

FIRST Robotics Competition Greater Pittsburgh Regional presented by Argo AI

HANDBOOK FOR TEAMS AND VOLUNTEERS



PRESENTED BY

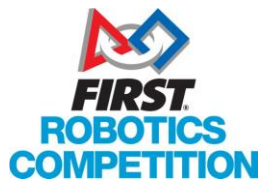


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Welcome

Welcome to the *FIRST*® Robotics Competition Greater Pittsburgh Regional

We are delighted to have all of you - students, parents, teachers, sponsors, volunteers, and spectators - with us for this special occasion, our twenty-first year of the *FIRST* Robotics Competition in Western and Central Pennsylvania.

Greetings to our Greater Pittsburgh Regional teams and welcome to those who traveled long distances to be here with us! We look forward to seeing how you solved this year's *FIRST* Robotics Competition challenge, Charged UpSM presented by The Gene Haas Foundation. Week 6 will mark the culmination of months of hard work, creative problem solving and incredible teamwork. On the arena floor, you will test your design, strategy, and fabrication skills. You have learned what it means to be part of a team and you have contributed to its success. In the spirit of *Gracious Professionalism*®, your opponents will become your friends and colleagues – for years to come.

To all of our volunteers, mentors, teachers, and parents: Thank you for your year-round support to create this outstanding opportunity for our students. Your investment of time and energy has been significant, and you have served as terrific role models. You have positively impacted this next generation of innovators, educators, engineers and leaders and you should be proud of your accomplishments!

To all our sponsors and partners: you play a critical role thanks to your commitment of funding, volunteers, internships, and leadership. You know the importance of a workforce that is technically astute, innovative, and energized and recognize that *FIRST*® participants are the future workforce that keeps our country competitive in the global economy. And in these times of economic uncertainty, we are even more appreciative of those of you who have stepped up to help us continue this all-important event. This Regional and *FIRST* year-round STEM related activities have been made possible thanks to your support!

We invite everyone to join us to cheer for these students as they put into play lessons and skills learned over the past several months. Watch them compete on the arena floor and visit them in the pits. Talk to them and congratulate them! They are all winners! They are our future.

On behalf of the leadership of *FIRST* Western & Central, PA we wish all participating team members great success, volunteers amazing fun, and spectators super charged excitement! Best of luck to everyone!

The *FIRST*® Greater Pittsburgh Regional Planning Committee

COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy

Updated August 1, 2022, subject to change

FIRST closely monitors 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, as we continue to plan the *FIRST* Western and Central PA events including Greater Pittsburgh Regional. The following precautionary measures are currently in place for the event. These measures may be updated as new information becomes available.

Attendees refer to all participants, volunteers, staff, spectators, and guests.

- **Code of Conduct:** All attendees are expected to follow the [FIRST Code of Conduct](#), including demonstrating Gracious Professionalism at all times.
- **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 in all indoor event areas. Attendees are asked to bring a sufficient supply of [suitable face coverings](#) for the duration of the event if desired. A Face shield is not a suitable face covering.
- **Vaccination:** Vaccination greatly reduces the risks associated with COVID-19. We strongly recommend everyone who is eligible and has access to a vaccine consult with their physician and be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, with booster shots if applicable, prior to attending the event.
- **Social Distancing:** When possible, attendees are encouraged to practice social distancing and to remain in cohorts to limit interactions with those outside of their group. Attendees are expected to practice good hand hygiene. Please be mindful of high traffic areas such as the concession stands, seating areas, and the pit area. Be mindful to limit the number of attendees in the pit area to pit volunteers, those who are directly related to working on the robot, and their mentors. All other attendees are invited to enter the pits in short visits.
- **Safety Glasses:** *FIRST* volunteers will not distribute safety glasses to teams this year. 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.

