



2009 Challenge To be Announced September 3, 2009 "Transforming Transportation"

Can *FIRST* LEGO League teams transform the way we look at transportation? The key to the 2009 "Smart Move" Challenge is accessing people, places, goods and services in the safest, most efficient way possible. In this journey, teams will consider many modes of transportation beyond their daily routine and streamline their options by making smart moves!

How to Start a *FIRST* LEGO League Team

- Teams are defined as having 3 – 10 participants. Teams can be a mix of grades & ages. Note: A child cannot be older than 14 on Jan. 1st of the year the challenge is announced.

1. Forming a Team: Finding Participants and Coaches

- Hold an informational meeting for your school or group in spring or very early in September – explain the program, timeframe and costs.
- Talk to parents, your PTO/PTA, your principal, your school district, or an interested teacher.
- Recruit other coaches or a co-coach. At least 2 coaches per team are recommended.
- There are always interested kids, they just need a coach!
- No experience is necessary to coach.

2. Team Costs

One Time Fees

- \$395 for a LEGO Robot Set, called an NXT. This is the robot kit, including MINDSTORMS software and parts to build and program your robot.
- \$40 to build a 4'x8' plywood surface for the Robotic Challenge. Specifications are at www.usfirst.org.
- Computer needed for programming. A laptop is very helpful, you will need to bring this to the tournament.

Annual Costs

- \$200 National Registration - goes to *FIRST*.
- \$65 Field Setup Kit – this is the roll out mat and mission models specific for each year.

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Optional Costs

- 0 - \$30 for Research Presentation Materials
- 0 - \$30 Team T-shirts

3. FINANCING OPTIONS

- School, District or PTA/PTO pays all or a portion.
- Donations/Sponsorship/Grants from parents' workplace or local businesses.
- Team members split costs equally, as a participation fee.

4. Registration

NATIONAL REGISTRATION – <https://gofill.usfirst.org>

Registration opens in May and continues through September, until all slots are filled, or until they run out of kits. You will receive your team number, Coaches' Handbook, *FIRST* DVD, Challenge Project Training DVD, and support from *FIRST* headquarters. You buy your robot and kit from *FIRST* on this website.

STATE REGISTRATION –

Registration for the ND Tournament opens November/December.

5. First Year Coaching and High Tech Kids support for you and your team

- Kids do the work and teams are student lead, however, you will need to provide guidance. Team members may need to be taught basic skills; such as programming, robot building techniques, the research process, and presentation skills.
- E-Mail is our primary way of communicating with teams.
- Contact Cheryl Osowski at UND Engineering for rookie coaches/team resources.
- Leonardo's Basement offers classes for coaches and team members in robot building, programming, and other areas of expertise. www.leonardosbasement.org.

6. Timeframe

May – September 30.....National Registration with *FIRST*
Early September..... Research Question & Robotic Challenge Announced
Late November/Early December..... ND Tournament Registration
End January..... ND State Championship Tournament

7. Resources

FIRST Websitewww.usfirst.org
NDFLL Website. <http://www.engineering.und.edu/FLL/index.html>
Email..... cherylosowski@mail.und.edu
Phone 701-777-3390

FIRST, the nonprofit For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, along with LEGO, created the *FIRST* LEGO League program. *FIRST* authors the annual robot and research project challenge.