Consolidated Team Blast CenterStage

December Blast

Volunteers needed at all events

Note FTC IL expects that every team will provide 2 volunteers for each event. This a great way to connect with your students. Step up and volunteer.

Alumni Pins

FTCIL would like to honor our graduating seniors with a Alumni pin- to be picked up at the league Championship. Please record the # of pins need on this form

Dean's List Nominations will be Due Jan 15 info see Mentors/coaches must review the Dean's List Nomination Guide prior to making their Dean's List nomination. Nominations must be made using the Team Registration System. Please select the appropriate nomination guide for your region.

Monthly Meeting for Coaches- to login-

Shira Shataig- the state Judge Advisor will present
Meeting link meet.google.com/etj-ikqw-hhy
Join by phone(US) +1 252-843-1060 PIN: 356187539
This is a monthly coach call in meeting for the 2023/2024 CENTERSTAGE season. All coaches /

mentors that were added through registration have been invited.

Next Meeting Tuesday Jan2, 2024 · 8pm – 9pm (Central Time - Chicago)

Accommodations-

IF you have a student or students who need accommodations- please send Jonathan a note. FOr example you might have a student who might need a quiet room, or a pit location that is easily accessible by a wheel chair.

Grants For Illinois FTC Teams- Here is what a team said w.r.t the VRS Challenge

The VRS Challenge seemed overwhelming at first, but after doing the challenges we realized it could really help our team learn how to code. This was a very fun and interactive fundraising activity for our team. - Colin

VRS is challenging, but easy to learn. It can help rookie teams with little experience in coding. Overall a great opportunity! - Emma

Our team was hesitant to try the VRS Challenge. We now have a better idea of basic coding. We even had a team member realize that maybe coding wasn't as scary as it looks. - Coach Hanna

Team Type	need based-up to	what you need to raise	what we match
1st-year teams	Up to 12 teams	$ 1,500.00	1 to 1
1st-year Title 1 teams	up to 12 teams	$ 1,000.00	3x
2nd-year teams	up to 8 teams	$ 750.00	1 to 1
2nd-year Title 1 teams	up to 11 teams	$ 500.00	2x
Veteran Title 1 teams-title 1	up to 20 teams	$ 600.00	2x

Complete the Illinois FTC Teams Grant application form and Take the VRS Challenge

Need help using the VRS-contact Jonathan It only take 25 minutes to get the $.

FTIL recommends 1 field for League Championships with 21-22 teams.

Why- in a 2 field event- with 21 teams- 16 teams are in the que or on the field -There is little time to repair robots/replace batteries etc. Most importantly, the teams will not have time to adequately interact with the judges 50% of the advancement to state is based on Judging. Also, the need for trained volunteers like referees and FTA"s is magnified. IF you can have 3 rounds of judging vs 4 or5 you save 20-30 min

Inspection Hints

Some Suggestions to make a 1 field event flow smoothly. Every team should come to the event with a preinspected robot. Some key reasons teams fail inspection and slow down an event.

1. The team numbers are not 2.5 inches tall- and easily visible
2. The red/blue alliance a marker is not 3 inches from the team number
3. Teams build to the 18 inch dimension- 17.5 is better
4. ZIp ties/ Intakes tips go beyond 18 inches.
5. Drones should be made from red or blue paper- and have a wing and fuselage.

October Blast

Monthly Meeting for Coaches- to login

Meeting link meet.google.com/etj-ikqw-hhy
Join by phone(US) +1 252-843-1060 PIN: 356187539
This is a monthly coach call in meeting for the 2023/2024 CENTERSTAGE season. All coaches / mentors that were added through registration have been invited.
Notes - 2023/2024 IL FTC Coach Meetings
Next Meeting Tuesday Nov t, 2023 · 8pm – 9pm (Central Time - Chicago)

Setting up your Roster

HQ now has an Express Enrollment application that is built for parents and guardians to quickly register youth participants in a few simple steps through mobile and desktop web browsers. *FIRST* lead coaches and mentors with completed *FIRST* **Youth Protection Screenings** can generate web links or QR codes in the *FIRST* **Dashboard** to share with parents and guardians of their youth participants, granting access to the application. Parents complete the process using their cell phone

Review Team Status-Are you/your team able to join a league.

