



# What is FIRST®?

For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and

(Show FIRST Intro video featuring Morgan Freeman) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?>

# FIRST<sup>®</sup>

Where **kids** walk in and **innovators** walk out

## Jr.FLL

Junior FIRST<sup>®</sup> LEGO<sup>®</sup> League



Introduces the youngest children to the fascinating worlds of science and technology.

## FLL

FIRST<sup>®</sup> LEGO<sup>®</sup> League



Children discover exciting career possibilities and learn to make positive contributions to society.

## FTC

FIRST<sup>®</sup> Tech Challenge



Teams develop strategy, build robots using cutting-edge technologies, and compete head to head.

## FRC

FIRST<sup>®</sup> Robotics Competition



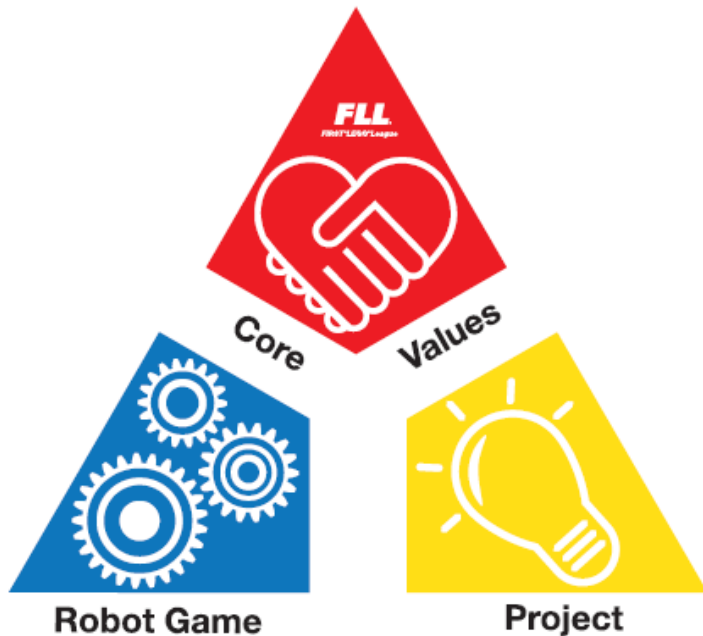
Teams compete with 120-pound robots, combining the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology.

ages 6-18

~20,000 teams register each year  
Variety of skills make up a team  
No prior experience



## Three Essential Parts



Each yearly Challenge has three parts: Core Values, the Robot Game, and the Project.

# The Challenge

2013



2012	2011
 <p>Quality of life for seniors 20,500 TEAMS (PROJECTED)</p>	 <p>Keeping food safe 18,323 TEAMS</p>
2010	2009
 <p>Explore cutting-edge world of biomedical engineering 16,762 TEAMS</p>	 <p>Transforming transportation 14,725 TEAMS</p>



# Core Values

## Gracious Professionalism<sup>TM</sup>

“It's a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community.”

- ☐ We are a team.
- ☐ We do the work to find solutions with guidance from our coaches and mentors.
- ☐ We know our coaches and mentors don't have all the answers; we learn together.
- ☐ We honor the spirit of friendly competition.
- ☐ What we discover is more important than what we win.
- ☐ We share our experiences with others.
- ☐ We display Gracious Professionalism® and Coopertition® in everything we do.
- ☐ We have FUN!



# FLL Project

- ❑ Teams **find a technical problem** related to the Challenge theme and **innovate a solution** they present in competitions
- ❑ Teams are encouraged to **talk to experts** to help define scope of problem and limitations of current solutions
- ❑ Projects can be hardware or software solutions and don't have to be “real” for the judged presentation
- ❑ Teams should **consider manufacturing** aspects of the proposed solution
- ❑ **Sharing the solution** with the community gives kids experience with public speaking and can be beneficial in judging
- ❑ **Project presentations (5 minutes only)** at competition, and contribute to overall score and qualify for specific

