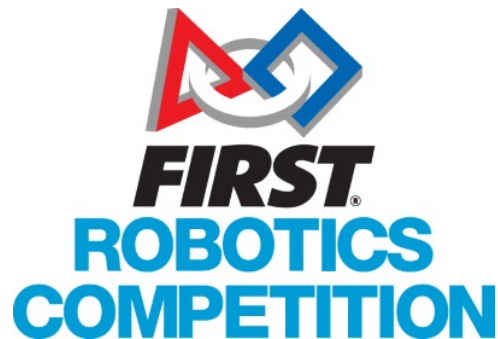
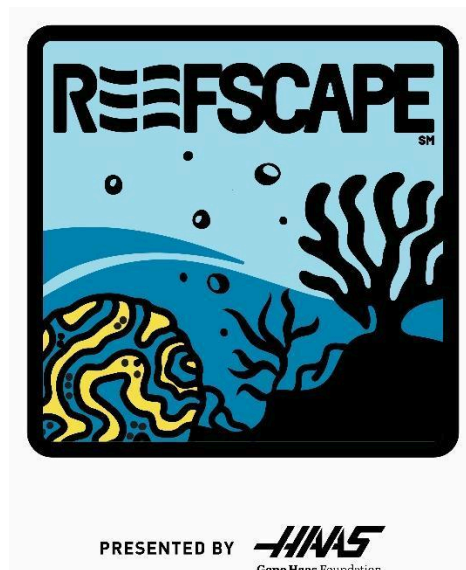


***FIRST*[®] Robotics Competition**

2025 Buckeye Regional

Wolstein Center, Cleveland, Ohio

Team Handbook



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Welcome!

Welcome to the Ohio *FIRST*® Robotics Competition Buckeye Regional.

FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a partnership of students, teachers, administrators, parents, corporate mentors, and community volunteers whose common goal is to create a challenging, hands-on environment that helps students grow into future engineers, scientists, inventors, and business people. Along the way, there's ample opportunity for personal development and achievement.

We have been hosting a *FIRST*® Robotics Competition in Cleveland since 1999 and are so excited to welcome teams to our community for another season. The diversity and international appeal of the contest is clearly demonstrated by the great teams participating in this event. We are also pleased to promote the college scholarships available to our *FIRST*® competitors - totaling over \$80 Million.

For those of you attending your initial *FIRST*® event, we encourage you to understand the game, watch the competition, and realize that these robots were built in just a few weeks. The teams were given certain common elements - motors, controllers, radios, and miscellaneous structural parts - to keep the competition safe and provide a base level of performance. From that point, the designs diverged markedly as a result of students and mentors collaborating to solve this year's *FIRST*® REEFSCAPE challenge presented by Haas.

We encourage you to tour the "pits" and talk to the team members about their robots and impressions of the *FIRST*® program. You'll be amazed by the enthusiasm that permeates these teams. While you're at it, ask the team members what Gracious Professionalism® means to them. Gracious Professionalism® is a way of achieving a goal that encourages high-quality work while respecting all individuals and their ideas.

The Buckeye Planning Committee would like to thank all the organizations and people that support *FIRST*® through funding, mentoring, education, motivation and all the other invaluable ways that help students achieve their best. We also thank the 150 volunteers that make an event like this possible. Special recognition needs to go out to the experienced *FIRST*® volunteers that traveled to Cleveland to make this an unforgettable event for the teams.

Enjoy the competition!

Ohio *FIRST*® Robotics Competition Buckeye Regional Planning Committee

2025 REGIONAL SCHEDULE

BUCKEYE REGIONAL

Competition Schedule

Wednesday, April 2 (Day 0)	
6:00PM - 8:00PM	5 Team Reps to Load In and Set Up Pits
6:00PM - 8:00PM	Limited Robot Inspections (Weight only)

Thursday, April 3 (Day 1)	
7:45AM	5 Team Reps to Load In
8:30AM	Pits, Machine Shop, Registration, and Inspection Open
9:00AM	Load-in Ends
9:00AM - 11:00AM	Driver's Meeting, Field Open for Measurement and Calibration
11:00AM - 12:00PM	Lunch
12:00PM - 6:00PM	Practice Matches
6:30PM	Pits and Machine Shop Close

Friday, April 4 (Day 2)	
8:00AM	Pits and Machine Shop Open
8:30AM - 8:50AM	Opening Ceremonies
8:50AM - 12:00PM	Qualification Matches
12:00PM - 1:00PM	Lunch
1:00PM - 5:45PM	Qualification Matches
5:45PM - 6:15PM	Awards Ceremony Mentor Parade
~6:30PM**	Pits and Machine Shop Close following Awards Ceremony