Mentors Meetings before the Event

Regular bi-weekly Coach/Mentor meetings will be held beginning Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 7:00 p.m. Eastern time to answer questions about the event and discuss topics that are relevant to this year's game. These meetings will not be recorded, are not mandatory, and all are welcome to attend. Please contact the Regional Director if you would like to be included in the meetings. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Program Book

[The Greater Pittsburgh Regional Program Book](#) will not be distributed via paper copy throughout the event as in previous years. Cards with QR codes with the link to the program book will be included with your team packet. The QR code may also be found on the Pit Admin Table. The program book is available for self-printing:

[Program Book Print File](#)

Event Rules Manual

The official *FIRST* Robotics Competition Event Rules Manual may be found at:
<https://www.firstinspires.org/resource-library/frc/event-experience>

Wifi Availability

The Greater Pittsburgh Regional event does not include wifi for volunteers, teams, and participants. Please refrain from using wifi hotspots during the event.

Event Location

[David L. Lawrence Convention Center](#) (map link)

1000 Fort Duquesne Blvd.

Pittsburgh, PA 15222 USA

Venue website: [David L. Lawrence Convention Center](#)

Event Website: [FIRST Western & Central PA](#)

Pittsburgh Attractions

Nearby Pittsburgh attractions, Parking, dining, lodging and nearby Pittsburgh attractions may be found at www.visitpittsburgh.com.

Lodging

Many hotel accommodations are available nearby and may be found through an online search.

Load In

The load in process will take place 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday evening and 7:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Thursday morning. Please allow for extra travel time as there may be heavier city traffic in the evening and morning than the rest of the day.

Please remember your Gracious Professionalism® and be courteous to others who are trying to load-in or out as well.

Refer to the [David L. Lawrence Convention Center Plan Book](#) for floor plans and more information about the venue.

Using page 7 of the Plan Book for reference, enter the load-in ramp to the Convention Center on the northwest corner of the building (top left). Choose the right ramp at street level to Level Two. Once inside the building, turn left and follow the directions of the Load-In volunteers. The event will be in Hall B and Hall C of the Convention Center. You will be unloading at Hall C – Pit Area.

Vehicles may not remain at the loading dock while teams set up their pits. Once unloaded, the vehicle should leave the Convention Center area by turning around and exiting the building in the same direction that was entered.

Only five members per team will be allowed in the Convention Center for load-in. The standard *FIRST* safety rules will be in effect at the time of setting up the pit area. Please see the [FIRST Robotics Competition Game Manual](#) for more information.

Teams are encouraged to use the Wednesday Evening load-in times, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Teams that are unable to load-in Wednesday night may begin loading in their tools, materials, and robot through the Loading Area beginning Thursday morning, 7:45 a.m.

- Teams may only send in five people for load-in – remember safety glasses!
- At least one person must be an adult.
- Teams are encouraged to bring two adults as one adult needs to move the vehicle before loading in team materials.
- Please have all materials ready for load-in. Boxes, totes, etc. are much easier to move than individual items.

Thursday morning, the rest of the team members may be dropped off at the Convention Center Entrance. Referring to page 5 of the Plan Book, the best drop off is Tenth Street South under the second level of the building. When viewing the page, you will notice the Convention Center Parking garage to the right of the Drop Off.

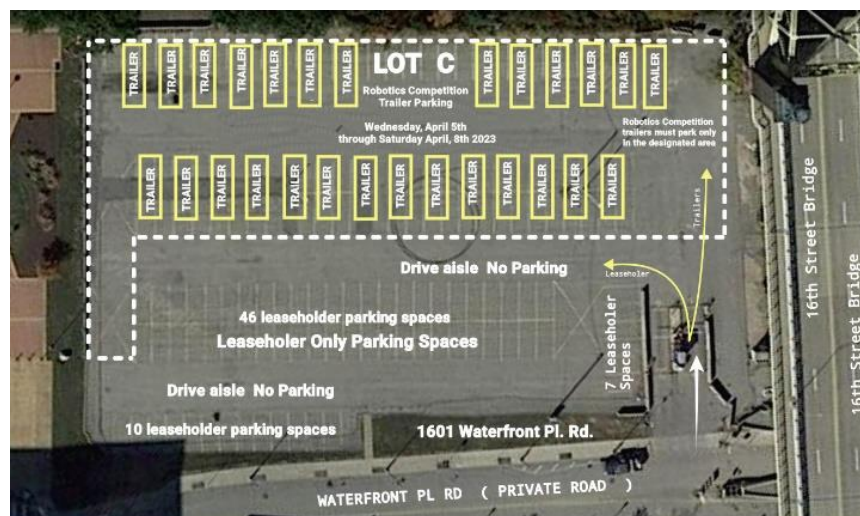
During Load In, teams may begin to set up their pits and work on the robot. The venue closes promptly at 8:00 p.m.

