Lake County Robotics Competition Guide

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Quick Links:

- LCRC Website:www.clcillinois.edu/events/lcrc
- CLC Engineering Website: www.clcillinois.edu/programs/egr
- Pitsco Tetrix Max Website:www.pitsco.com/Shop/TETRIX-Robotics/TETRIX-MAX
- CLC Maker Week Website: www.clcillinois.edu/events/makerweek
- Maker Faire Lake County Website: lakecounty.makerfaire.com/

START HERE

Welcome to LCRC

Welcome to the Lake County Robotics Competition! This is intended to be a fun intro to robots for 8th thru 12th graders. This document gives you an overview of how to get started and where to go to get the resources your team will need.

Description of the Competition

The LCRC is envisioned as a low cost, low barriers introduction to robotics using a competition framework. It is an alternative to the more formal competitions such as Vex, or First Robotics. LCRC is a logical next step to students aging out of the 4H Robotics Showcase, and is open to 8th thru 12th grade students, even if brand new to robotics. LCRC is considered a parallel program to First Robotics "First Tech Challenge" (FTC) and many rules are similar to that competition. Teams that desire a more in-depth competitive experience are encouraged to consider FTC or VEX.

The LCRC is sponsored in part by a grant from the Baxter International Foundation, and co-organized by the College of Lake County Engineering Transfer Department and the Holly Kim Foundation. Engineering students in the CLC Engineering Club help organize and mentor the teams, Maker Week Build Days, and events.

Forming a Team

Teams are normally made up of 8th through 12th grade students. If there is interest in including 6th and 7th grade students as part of a middle school team, please contact the coordinator Rob Twardock. Teams can be affiliated with a school, library, non-profit organization, but can also be independent. There is no limit on the number of team members, however experience shows teams of 4-8 members function best. Please note that middle schoolers can participate in the 4H Robotics program as an alternate. Contact Lake County 4H for more information on the 4H program.

Registration

Register your team here: www.clcillinois.edu/events/lcrc

Coaches

Teams normally need adult supervision in the form of a coach, advisor, etc. It is not necessary for the coach to be an expert in robotics to participate. The LCRC resources

include a Build Guide, Saturday Build Days at CLC, and Engineering students who can serve as mentors for teams who need assistance.

Mentors

If teams are in need of additional technical assistance, mentors are available. CLC Engineering students can help during the Saturday Build Days, and the LCRC is recruiting adult mentors to help as well. Contact the LCRC coordinator if you are interested.

Competition Rules

The rules can be found at LCRC Rules.

2019-20 Season Schedule

Teams are welcome to participate in any of the LCRC events all the way up to the finals.

- Saturday Build Days: 12/14, 1/11, 2/8, 3/14, 4/4
- Mid-Winter Scrimmage: February 18th; 5-9PM; CLC Auditorium
- LCRC Finals; April 21st, 2020, CLC Auditorium.

What you need to get started

If you have a robotics kit already, that's great. The LCRC is open source, meaning you can use any kind of platform you'd like. Vex, Tetrix, Lego, or customized kits are all acceptable. If you DON'T have a kit, loaner kits are available on a first come, first serve basis to help schools get involved. Contact Rob Twardock if you are interested. Once you have your kit, set a meeting time and place for your team, and start building! The LCRC Build Manual is an excellent resource. You do NOT need to be an expert on building or programming a robot, or have had past experience with a robotics competition. This competition emphasizes being open to beginner teams (and beginner coaches).

Moving On

Teams that are looking for a more challenging competition may consider First Tech Challenge or Vex, both of which have active participation among schools in Lake County and the greater Chicagoland area.

For more information:

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