Saturday, April 5 (Day 3)	
8:00AM	Pits and Machine Shop Open
8:30AM - 8:50AM	Opening Ceremonies
8:50AM - 12:00PM	Qualification Matches
~12:00PM - 12:30PM	Alliance Selections (<i>begins 8 minutes after the end of Qualification Matches</i>)
12:30PM - 1:30PM	Lunch Senior Picture Alumni Picture
1:30PM - 5:00PM	Playoff Matches & Awards Ceremony
~5:30PM**	Pits close 30 minutes following the close of the Closing Ceremony

Activities Schedule

Thursday, April 3 (Day 1)	
	Events TBD
10:00AM-4:00PM	Career Exploration Showcase
	CSU Tours?
	National Anthem Auditions
	Women in STEM Session

Friday, April 4 (Day 2)	
	Invited Guest Event

Saturday, April 5 (Day 3)	
9:00AM-1:00 PM	Scholarship Row
9:00 AM-1:00PM	FIRST LEGO League & FIRST Tech Challenge Demonstrations

***Schedule subject to change. All times are estimated based on flow of rounds. See Pit Administration table for updated times.*

Event Dates & Location

April 2 - 5, 2025
Bert L. and Iris S. Wolstein Center
Cleveland State University
2000 Prospect Ave E
Cleveland, OH 44115

Load-In

Please remember your Gracious Professionalism and be courteous to others who are trying to load-in or out. We will be using the same load in procedure as last year, down the loading ramp.

Each team is allowed five representatives, one of which must be an adult, to load in their pit. This is in addition to the driver of the team's transportation (bus, van, trailer, etc.) who must stay with their vehicle at all times.

Teams are encouraged to use the **Wednesday Evening load-in times, from 6:00-8:00 pm**. We **ARE** allowing Wednesday evening setup, but the pits will close promptly at 8:00 pm Wednesday evening. If you cannot make this time you may load in and set up on Thursday morning from 7:45-8:30 am.

- 1) Teams enter down the loading ramp (East 19th Place) off Carnegie Avenue on the west end of the Wolstein Arena. This ramp will take you down to the loading area on the west end of the pit area at floor level (see map below). This is Gate C.
- 2) Please be patient and work with the venue staff orchestrating the flow of vehicles up and down the loading ramp. The loading dock can only accommodate so many vehicles of different sizes at one time, and the venue staff will help keep load in running smoothly.
- 3) The load-in area both outside and inside the building will be crowded at times so please be careful and courteous. It is critical that you consolidate your materials and pack your vehicle so unloading can be done quickly and safely. This will help reduce wait time for the other teams waiting in the queue to unload.
- 4) Each team will be assigned a holding location on the loading dock where the team will unload its vehicle contents. When the team vehicle is unloaded, the vehicle will need to leave the dock area. If the team is using the event/ODOT lot for their trailer, the team needs to pick up a parking permit from the load-in administration and attach/tape it to the outside of their trailer.
 - o When the team vehicle leaves the dock area the team will be given a pit setup permit and the 5-person pit setup crew (including at least one adult) can take their pit contents into the pit area and work on pit setup. For safety purposes, robots may be stored in a robot holding area in the dock area so that they are not in the pits during pit setup.
 - o REMEMBER ALL Team members entering the facility are **required to wear safety glasses.**

- o When you complete pit setup you can move your robot back into your pit, turn in the work permit to pit administration.
 - o The pit setup crew will be required to leave the venue through the main concourse of the Wolstein Center on the Carnegie Ave exit (Gate A).
 - o Teams loading-in on Thursday morning will follow the same procedure beginning at 7:45 am. Teams that finish pit setup on Wednesday will not be allowed back in the pits until 8:30 am.
- 5) **A driver must stay with the vehicle at all times while it is in the loading lane and area.** The driver can take the trailer to the ODOT lot. The vehicle can remain in the ODOT lot as well until pit set up is over (after load in, only trailers are allowed in this lot). Remember to pick up and attach the parking permit to your trailer.
 - 6) Teams arriving late on Wednesday and unable to complete their pit setup by 8:00 pm will be given the opportunity to finish on Thursday morning between 7:45-8:30 am. Teams in this situation should keep their pit work permit and use this to allow 5 team representatives to walk down the ramp to the loading dock to enter (They will NOT drive down the ramp!). The rest of the team can enter via the concourse at 8:30 am. **No work will be allowed on the robot during these load-in periods**, and an adult **must** be one of the 5 team representatives present.
 - 7) Don't forget your safety glasses! We have a very, very limited number this season so if your own personal



NEW for 2025 Limited Inspection during Wednesday Load-In!

