



Hudson Valley FIRST Lego League Albany Academy Qualifier Tournament



Tournament Overview

Sunday, January 18, 2026

Hosted by Albany Academy, FTC Team 4809 "Botman", FTC Team 6955 "RoBovines"

Questions? Email John McNally, Tournament Director (McNallyj@albanyacademy.org) or Melia Gordon, Volunteer Coordinator (melia@collectivem.net)

General Event Info:

Sunday, January 18, 2026, 8:00am - 3:30pm

[Albany Academy](#), Silipigno Athletic Center, [140 Academy Road, Albany NY 12208](#)

We are expecting 24 teams from the Hudson Valley Region. The top teams will earn advancement to the FLL Championship at RPI in Troy, NY. Teams earning advancement will be announced at the Awards & Closing Ceremony. You can learn more about this year's challenge (called UNEARTHED) here: [UNEARTHED Robot Game Missions Video](#)

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

In order to pull off this event, we need adult volunteers to serve as judges and referees. We also need general volunteers to help in other roles such as queuers, concessions, crowd control, and the like. Training, breakfast and lunch are provided!

Follow these steps for event volunteering:

1. Create an account at <https://my.firstinspires.org/AccountManager/Account/Register> (choose "Log in" if you already have an account)
2. Click the Volunteer Registration tab & click 'Event Volunteering' (Search for the event by specifying "FIRST LEGO League- Challenge" and looking under zip code 12208.)
3. Filter events by area and/or program and select the Albany Academy event.
4. Select roles you are interested in (or assign me as needed if you are not sure)
5. Complete your required youth protection background screening (there is an option for FIRST to cover the cost, you do not have to pay anything) and consent and release form.

While all volunteers are welcome, our biggest needs right now are judges and referees.

- **Judges** select Team Award recipients through interaction with Teams. Documentation regarding Team background information is provided by the Teams. Judges interview and observe teams and then convene as a Judge Panel to decide Team Award recipients. Online training for this role is provided and all Judges need to pass a certification test.
- **Referees** observe Team Matches, identify and “call” rule violations. They calculate the official score of the Matches and participate in deliberations regarding contested calls. Referees play a critical role in ensuring smooth flow of Match play and maintaining the pace of the Event. Online training for this role is provided and all Referees need to pass a certification test. Referees work under the guidance of the Head Referee.

While these requirements might seem intimidating at first, you CAN do it! One awesome thing about the robotics community is that everyone is willing to help everyone else. You will be working alongside veteran volunteers who “know the ropes” and will help you be successful. PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING FOR THIS REWARDING EXPERIENCE!

Event Schedule (subject to slight changes):

8:00 – 8:30am Check – in for all FLL Challenge Teams

8:30 – 9:18am SCHEDULED PRACTICE RUNS AT THE COMPETITION TABLES (Coaches meeting at 8:30 am – 9:00 am)

9:25 – 9:40am Opening Ceremony

9:45am – 2:30pm FLL Challenge Competition

2:30 – 3:00pm Clear pit areas

3:00 – 3:30pm Awards Ceremony – All teams will be recognized during the award ceremony.