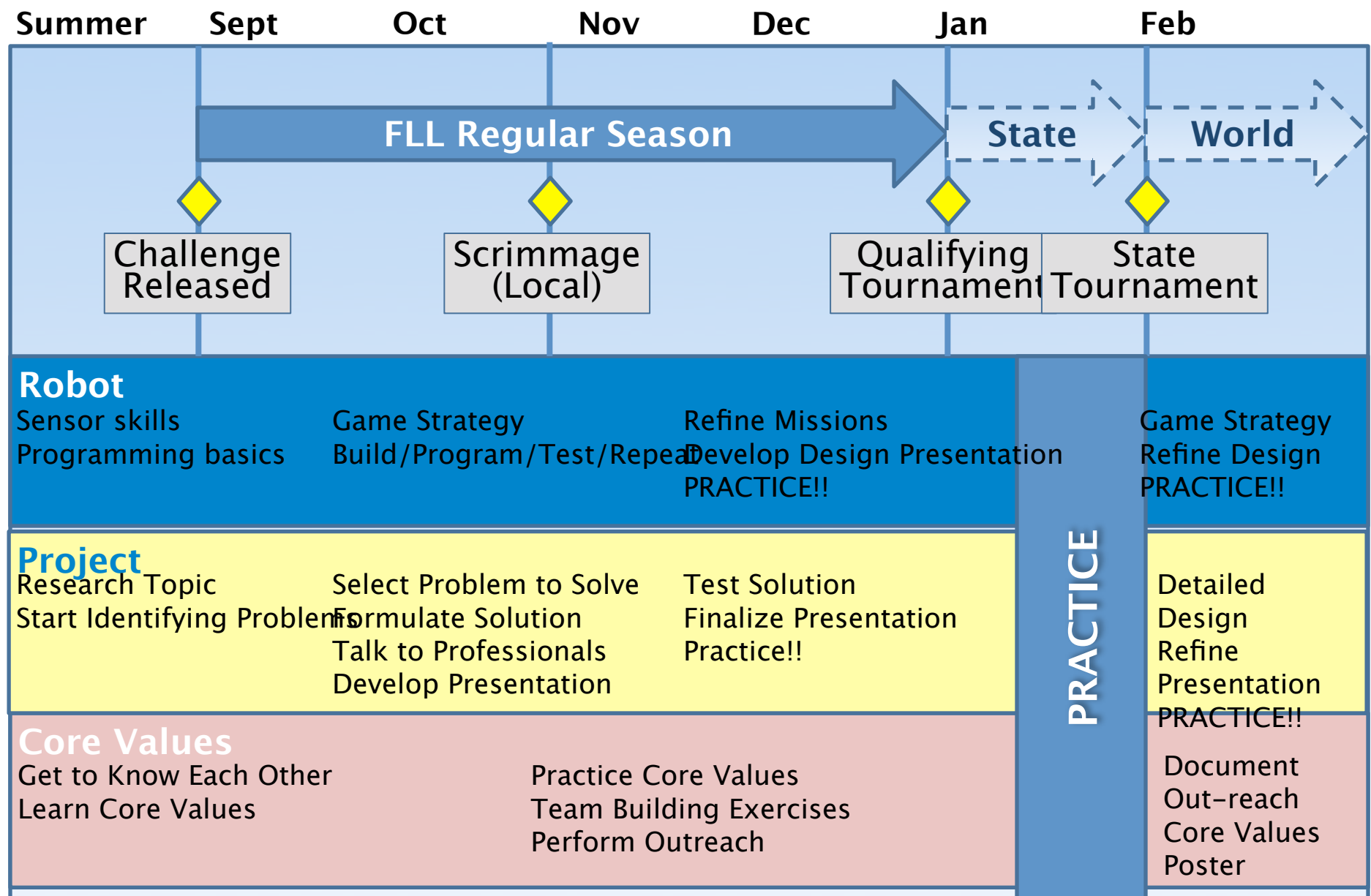


# Robot Game

- ❑ Teams compete in **2:30 minute rounds**
- ❑ Robot “missions” score points
- ❑ Missions vary in complexity and points score accordingly
- ❑ Teams pick **game strategy** to decide which missions to attempt
- ❑ Compete in **3 rounds** – only highest score counts
- ❑ Contributes about 40% to overall team performance
- ❑ Rules for Game released with Challenge on 27 August
  - Watch for YouTube video explaining the game



# How We Get it Done

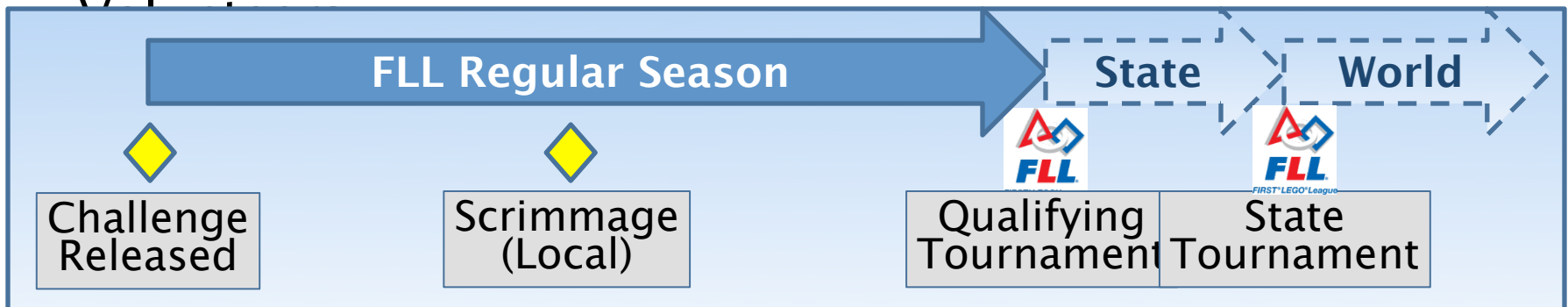




FIRST® LEGO® League

# Competitions

- Day-long events composed of formal scoring by:
  - Project presentations
  - Core Values session
  - Robot design presentation
  - Robot Game competition
- Teams are observed anonymously and interviewed directly for demonstration of Core Values, Coopertition® and Gracious Professionalism®
- Awards given for Robots, Project, Core Values, Judge's selection and Special Recognition of Mentors or







