

Robotics Information Night March 22, 2023

[Recording \(Slides Review Portion Only - 25 min\)](#)

[Recording \(Full length - unedited - over 1 hour\)](#)

[Slides \(Link\)](#)

Q&A

Q1: Can students outside IL participate on an Illinois team?

A: Yes, but their participation is decided by the coach. The coach has full decision authority over their own team roster throughout the entire season. To participate in Illinois, a team needs to be registered to an Illinois address, but the individual students could reside outside of the state. If you have any further questions about this, please reach out to us.

Q2: What happens at an event?

A: Each team has 3 official/scored robot game rounds and one 30 minute judging session (covering Innovation Project, Robot Design and Core Values) dispersed throughout the day. The events are typically 6-8 hours. At the end there is a closing ceremony with awards.

Q3. Can a team have more than two coaches?

A: Absolutely! However the national registration through firstinspires.org will only allow you to designate two coaches. You can designate the additional people as mentors during the *FIRST* registration process.

Q4: Can we register a team and not compete?

A: Yes, you can register a team nationally, get all the materials and then go to an event to just watch. *FIRST* events are open to the public and you do not need to be registered as a team nationally in order to be a spectator. However, we highly encourage every team to try to participate in a competition. *FIRST* is a program where every student wins by participating because of everything they learn through the process. Teams learn so much more by participating at a competition, even if they didn't get as much done or are not as "ready" for the event as they wanted to be, as long as they go in with the right mindset. Events are an opportunity to both celebrate what the team has accomplished and for them to learn more and think about how they could work to improve in the future.

Q5: How many computers/laptops/tablets does a team need?

A: This will depend on how many students and how many robots you have for your team. Also team members will need access to the internet for research, so additional devices might be necessary.

Q6: Which is better, EV3 or SPIKE Prime?

A: This is difficult to answer because it depends on several variables and each platform has it's strengths and weaknesses. However, finding EV3 robot kits will likely grow increasingly difficult as they are no longer in production. Additionally, SPIKE Prime is supported by *FIRST* for technical support and materials in the Engineering notebook, including any "guided mission" support from FIRST will only be for the SPIKE Prime.

Q7: How difficult is it to move from Explore to Challenge?

A: It depends. Since *FIRST* LEGO League Challenge is a competitive program and has more for teams to do, at a minimum most teams will have either more frequent or longer meetings (or both) than most *FIRST* LEGO League Explore teams. The important part is to adjust your coaching to the level of your team members and provide adequate challenges so they can continue having fun learning.

Q8: Can we use the SPIKE prime app on chromebook?

A: Yes, but be aware that the app requires constant/steady/perpetual wifi.

Q9: What is the turnaround time for ordering your robot kit and the field and mission models?

A: Turn around can vary. You can register your team nationally starting in May. Once you register your team nationally, you can order materials. The sooner you order for your robot kit and field kit (mission models and mat), the sooner you should receive them. The robot kit orders are not held up and should arrive first. The field kits are sometimes held up to sync better with Challenge release in August. However, the sooner you place your order and make your payment for your materials, the sooner you will get them as they are cued up in the order they are received. We particularly recommend that school groups, when possible, try to order materials in May/before the school year ends rather than waiting until after school starts in August/September (however you will then have to make sure that any materials sent over the summer before the new school year starts are able to be received/do not get lost!)