As an OPTION for those teams attending Load-In on Wednesday evening, teams may begin robot inspection by checking robot weight! LOAD IN is still limited to 5 people, at least 1 must be an adult. Thank you to our Lead Robot Inspector and the Inspection team for helping to make this available for our teams.

Load-out

- 1) There will be 6 waiting stalls designated in the dock area.
- 2) When a team is completely ready to load out i.e. all materials packed and consolidated, **1 person will come to the loading dock to get their load out order and permit. They should not bring their pit with them.**
- 3) If there is space, they will be given an open stall to move their pit into.
 - a. When they are assigned a stall, the driver may go get the trailer
- 4) To avoid congestion, **the driver should not enter the ramp/dock area until the team is on the dock ready to go.** The driver should remain in the ODOT lot until the team is ready to load.
 - a. Please be patient and work with the venue staff orchestrating the flow of vehicles up and down the loading ramp. The venue staff will only permit teams who have been staged in a waiting stall to bring their vehicle down the loading ramp.
- 5) Once the team's vehicle arrives on the dock, the team needs to **promptly load** their vehicle and the vehicle must **depart promptly**.
- 6) The driver must stay with the vehicle at all times.

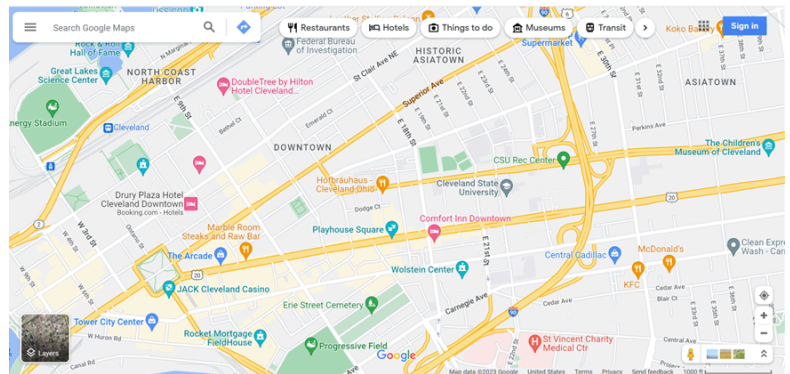
NOTE: Critical to the process are consolidated packing of pit materials, prompt unloading and loading, abiding by the process, and being graciously professional to fellow teams.

Parking for all other vehicles

Parking around the Wolstein center is always difficult. Please carpool when possible. There are a number of parking garages and lots surrounding the venue, but they often are full by Saturday afternoon.

Lodging

Many hotel accommodations are available nearby and may be found through an online search, [Downtown Cleveland Hotels](#) or [Hotels - Wolstein Center](#).



Nearby hardware / supply stores

- Sutton Industrial Hardware (long running hardware store) 3848 Prospect Ave E, Cleveland OH, 44115 ~ 0.9 Miles E
- Alexanders Hardware - 2337 E 55th St Cleveland OH, 44115 ~ 1.7 miles E
- Home Depot - Steelyard Dr, Cleveland, OH 44109 ~ 4.0 miles S
- Walmart Supercenter - 3400 Steelyard Dr, Cleveland, OH 44109 ~ 5.0 miles S

Venue Layout - Pit area - TBD

Team Box Lunches

Please Note: No outside food or drink allowed in the venue. Drinks available at the concession stand. Water fountains available by the bathrooms for refilling water bottles.

[Buckeye Team Box Lunch Order Forms](#)

Orders due by March 27. Send completed orders to brindza-teresa@aramark.com

Health and Safety Policy

subject to change

FIRST is closely monitoring news and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, local health agencies, as well as state and federal laws and regulations. The following precautionary measures are currently in place for the event based on these and Cleveland State University protocols. These measures may be updated as new information becomes available.

Attendees refers to all team participants, volunteers, public, and staff.