Parking

The [Convention Center Parking Garage](#) is the closest available parking. The rate is \$13.00 per day and is available for all passenger vehicles, small trucks, and vans. Other nearby lots are [Alco Eleventh & Smallman](#) and [Alco Eleventh & Waterfront](#) across the street from the Convention Center.

The [Grant Street Transportation Center](#) on the corner of Eleventh Street & Penn Avenue is the least expensive transportation center downtown for passenger vehicles, small trucks, and vans. This center is one block from the Convention Center.

Oversized vehicle parking is available for busses, tractor trailers, box trucks, and truck/trailer combinations at \$20.00 per day at the Waterfront Lot C, 16th & Waterfront, Pittsburgh. The lot is a few short blocks from the Convention Center near the Strip District. Please print and complete the form on the next page of this handbook and follow the instructions to secure parking for oversized vehicles. The gates will be up and you may enter and exit the lot as many times you wish for the days your are assigned.



THE GREATER PITTSBURGH REGIONAL SPONSORED BY ARGO AI

TRAILER PARKING REQUEST

ALCO PARKING CORPORATION

STRIP DISTRICT LOTS

Oversized Vehicle - Waterfront Lot C, 16th & Waterfront, Pittsburgh, PA

\$20.00 per day. One day = 12:00 a.m. through 11:59 p.m.

Please complete this form and email to alco@pittsburghcc.com, attn: Dan

Credit Card Payment Only. Please call: 412-325-6144 to arrange payment. Leave message if there is no answer so an attendant may return your call.

Contact Name: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Vehicle State License Plate: _____

Type of Vehicle, etc., Bus, Tractor Trailer, Box Truck, Truck w/Trailer:

Arrival Date (Circle): Wed. 4/5 Thur. 4/6 Fri. 4/7 Sat. 4/8

Departure Date (Circle): Wed. 4/5 Thur. 4/6 Fri. 4/7 Sat. 4/8

Additional charges may apply for additional space(s) used.

The lot is parking only. **Absolutely NO** Tailgating, Camping, Cooking permitted.

Vehicles must park in the designated area.

Safety Glasses

Please remember to have your safety glasses handy when you load in. Wednesday evening or Thursday morning, not have them packed away. You will need them to get into the pits.

Safety glasses are required to be worn on and around the playing field and in the pit area per the Event Rules Manual. The pit area includes all of Hall C of the Convention Center. **FIRST volunteers will not distribute safety glasses to teams this year. Please bring an adequate supply of safety glasses for your team and visitors you invite.** Those without safety glasses are asked to enjoy the event in any areas where safety glasses are not required.

Team members will be allowed a 10-minute grace period to retrieve their safety glasses from their pits at the start of pit opening or load-in. Please note: This grace period is just to retrieve safety glasses. If robot work or pit set-up is being done, safety glasses must be worn, with no exceptions.

Personal Safety

According to the Event Rules Manual E101, Personal Safety Comes first. Please refer to the event rules manual for personal safety guidelines including; wear closed toed/heeled shoes, tie back long hair while working on or around a robot or robot related materials, wear appropriate clothing, and walk while in the venue.

Gender Diversity

Gender diversity is welcome here. Please use the restroom that best fits your gender identity or expression.

Contacting Other Teams

Please take a look at two Facebook Pages that are a great way for you to communicate with other local teams and the teams who will be attending the Greater Pittsburgh Regional.

- [FIRST Western and Central PA Robotics](#)
- [The Steel City Robotics Alliance](#)

Team Check-In

ALL teams must submit their printed roster from Event Registration to ALL regional competitions they attend.

