



HOW IT WORKS

AGES

14-18*

GRADES

9-12

We express the *FIRST*® philosophies of *Gracious Professionalism*® and *Coopertition*® through *FIRST* Core Values:

- **Discovery:** We explore new skills and ideas.
- **Innovation:** We use creativity and persistence to solve problems.
- **Impact:** We apply what we learn to improve our world.
- **Inclusion:** We respect each other and embrace our differences.
- **Teamwork:** We are stronger when we work together.
- **Fun:** We enjoy and celebrate what we do!

Each January brings a new challenge for *FIRST*® Robotics Competition teams. Starting with a Kit of Parts, they design, program, and build industrial-sized robots to play an action-packed game on a themed field as part of a three-team alliance. Students learn engineering and problem-solving skills as they compete for awards, create a team identity, raise funds, hone teamwork skills, and advance appreciation for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) in their community.

FIRST Robotics Competition is a sport where all participants can choose to become a professional.

WHAT IT OFFERS:

- Students work on teams alongside professionals who mentor and guide them.
- Build and compete with a team-designed robot.
- Learn and use professional hardware and software.
- Develop skills in design, project management, programming, teamwork, strategic thinking, and *Coopertition*®.
- Compete for judged and competition awards at action-packed, multi-day events, qualifying up to the *FIRST*® Championship.
- Participants and alumni gain access to education and career discovery opportunities, connections to scholarships and employers, and a place in the *FIRST* community for life.
- Have fun as part of an engaged and supportive community.

GET STARTED:

- Recruit high-school students and at least two adult mentors per team.
- Identify financial sponsors and a meeting space with tools. Teams form in schools, after-school programs, home schools, and community groups.
- Attend Kickoff in January for game details and receive your Kit of Parts, which includes an optional guided KitBot robot build to help you get started.

"It's not just about robots. It's about building self-confidence, respect, and important relationships with people who invent new technologies to make a better future."

— DEAN KAMEN, FOUNDER, *FIRST*

www.firstinspires.org/frc

*Suggested ages



**FIRST doesn't just work, it is the gold standard.
Proven impact on workplace skills***



87% confidence in approaching problems in science and technology



98% accept input and feedback from others



87% sense of team identity and belonging

SEASON OVERVIEW

MAY

Registration for the season opens

JANUARY

Season Kickoff and start of build season

FEBRUARY-APRIL

Regional and district competitions

APRIL

FIRST[®] Championship

SUMMER/FALL

Off-season events and prep for next season

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT *FIRST* IN YOUR AREA www.firstinspires.org/find-local-support



FIRST[®] prepares young people for the future through a suite of life-changing youth robotics programs that build skills, confidence, and resilience. Because our programs are *More Than Robots*[®], students build self-confidence and collaborative problem-solving skills as they conduct research, fundraise, design, build, and showcase their achievements. Founded as a nonprofit organization in 1989 by inventor Dean Kamen, *FIRST* is backed by a global network of mentors, educators, volunteers, sponsors, families, alumni, and program delivery partners.



*SOURCES: 2023 *FIRST*[®] Robotics Competition end-of-season youth survey

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