- Code of Conduct: All attendees are expected to follow the *FIRST* Code of Conduct, including demonstrating Gracious Professionalism at all times. All attendees are expected to comply with all health and safety signs that are displayed in waiting areas, near restrooms, in seating areas, and used to control traffic patterns and entrance and exit points.
- Self-Evaluation: All attendees are encouraged to perform a brief daily health self-evaluation to check for common symptoms of illness before entering the event. Attendees should not attend the event if they have symptoms of illness or have recently been in close contact with someone with symptoms of illness.
- Face coverings: Face coverings are optional for all attendees. Attendees are asked to bring a sufficient supply of suitable face coverings for the duration of the event.
- Safety Glasses: *FIRST* volunteers will not distribute safety glasses to teams. Please bring an adequate supply of safety glasses for your team and attendees on your roster. Those without safety glasses are asked to enjoy the event in any areas where safety glasses are not required.

Any person entering this event is required to abide by this health and safety policy and the [*FIRST* Code of Conduct](#). Non-compliance may result in removal from this event and being barred from future participation in *FIRST* activities.

Career Exploration Showcase

The Buckeye Regional is excited to host several schools and companies at the Career Exploration Showcase on Thursday, 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Come talk to experts from industry and academia about your future career. The showcase will feature a variety of business and professions. Learn what employers are looking for in an ideal candidate and explore the potential careers available to you!

Emergency Evacuation Plan

In the case of an emergency, please exit calmly using the following evacuation plan: [Evacuation Plan_Wolstein Center](#). Do not use elevators in case of fire or other electrical emergencies. Use marked exits. Each team should identify a meeting point outside of The Wolstein Center in the event of a venue evacuation.

FRC Updates

Keep up with the [Team Updates](#) and the [FRC Community Blog](#). There have been required updates announced in both the Team Updates and the FRC Community Blog. Please reference the links and confirm you are up to date. This will help to avoid significant delays in both your inspection and your matches.

FIRST LEGO League and FIRST Tech Challenge Demonstrations

Area teams from *FIRST* LEGO League and *FIRST* Tech Challenge will host a demonstration of this season's robots on the Concourse of the Wolstein Center, Saturday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. After the demonstration they are invited to join the fun, walk through the pits, and watch the rest of the event. We welcome these teams to see what we do in the *FIRST* Robotics Competition.

Inclement Weather

In the case of inclement weather, the venue will open early for teams to be seated in the arena. The Pit area will remain closed until its assigned time for opening. Teams cannot congregate in the main entrance and must be seated in the arena until pits open.

Incident Report Portal

Anyone can report a youth safety concern or medical incident to *FIRST* Headquarters using the *FIRST* Reporting Portal or by emailing safety@firstinspires.org:

Youth Protection Concerns: These can encompass a wide variety of issues impacting the safety of youth participants such as suspected abuse, bullying, harassment, discrimination, and/or questionable behavior or comments by adults.

Medical Incidents: All injuries or illnesses at a *FIRST* event, no matter how minor, must be reported. Incidents outside of events only need reporting if they involve *FIRST* materials, game design, or rules. For trip/slip/fall injuries, please include photos of the location, when possible, to help with documentation. Provide detailed information about the injury, immediate actions, and any follow-up care. Names can be removed for privacy, but key details like location and date/time are required. Accurate reporting helps improve safety.

Someone from *FIRST* will review youth protection reports and contact reporters, as appropriate/necessary. Anonymous Reports of Concern may be made on the *FIRST* Reporting Portal; however, the lack of contact information may impact our ability to follow up with the reporter and address the concern(s).

Judges Note

Due to the number of teams who compete for the Impact Award at the Buckeye Regional, it is challenging to complete all team interviews in a timely manner. Because schedule conflicts often occur, it is recommended (but not required) that teams choose Impact presenters who are separate from roles needed elsewhere during the competition (e.g. Drive Team or Pit Crew). This helps every team compete at their best both on and off the field.

Teams may have the opportunity to swap Dean's List or Impact interview slots, but both teams must agree to the time change and one mentor from each team must sign a form

acknowledging the interview slot time swap. Time slot swapping is only permitted on **Thursday**, when the schedules are released at Pit Admin.

Machine Shop

Many thanks to NASA and Sierra Lobo who are sponsoring our machine shop again in-house this year with Lathe, Mill, Drill presses, Band Saws, Belt Sander, and various Hand tools. Please be aware of what you are asking of the Machine Shop. This is not a shop to build a highly complex part or assembly. This is for quick fixes and repairs.

The Machine shop is located in the Loading Dock/Practice Area.

Media rules

Team Photographers will be provided seating in the stands. These seats are marked "Team Media Only". No team photographers are allowed on, in, or around the active game floor, area, queuing lines or inside the secured curtained off area of the main game floor. Team photographers are allowed outside the secured curtained area around the game floor and are welcome in the pits on the main floor.