# Time Commitment

## ☐ Kids

- 1–2 sessions per week as a team
- Project Research and Programming study outside of group setting
- 1 Saturday scrimmage (Oct/Nov)
- Field Trips/Guest speakers
- Qualifying tournament (Dec/Jan)

## ☐ Parents

- Read about FIRST (<http://www.firstlegoleague.org>)
- Support consistent attendance at sessions/tournaments
- Encourage time for external assignments and learning about FLL



# Volunteer Opportunities

Many talents contribute to a successful team

Volunteers can help in a range of time increments (1 hr, 1 day, throughout the season)

Examples of team support needed:

\_\_\_\_ Field Trip Coordinator

\_\_\_\_ Engineering Mentor

\_\_\_\_ Project Design Mentor

\_\_\_\_ Project Presentation Mentor

\_\_\_\_ Table Construction (one-time task)  
Coordinator

\_\_\_\_ Team Communications

\_\_\_\_ Programming Mentor

\_\_\_\_ Marketing Mentor

\_\_\_\_ Team T-shirt Coordinator

\_\_\_\_ Team Buttons



# Start a Team Checklist

- ☐ Group of interested kids aged 9 – 14 (min. team size – 2 kids)
- ☐ Identify parent/teacher coach
- ☐ Determine means of funding
- ☐ Register team with FLL
- ☐ Start reading/researching FLL resources on building models, programming and prior FLL projects
- ☐ Establish regular meeting time/place
- ☐ Build a Robot Game table
- ☐ Identify scrimmage and qualifying



# Typical FLL Team Funding

FIRST® LEGO® League

Category	Item	Cost	One-time	Recurring Costs
FIRST Team Expenses	Team Registration <sup>(1)</sup>	\$225		X
	2013 Field Set up Kit	\$75		X
Robot & Software One robot – either model is acceptable	EV3 <sup>(2,3)</sup>	\$499	X	
	NXT <sup>(2,3)</sup>	\$435	OR X	
Support Equipment	Project Table	\$80	X	
	Laptop computer	varies	X	
	Additional Sensors	\$35	X	
	Project Materials	\$100		X
Event Registration	Scrimmage(s)	varies		
	Qualifying	\$60		X
	State Tournament	\$75		X
Team Event Materials	T-shirts (team of 10)	\$200		X
	Tournament Give-	\$150		X
Typical 1st year Cost	(not including laptop)	\$1,500		\$885

(1) FLL Team Registration site: [https://gofll.usfirst.org/pages/team\\_registration](https://gofll.usfirst.org/pages/team_registration)

(2) Product Description/Pricing: [https://gofll.usfirst.org/pages/product\\_description\\_and\\_pricing](https://gofll.usfirst.org/pages/product_description_and_pricing)

(3) LEGO Education: <http://www.legoeducation.us>

(4) Table Instructions: <http://www.firstlegoleague.org/sites/default/files/SenSolTableWeb.pdf>



FIRST® LEGO® League

# Valuable Team Resources

- ❑ FLL Coaches Resources: <http://www.firstlegoleague.org/challenge/teamresources#Preparation>
  - Coaches calls
  - Coaches handbook
  - Table Construction
- ❑ FLL Social Media
  - FLL Blog
  - YouTube Channel
  - Twitter
  - FLL Facebook page
- ❑ Penn FLL page – <https://alliance.seas.upenn.edu/~pennfll/wiki/index.php?n=PennFLL.CoachResources>
- ❑ Programming/Training Resources
  - Carnegie Mellon Robotics Academy <http://www.cs2n.org>
  - Oregon Robotics <http://www.stemcentric.com/nxt-tutorial/>
  - NXT Programs: [www.nxtprograms.com](http://www.nxtprograms.com) (for NXT robots)
  - YouTube videos
  - Books

[www.firstlegoleague.org](http://www.firstlegoleague.org)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the First LEGO League website. At the top, there's a browser window with several tabs open. Below the browser, the website header includes the FLL logo, a language selector, and a search bar. A navigation bar with orange buttons contains links for 'Our Mission', 'Marketing Tools', 'Challenge & Resources', 'Events', and 'For Parents'. A yellow arrow labeled '1' points to the 'Challenge & Resources' button. On the left side, a sidebar lists various links, with two yellow arrows labeled '2' and '3' pointing to 'Challenge: Overview and History' and '2013 NATURE'S FURY Challenge' respectively. The main content area features the heading 'Challenge: Overview and History' and two paragraphs of text.

