



**INFINITE
RECHARGE™**

2019-20 *FIRST* Robotics Competition

What if you could build a better world? Where would you begin?

If you would like to start a *FIRST* Robotics Competition team in your area, we welcome you and promise to provide you with all the support, ideas, and encouragement you need to succeed!

Remember: *NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED* AND YOU ARE NEVER ALONE!

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7 essential steps to starting a *FIRST* Robotics Competition team

1. Register and find support resources

First, familiarize yourself with the *FIRST* Robotics Competition. Then locate your region's Regional Director or *FIRST* Senior Mentor. These people know the *FIRST* teams, participating schools, and *FIRST*-friendly businesses in your area. He or she can help you form a plan for getting your team funded, organized, and in touch with other teams in the area.

- [Register](#) early starters increase chance of success!
- [How To Start A Team](#)
- [Contact Local Support](#)
- [Team Email Blasts](#)
- [Blog](#)

2. Enlist Coaches & Mentors

Each team needs at least one adult Mentor with technical expertise willing and motivated to “coach” the team through the build and competition season (and beyond). Also highly recommended are two or more other adults to help with administration, fundraising, community outreach, and other tasks.

- [FIRST Mentoring Guide](#)
- [Non-Engineering Mentor Organization \(NEMO\)](#)

3. Registration and Payment

Registering your team's information makes you a part of the huge *FIRST* Robotics Competition community. You'll begin receiving communications from *FIRST*, along with a temporary team number in preparation for event registration in the fall. Create a team roster link to submit with your registration. (Please note that completing this stage of the process does not commit you to becoming a team.)

Registering includes event registration and ordering the Kit of Parts. We've made it easy to pay your team's fees with favorable terms, online payments, discounts for rookie teams, and more.

- [Registration Pricing Structure](#) - [Ontario District](#)
- [Payment Terms](#)

- **Grants**
- **Kickoff Events**
- **Regional and District Events**

4. Build your team

Find and invite at least 10 students who want to be part of a robotics team (the easiest part!). Be sure to emphasize that no technical skills are required, just enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. Recruit all kinds of talents, not just engineering and electronics.

5. Raise funds

Your team will need a steady supply of funds. Recruit local businesses to sponsor you. Many of them may already have a relationship with *FIRST*. We also have many fundraising opportunities you can explore. Grants are available for both rookie and underserved teams.

- ***FIRST* Fundraising Toolkit**

6. Learn about safety

At *FIRST*, student safety is always paramount. Every adult must become familiar with our Youth Protection Program (YPP). Take the time to watch our videos and read our youth protection materials.

- ***FIRST* Safety Manual**
- **Youth Protection Program**

7. Time to Build Robots! (Quick Builds, Kick Off, Build Season Jan-Feb)

Part of the fun is designing and building your robot and *FIRST* provides a wealth of information in our **Resource Library** to help you. Find everything from technical guides, to fundraising ideas, or fun activities for your team.

- **Behind the Lines**
- **Season Calendar**
- **Workshops and Conferences**

Supports

- [Next Steps](#) for Rookie Teams
- * [Argosy Rookie grant](#) Plan ahead for early completion
- [Rookie Google Group](#) available supports & information
- [Team resources](#)
- “[10 Steps to Rookie Success](#)” presentation
- [Online Help Desk](#) available 24/7
- [FIRST HUB](#) – Mississauga, Richmond Hill, Windsor
- [FRC webinars](#) archived for opportunities to get ahead
- CODING - set up in your preferred language for coding your robot
 - See <https://wpilib.screenstepslive.com/s/4485>
 - Setting up [Eclipse](#) Youtube video
- [Ask the Expert](#) - webinars
- [Fundraising](#) opportunities
- [Team Handbook](#) - all sub-group roles identified
- [Play Book](#) - Prepare for build season – align team up with another team for Kick Off weekend
- Watch Ri3D – Robot in 3 Days – sample completion of robots ([Compass Alliance review](#))
- Begin school board permission forms for competition trips including [Provincial Champs](#) and [Detroit World Championships](#)

Conferences & Offseason Events

- 2056 Ways to Inspire Conference - [Stoney Creek](#)
- Offseason events
- [SWATposium](#) Conference in Oakville

Game Related Information

- Review previous years’ [Game Manual](#) to understand project scope
- Download the previous year’s [Kit of Parts](#) list to see what you get
- Prepare for competitions – watch other events from previous year competitions – [The Blue Alliance.com](#)

One huge **predictor of rookie success** is to constantly ask questions by calling or emailing.

Need Help – call/email John Hobbins 416-606-6934, John.hobbins@firstroboticscanada.org
and Paul Keenan 905-868-6766, pkeenan@firstinspires.org