- Either the Main or Alternate mentor may check in the team at Pit Admin.
- Team check-in is available either Wednesday evening or Thursday morning when your team arrives.
- Please **REMEMBER to bring a printed roster** that includes all attendees who are associated with your team indicating a Signed Consent and Release Agreement for each mentor and student team member. While electronic indication of a signed Consent and Release Agreement is preferred, paper copies of the 2023 Consent and Release Agreement are acceptable.
- When submitting your roster, please cross off any names on the roster of individuals who will not be attending the event. Leave the names on the roster even if the attendees will be at the event for a portion of the total time, such Friday morning only.
- Double check that all names on the roster have completed the Consent & Release form electronically. This will be indicated by a check-mark to the far right of the name.
- Please include a phone number on the roster where the two lead adults of the team may be reached in the event of an emergency, such as a mobile number rather than an unattended school number. Also please check that a voice mail message may be left, and the mailbox is not full.
- When you check in, you will receive an event packet specific to your team such as the team's media pass as well as other information about the event.
- You will receive a brief Team Information Update Sheet in your event packet that includes information about your team. Please make any changes on the sheet and return it to Pit Admin by Thursday, 2:00 so the Game Announcers may change the information they have about your team.

Team Pre-Order Meals

The deadline for teams to pre-order lunch meals is Friday, March 24, 2023.

Team Onsite Meals

The Convention Center Concession stand is card only – no cash sales and will be open:

Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.,
Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Rooftop Terrace and The South Terrace will be open for you to enjoy your Pre-Order or Concession Stand meals outdoors.

Please note: **Outside food and drink are NOT allowed at the venue.** Likewise, no heat sources such as coffee pots, microwave ovens, etc., are allowed in the pits.

Menu selections and pricing is subject to change. Pricing does not include 7% sales tax.

BBQ Pork.....	\$10.00 ea
Chicken Tenders with Fries	\$12.00 ea
Hot Dog.....	6.50 ea
Hamburger/Cheeseburger	\$10.00 ea
Burger Combo.....	\$15.50 ea
Blackbean Burger with Slaw	\$10.00 ea
Entrée Salad	\$8.00 ea
Side of French Fries.....	\$6.00 ea
Bavarian Pretzel.....	\$7.00 ea
Cheese Cup.....	\$2.00 ea
Giant Chocolate Chip Cookie.....	\$4.00 ea
Assorted Candy	\$3.50 ea
Fountain Soda – 16 oz.....	\$4.75 ea
Fountain Soda – 22 oz.....	\$5.25 ea
Bottled Water – 20 oz.	\$5.00 ea
Juice – Bottled	\$5.50 ea
Sports Drink.....	\$6.00 ea
Large Coffee/Hot Tea	\$4.50 ea
Regular Coffee/Hot Tea	\$3.50 ea

Team Offsite Meals

Many reasonably priced meals are available within walking distance to the convention center.

[Venue Floor Plan](#)

Please see the [Floor Planning Guide](#) of the David L. Lawrence Convention Center for more information.

[Machine Shop](#)

A machine shop provided by NASA will be available at the Hall C loading dock.

[Practice Field](#)

A practice field will be located in the pit area, Hall C. The field will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. The practice field closes when Alliance Selection begins.

[Volunteering](#)

Volunteering at the Greater Pittsburgh 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. Limited one-day assignments are also available. Please add the note when you volunteer if you would like to volunteer for only one day, but do not have a preference which day.

Parking validation for the Convention Center Parking Garage is available for each day a volunteer is assigned to a role through their [firstinspires](https://firstinspires.org) dashboard. Please visit the Welcome Table in Hall A to have your ticket validated.

[Team Ambassadors](#)

If your team has students who would be great at talking with people, please have them sign up on their firstinspires.org dashboard or at Pit Admin. Each ambassador will have a name tag that signifies they are an ambassador. The Ambassadors will wear their team T-Shirts to show off their team spirit, take our VIP's and other guests on tours of the pits, and should be prepared to answer questions about themselves, their team, and this year's competition. The ambassador's welcome table will be located in the front entry of Hall A, Friday and Saturday. Students will staff the table in shifts and won't be on duty for the whole competition.

Media Passes

- The team will be issued one media badge at the beginning of the competition.
- The Team Media person MUST queue up with the team.
- The badge must be visible.
- Only one Team Media person may be on the field.
- The Team Media person may move about the perimeter of the field outside of the carpet, except for the section in front of the scorekeepers when the team is on the playing field.
- At no time will media be allowed on the field during matches or otherwise.
- The Team Media person is asked to be mindful of others, to keep out of the way of traffic, or may be asked to leave the area.
- The Team Media person may not coach others.
- The Team Media person is asked to please be mindful that Referees need to see the field and will move around the field.
- The Team Media person needs to leave the area immediately following the match.
- The removal of a badge may be determined by the Head Referee or FTA if rules are not followed.