Challenge: Overview and History

In early fall, FLL releases a Challenge, which is based on a real-world scientific topic.

Each Challenge has three parts: the **Robot Game**, the **Project** (*Why a Project in a Robotics Competition?*), and the **FLL Core Values**. Teams of up to **ten children**, with one adult coach, participate in the Challenge by programming an autonomous robot to score points on a themed playing field (Robot Game), developing a solution to a problem they have identified (Project), all guided by the **FLL Core Values**. Teams may then choose to attend an **official tournament**, hosted by one of our Operational Partners.

**Past Challenges** have been based on topics such as nanotechnology, climate, quality of life for the handicapped population, and transportation. By designing our Challenges around such topics, participants are exposed to potential career paths within a chosen Challenge topic, in addition to solidifying the STEM principles that naturally come from participating in a robotics program. Team members also learn valuable life and employment skills which will benefit them no matter which career path they choose.



# FLL Coaches Calls

Topic/Outline	Date/Time	Audio Recording
 Where Do I Start? Coach Orientation	August 12, 2013 - 7pm ET	Recording from last season
FLL Parents: What to Expect?	August 19, 2013 - 7pm ET	New this season. Great for parents!
Coaching a Team	August 20, 2013 - 7pm ET	Recording from last season
EV3/NXT - Technical Support Process	September 10, 2013 - 7pm ET	New this season.
The Robot Game (runs 2 hours)	September 12, 2013 - 7pm ET	Recording from last season - part 1 Recording from last season - part 2
The Project	September 17, 2013 - 7pm ET	Recording from last season
Core Values/Teamwork	September 19, 2013 - 7pm ET	Recording from last season
Judging: A Perspective for the Coach	October 10, 2013 - 7pm ET	Recording from last season
Preparing for an FLL Event	October 24, 2013 - 7pm ET	Recording from last season
FLL Global Innovation	November 12, 2013 - 7pm ET	Recording from last season



# What's Next?

- ☐ Read more about FIRST<sup>®</sup> and FLL <http://www.firstlegoleague.org>
- ☐ Register your teams
- ☐ Encourage your teams to explore weather and its effects
- ☐ Get Ready to Work Hard and Have Fun!!

For Questions/Support:  
Amy Harmon Krtanjek  
[amyhk33@gmail.com](mailto:amyhk33@gmail.com)  
410-499-1498



**BACKUP SLIDES**



FIRST® LEGO® League

# NXT Kit (\$435)

- ☐ The NXT is still a recommended package for FIRST® LEGO® League teams.
- ☐ Reusable year to year
- ☐ Includes all components needed to build and program a robot capable of completing challenge objectives.
- ☐ Each set contains:
  - \*NXT Educational Software: The PC-and MAC-compatible software interface has intuitive, icon-based drag and drop environment for “building” programs need to control the robot.
  - \*Includes 40 interactive tutorials to help the novice | started. This software is complete with a FLL Team license. Requi Vista or MacOSX.
- ☐ ALSO CONTAINS:
  - 1 Intelligent NXT Brick
  - 1 Rechargeable DC Battery
  - 1 DC Battery Charger
  - 3 Interactive Servo Motors (rotation sensor built in)
  - 2 Touch Sensors
  - 1 Sound Sensor
  - 1 Light Sensor
  - 1 Ultrasonic Sensor
  - 1 USB Wire for downloading programs onto the Intelligent Brick
  - 7 Connection cables of various lengths
  - 1,000+ LEGO elements
  - Building Instructions for one model





# EV3 Kit (\$499)

The new EV3 Robot Set is the third generation of robotics technology from LEGO Education and is great for both veteran and rookie teams because it enables a smooth transition from NXT and also provides excellent getting started tools for new teams.

The Robot Set also includes the EV3 graphical programming software and an FLL Team License that allows for installation on all (up to 10) computers

The software comes with a newly revised Robot Educator, a set of 48 multimedia tutorials

## EV3 Core Set :

- EV3 Intelligent Brick
- DC battery and Charger
- two Touch sensors
- one ultrasonic sensor
- one color/light sensor
- one gyro sensor
- three intelligent servo motors 2 large, 1 medium
- hundreds of building elements, including a new ball wheel element



## EV3 Expansion Set:

- Large collection of extra standard elements
- Special elements like a turntable, rubber tank tread inserts, and unique structural frames.
- All sets come with sturdy plastic storage bins for easy organization, storage, and transportation

# Robot Game Tournament Table Set-up

