links-

Team Registration- All

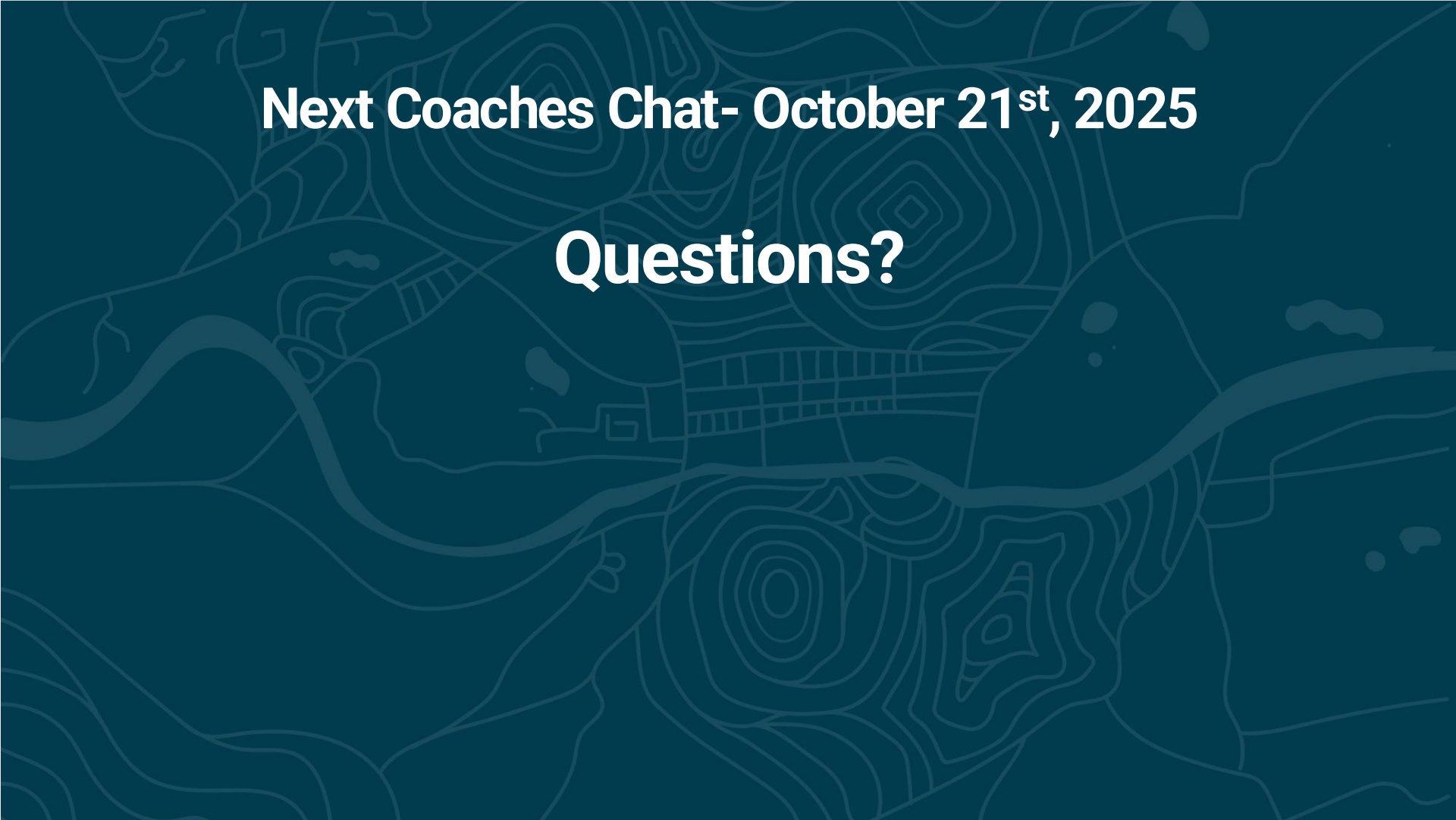
- <https://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/fll/cost-and-registration>

FIRST Washington Registration-

- <https://firstwa.org/fll-registration/>

FLL Blog-

- <https://firstwa.org/fll-blog/>

The background of the slide is a dark teal color with a faint, light-colored topographic map pattern. The map features various contour lines, a winding river or path, and some rectangular structures that could represent buildings or fields.

Next Coaches Chat- October 21st, 2025

Questions?