



2025 ReadyCT/FIRST® Rookie Team Grant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Where do I start? - Grant Webinar at 3:30 PM on May 27, 2025

There will be a webinar to review the application process and answer questions. Please follow this [zoom link](#) to join the meeting.

Would my team be considered a 'Rookie' team?

For the purposes of this grant application, a team is considered a rookie team if the school or organization it is affiliated with did not have a *FIRST* team for the past three seasons; for FRC teams, please refer to the *FIRST* team definitions found [here](#).

How do I decide which program level is right for us?

Familiarize yourself with the program descriptions and grade recommendations below. Explore the website firstinspires.org. Still unsure? Contact Lisa Nollman at lisa.nollman@readyct.org.

What are the *FIRST* program levels?

FRC (Grades 9-12) - Teams design, build, and program robots starting with a standard kit of parts and a common set of rules to play in a themed head-to-head challenge in an alliance format. Teams also build a brand, develop community partnerships for support, and work to promote STEM in their local community. Recommended size is 10 or more students.

FTC (Grades 7-12) - Teams design, build, and program robots to compete in an alliance format against other teams. Robots are built from a reusable platform, powered by Android technology, and can be coded using a variety of levels of Java-based programming. Maximum of 15 students per team.

FLL Challenge (Grades 4-8) - Friendly competition is at the heart of Challenge as teams of students engage in research, problem-solving, coding, and engineering - building and programming a LEGO robot that navigates the missions of a robot game. Maximum of 10 students per team.

FLL Explore (Grades 2-4) - Teams of students focus on the fundamentals of engineering as they explore real-world problems, learn to design and code, and create unique solutions made with LEGO® bricks and powered by LEGO® Education SPIKE™ Essential Sets. Maximum of 6 students per team.

FLL Discover(Grades Pre-K-1) - This playful introductory STEM program ignites students' natural curiosity and builds their habits of learning with hands-on activities in the classroom and at home using LEGO® DUPLO® bricks.

What do I need to consider as I plan to start a *FIRST* team(s)?

- Coaches - You will need two adult coaches to register a team. Coaches can be teachers, parents, or other adults who are ready to inspire youth. *FIRST* is built on a foundation of [core values](#). Team coaches must be screened by *FIRST* which includes youth protection training and a background check.
- Teacher/coach stipend - This can be covered for the 2025-26 season and is typically only needed at higher levels.
- Meeting space - FLL programs can meet in a classroom. FTC and FRC teams will require a work space to build their robot and practice matches.
- Storage for supplies - You will want a secure space where the team can store robots, projects, tools, etc.
- Mentors - At higher levels teams often benefit from adults who share their professional skills such as coding, CAD and project management.
- Transportation considerations - Plan for getting students to and from meetings and competitions.

What is the screening process for coaches?

Here is a link to the [FIRST® Youth Protection Program](#)

When are the competitions/events?

FRC: March-April

FTC: January-February

FLL Challenge: Mid-November-early December

FLL Explore: December-March

FLL Discover: Class packs share within their organization

FIRST Season Launches

Check out this season's theme below by clicking on the image. The season challenge for each program will be released on the following dates.

Aug. 5, 2025 FLL

Sep. 6, 2025 FTC

Jan. 10, 2026 FRC