A number of “Step and Repeat” and other floor banners will be placed throughout the exhibit halls showcasing the logos of the sponsors. Please take photos of your teams in front of these banners and tag our local sponsors with a note of appreciation.

We are asking each Team Media Person to submit 20 or so of their best images by 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Email the Regional Director at dfrownfelter@firstinspires.org.

Please Identify your images with your team number.

Reserved Seats for VIP's

Reserved seats in mid-field are intended for VIP seating to have a view of the competition field. This area will be used by the Judges during opening and closing ceremonies. A few other seats will be reserved for Judge Match Observers. Please respect the judge seating reservations.

No other seats may be saved at any time. Seat saving devices will be removed.

Dean's List and Impact Awards Signup

Sign-up sheets with prescheduled team and student time slots for the Dean's List and Impact Awards will be available at Pit Admin. beginning Thursday 1:00 p.m.. Time slots may be switched with another team or individual with agreement by both parties. See Pit Admin for details.

Participants of the 2023 Greater Pittsburgh Regional

48	Team E.L.I.T.E.	Warren, Ohio, USA
59	RamTech	Miami, Florida, USA
117	Steel Dragons	Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, USA
120	Red Dragons	Cleveland, Ohio, USA
337	Hard Working Hard Hats	Whitman, West Virginia
378	Circuit Stompers	Newfane, New York, USA
379	The RoboCats	Girard, Ohio, USA
677	Murphy's Outlaws	Columbus, Ohio, USA
930	Mukwonago BEARs	Mukwonago, Wisconsin, USA
1559	Devil Tech	Victor, New York, USA
1591	Greece Gladiators	Rochester, New York, USA
1708	AMP'D Robotics	McKeesport, Pennsylvania, USA
1781	Lindblom Electric Eagles	Chicago, Illinois, USA
1787	Flying Circuits	Pepper Pike, Ohio, USA
2051	The Beattie Bulldogs	Allison Park, Pennsylvania, USA
2053	Southern Tier Robotics	Vestal, New York, USA
2172	Steel Unit-E	Lakewood, Ohio, USA
2638	Rebel Robotics	Great Neck, New York, USA
2656	Quasics	Monroeville, Pennsylvania, USA
3171	HURRICANES	Westhampton Beach, New York, USA
3181	Pittsford Panthers	Pittsford, New York, USA
3193	Falco Tech	Austintown, Ohio, USA
3260	SHARP	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
3484	Short Circuit	Marysville, Ohio, USA
3504	Girls of Steel	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
3954	4-H Electrotechs	Emlenton, Pennsylvania, USA
4027	Centre Punch	State College, Pennsylvania, USA
4050	Biohazard	Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, USA
4085	Technical Difficulties	Reynoldsburg, Ohio, USA
4145	WorBots	Columbus, Ohio, USA
4150	FRobotics	Export, Pennsylvania, USA
4467	Titanium Titans	Washington, Pennsylvania, USA
4991	Horsepower	Bridgeville, Pennsylvania, USA
6032	Pirate Robotics	Dayton, Ohio, USA
7165	Perkins Pirates	Sandusky, Ohio, USA
7274	Brashear Bulls Robotics	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
7515	Dark Side Robotics	Williamstown, West Virginia, USA
7570	New Tech	Zamosc, Lubelskie, Poland
8140	RoboManiacs	Cleveland, Ohio, USA
8145	Tech Warriors	Cleveland, Ohio, USA
8222	The Argonauts	Cleveland, Ohio, USA
8243	AstroCircuits	Cleveland, Ohio, USA
8393	The Giant Diencephalic Brain STEM Robotics Team	Baden, Pennsylvania, USA
8705	Sci-Tech FRC	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
8861	06ANGORA	ANKARA, Ankara, Turkey
9004	FRC @ Milliones	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
9022	Marion Center Robotics	Marion Center, Pennsylvania, USA
9139	Reserve Robotics	Hudson, Ohio, USA