Please check the FTC-IL website (note this is updated every 2-3 days https://www.firstillinoisrobotics.org/ftc/registration/registration-status/ to make sure that you have registered with FTC-IL and that you have **paid** your state registration fee.

Need to pay-need an invoice download a one from:
https://www.firstillinoisrobotics.org/ftc/registration/

Express Enrollment application

The new Express Enrollment application, you can generate web links or QR codes in the **_FIRST_ Dashboard** to share with parents and guardians of youth participants to invite them to register for _FIRST_ and join the team roster.

Donors Choose-set up a project.

Begin creating your project by logging in to your DonorsChoose account.
·   HQ has money for FIRST-FTC projects See
https://tinyurl.com/Donors-Choose-FIRST

Donors Choose

 Do you teach at a Equity Focused school and **have never made** a Donors choose project -The Bezos Family Fund wants to help you. 2x match
https://tinyurl.com/Donors-Choose-Bezos
·   IL FTC might be able to make a small donation to your project

Grants For Illinois FTC Teams

Team Type	need based-up to	what you need to raise	what we match
1st-year teams	Up to 12 teams	$ 1,500.00	1 to 1
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2nd-year Title 1 teams	up to 11 teams	$ 500.00	2x
Veteran Title 1 teams-title 1	up to 20 teams	$ 600.00	2x

Complete the Illinois FTC Teams Grant application form and Take the VRS Challenge

Need help using the VRS-contact Jonathan

September Blast

Donors Choose-

- All Illinois Teachers would benefit from creating a Donors Choose project (A typically project is less than 250 words
- After your first successful campaign you can increase the number of vendors that you utilize.
- I suggested you purchase some tools from Amazon for your first Donors Choose- then you can do a Gobilda request...

Here are some Suggested Tips to help teachers in creating their Donor Choose projects:

- Include the words "*FIRST*" and "STEM" in their project title and description, including the specific FIRST Program and Team number is helpful as well
- Smaller dollar amount projects tend to be funded quicker than larger projects (try to keep projects under $2k)
- Encourage teachers to share their project with their parents, pta, communities! The more they share, the more potential donations they will receive.
- *FIRST* Team and/or Class Pack registrations are NOT eligible to be included in Donors Choose projects

General Motors is supporting STEM projects from male teachers of color click
Tracy Family Foundation is supporting select counties in Illinois-Adams, Brown, Cass, Greene, Hancock, McDonough, Morgan, Pike, Scott, and Schuyler click
United Airlines is doubling donations for STEM projects in Chicago click

Grants

Only For Illinois FTC Teams

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Complete the Illinois FTC Teams Grant application form Complete the Illinois FTC Teams Grant application form and Take the VRS Challenge via https://tinyurl.com/IL-FTC-Grant-Challange

For $500 for CPS Chicago 1st year(rookie) or CPS Second year Teams
https://bit.ly/Chicago-1st-or-2nd-year

Sept -pre Kick Off Blast

Coach Meeting Sept 5-8pm-needs link
Kickoff events - Sign up Now!
Watch Illinois Kickoff Online
Join our Statewide Kahoot!
Grants for FTC teams
Register Now to Play for 2023/202
$100,000 in Team Grant Support available for Illinois FTC teams

Remote Professional Development Sessions (Global)

September Coach Call - 9/5 at 8:00 PM
Video call link: https://meet.google.com/aeb-yrrp-mdm
Or dial: (US) +1 252-713-7246 PIN: 972 404 523#

Kickoff events - Sign up Now!

Get a strong start to the season by attending one of our season kickoff events in Illinois.

Teams in Illinois have multiple options for attending a kickoff event. Visit our kickoff page on firstillinoisrobotics.org or click the links below to sign up.