Professional Media Channels and Newspaper Reporter will be escorted safely onto field locations by *FIRST* Media Coordinators. One row of chairs is reserved between the east end of the game floor and stairs for professional media, judges, and VIPs.

National Anthem

We are looking for teams or team members who want to try out to sing the National Anthem on both Friday and Saturday. Tryouts will be between 11:00 am - 1:00 pm at Gate B on Thursday and Friday. Please listen for announcements from Pit Admin or the Emcee for the location to meet. Only students who attend the tryouts and practices will be permitted to perform during the event.

Practice Field

TBD

Rosters

ALL teams must submit their Printed Roster to ALL regional competitions that they attend. The roster will include all attendees who are associated with your team (including both students and mentors) and must indicate a Signed Consent and Release Agreement for each attendee. Please do NOT forget to bring these.

Senior Photo

The Senior Photo will be taken soon after Alliance Selections Saturday around 12:30 p.m., on or near the playing field.

Scouting Seats

There is NO team media access to the competition floor. There is no seat saving at any time. Aisles must remain clear the duration of the event - please do not sit on stairs or crowd the walkways.

Team Ambassadors

If your team has students who would be great at talking with people, please have them sign up to be an Ambassador. Each Ambassador will have a nametag and will take our VIP's on tours after the VIP event on Friday. In addition, there will be a table at the entrance to the Wolstein (Gate A) on Friday and Saturday to take visitors on tours and answer questions. Students will work in shifts so they won't be on duty for the whole competition. Interested students can volunteer at www.firstinspires.org. Log in to the *FIRST* site then go to the Volunteer tab and find the Buckeye Regional and volunteer as an Ambassador.

Team Banners

There are no locations in which Team Banners can be hung in the arena. Teams are asked to respect the University and refrain from hanging signs and banners.

Volunteering

Volunteering at the Buckeye Regional is a great way to get to know the details of the *FIRST* Robotics Competition. Simply follow the prompts on your firstinspires.org dashboard and register. We ask volunteers to be available for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and Judges to be available Friday and Saturday. Many positions are available for those who may be arriving with a team Thursday morning.

Team extra activities

There are a variety of attractions and activities in Cleveland. Below are a few options that are available, information is subject to change. We hope that your visit to Cleveland is enjoyable on and off the robot field.

1. Great Lakes Science Center

<https://greatscience.com/>

Address: 601 Erieside Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Phone: 216-694-2000 or 216-696-4941

Hours Open: Wednesday-Saturday 10:00 am-5:00 pm, Sunday 12:00-5:00 pm

Group Discounts at <http://www.greatscience.com/groups/group-rates.aspx>

Food: Available

2. Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

<https://www.rockhall.com/>

Address: 1110 E.9th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Phone: 216-781-7625 or 888-764-7625

Hours Open: Open every day 10:00 am-5:00 pm

Extended hours Thursday: 10:00 am-9:00 pm

3. Cleveland Museum of Natural History (**Newly Renovated!**)

<https://www.cmnh.org/>

Address: 1 Wade Oval Dr., Cleveland, Ohio Phone: 216-231-4600

Hours Open: Tuesday-Sunday: 10:00 am-5:00 pm

Advance ticket purchase required

4. Cleveland Museum of Art

www.clevelandart.org

Address: 11150 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44106 Phone: 216-421-7350

Hours Open: Tuesday – Thursday 10:00 am–5:00 pm, Friday 10:00 am–9:00 pm,

Saturday & Sunday 10:00 am–5:00 pm

FREE, Traveling Exhibits may require tickets for admission

Food: Available, CAFÉ

5. Movies & Theater

a. Playhouse Square: there are theater performances, 1501 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44115, Phone: 216-771-4444

For more information go to: <https://www.playhousesquare.org/>

b. Cinematheque: Peter B. Lewis Theater at the Cleveland Institute of Art, 11610 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio Phone: 216-421-7450

General Admission: \$10 - \$13 to each film, Age 25 & under: \$7-\$10

For more information go to: www.cia.edu/Cinematheque.

6. Places to eat: <http://www.cityvisitor.com/cleveland>

a. University Circle: <http://www.universitycircle.org>

b. Euclid Corridor & Cleveland State Area: google “Cleveland State Restaurants”

c. Downtown Cleveland: google “Downtown Cleveland Restaurants”

d. Flats on the River (West & East Banks): google “Cleveland Flats Restaurants”

e. At all museums

Please note: The schedule, activities, team participation, and items in this handbook are subject to change. All times are estimated based on flow of rounds. We'll do our best to keep you informed of changes or additions.