- Chicago Area / Statewide / Online - Grainger Headquarters, Lake Forest, IL
- Southern Illinois - Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Edwardsville, IL
- Western Illinois / Eastern IA - Augustana College, Rock Island, IL
- Peoria League Kickoff - Quest Academy, Peoria, IL

Watch Illinois Kickoff Online

If you can't make a kickoff event in person, consider watching the live stream of the Chicago area kickoff on Twitch. https://www.twitch.tv/illinois_ftc

Tentative schedule:
- 9:00 - 9:30: Functional Java programming with the VRS
- 9:35 - 10:05: Judging from the Judge's Perspective
- 10:10-10:40: Prototyping and Design
- 10:45-11:00: FTC Illinois - Looking Forward w/ Jonathan Weiland

Please fill out the [Chicago Area form](#) and let us know you will be watching online.

Join our Statewide Kahoot!

In conjunction with our livestream we will be holding a Statewide Kahoot!

- Sign up using your first name and team number - eg, Jonathan3785
- Top prize is an Rev Robotics Expansion Hub
- All questions are based on [Game Manual 1](#)

Grants for FTC teams

$100,000 for FTC Illinois Teams

Grant Directions https://tinyurl.com/FTCIL-CS-GrantRules

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There are several grant opportunities at local and national levels to help with funding your team for the season.

- National
  - FTC SIM $1000 Argosy Rookie Team Grant https://bit.ly/43cDeZQ

- Local Grants - If you live in:
  - You are in Adams, Alexander, Bond, Brown, Bureau, or Mercer Counties
  - You are in Rock Island
  - You have parents that work for BAE, Boeing, Dow Chemical, Bosch, CSX, Casey's, Jewel, or Ameren
  - Check out this list at https://tinyurl.com/FTC-Grant-opps for more details

Register Now to Play for 2023/2024

Our registration process has been updated this year.   Please see the most up-to-date registration instructions at https://www.firstillinoisrobotics.org/ftc/registration/

Register by 9/30 to guarantee a spot in league play for 2023/2024.

Remote Professional Development Sessions (Global)

FIRST® will be hosting several remote Professional Development sessions in September through February 2024 for *FIRST*® LEGO® League Discover, Explore, Challenge, and *FIRST*® Tech Challenge. These professional development opportunities are great for new coaches and teachers. More information can be found on our **website** and registration is through **Eventbrite**. If you have questions, email **firsteducation@firstinspires.org**

Mid-August Blast

[Kickoff events - Sign up Now!](#)
[Watch Illinois Kickoff Online](#)
[Join our Statewide Kahoot!](#)
[Grants for FTC teams](#)
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  - You have parents that work for BAE, Boeing, Dow Chemical, Bosch, CSX, Casey's, Jewel, or Ameren
  - Check https://tinyurl.com/FTC-Grant-opps for more details

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June Blast

Response Needed - Is your team returning

We are starting to plan for next year.   Please take a minute to fill out a short survey and let us know if your team is returning next season.

Survey - https://forms.gle/4ag4yA4ACjWifse49

2023/2024 CENTERSTAGE Kickoff - Register your intent

Register your intent to participate in one of our kickoff events via the returning team form.

Survey - https://forms.gle/4ag4yA4ACjWifse49

Illinois Registration Deadlines for 2023/2024

Teams will need to pay their National ($295) and State ($235) registration fees by Sept 20. You will not get a league placement until these fees are paid.

Control Equipment available

Control Hubs are in stock and ready to ship by mid July or sooner. Driver hubs are also instock. See your FIRST storefront for more information.

New Funding Option Available - Hack Club Bank

Thinking about setting up your own 501(c)(3)? Check out Hack Club Bank. This new option is built by FIRST alumni for FIRST teams, Hack Club Bank is a comprehensive financial platform used by hundreds of clubs, teams and hackathons.

Note: When you set up your teams 501(c)(3) via Hack Club Bank, you get a debit card - no need to send receipts in and wait to get reimbursed

https://hackclub.com/bank/first/

Hardware Changes for 2023/2024 Season

While we await the release of Game Manual 1, there are early indications that most Motorola phones will not be supported this season.

Team Registration Updates Coming

Look for changes to team registration this season. The updated student team signup process will now take 60 seconds to sign consent forms and join your team. All on a cell phone. Coming in September.

Monthly Coach Meetings Resume August 1st

Our monthly coach meetings will resume on August 1st.   Details to follow.
Consolidated Team Blast CenterStage