2023 Greater Pittsburgh Regional Activity Schedule

Competition Schedule

Wednesday	
6:00PM-8:00PM	5 Team Reps to Load In and Set Up Pits

Thursday	
7:45AM-9:00 AM	5 Team Reps to Load In
8:30AM	Pits, Machine Shop, Registration and Inspection Open
9:00AM-11:00AM	Driver's Meeting, Field Open for Measurement and Calibration
11:00AM-12:00PM	Lunch
12:00PM-6:30PM	Practice Matches
8:00PM	Pits and Machine Shop Close Teams exit the building

Friday	
8:00AM	Pits and Machine Shop Open
8:30AM-9:00AM	Opening Ceremony
9:00AM-12:00PM	Qualification Matches
12:00PM-1:00PM	Lunch
1:00PM-5:45PM	Qualification Matches
5:45PM-6:15PM	Awards Ceremony
6:30PM**	Pits and Machine Shop Close Immediately Following Awards Ceremony. Teams exit the building.

Saturday	
8:00AM	Pits and Machine Shop Open
8:30AM-9:00AM	Opening Ceremony
9:00AM-12:15PM	Qualification Matches
12:15PM-12:30PM	Alliance Selections
12:30PM-1:30PM	Lunch
1:30PM-4:30PM	Playoff Matches and Awards Ceremony
5:00PM	Pits Close 30 Minutes Following Awards Ceremony. Teams exit the building.

Team Activities Schedule

Thursday	
9:30AM-4:00PM	Homework Study, Room 332
9:00AM-11:00AM	Safety Captain Meeting Immediately Following Driver's Meeting, North of the Air Force Human Mission
11:00AM-12:00PM	<i>FIRST</i> Ladies Meet-Up, Room 331
4:00PM-8:00PM	VIP Open House

Friday	
8:00AM-4:00PM	Air Force Human Mission, Exhibit Hall C
8:00AM-6:30PM	T-Shirt Memories, Near Pit Admin
11:00AM-3:00PM	Scholarship Row, Exhibit Hall A
12:15PM-1:00PM	Mentor's Meeting, Mentor's Lounge, Room 338, Bring your Lunch
5:40PM	Mentor's Parade, Playing Field

Saturday	
8:00AM-6:30PM	T-Shirt Memories, Near Pit Admin
10:00AM-12:00PM	<i>FIRST</i> LEGO League Explore, <i>FIRST</i> LEGO League Challenge, and <i>FIRST</i> Tech Challenge Demonstration, Exhibit Hall A
10:00AM-1:00PM	Scholarship Row, Exhibit Hall A
12:10PM-12:15PM	Mascot Parade, Playing Field
12:30PM	Senior Photo, Playing Field

A Quiet Room is available during the event, Room 337.

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

Activities

Quiet Room

The Quiet Room is a monitored, quiet, relaxing space intended to help team members and adults with lower sensory limits to unwind from the competition, located on Level Three, Room 337.

Mentors Lounge

The Mentors Lounge is a quiet, relaxing space intended for a place for mentors to take a break from the competition. Who are we kidding, it's the adult homework room. We know you won't always be able to leave work behind when you are having fun with robots and kids. Located on Level Three, Room 338, we ask to enjoy this room with the adult mentors and parents travelling with the team. Coffee will be provided 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

A Tribute to Woodie Flowers

A full-size color cutout of Woodie, wearing his famous signature denim shirt will be displayed at the Regional near Pit Admin. To carry out the tradition of Woodie's shirt signing, a denim shirt will be near the cutout for YOU to sign. Once you sign the shirt, you are committing to carry on Gracious Professionalism in all that you do. Woodie loved to talk to you and share your excitement for *FIRST*, but more importantly he wanted you to get the most out of the *FIRST* experience by behaving as though your grandmother was watching! We hope that by signing the shirt you will honor the legacy that Woodie established.

Homework Study

We understand your sacrifice as a student to be at *FIRST* Robotics Competitions during school hours and realize your efforts to juggle your schedules. Level Three Room 332 will be available for students to use to study Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please use Gracious Professionalism in the Homework Study as students need a quiet place to work on their assignments.

Safety Captain Meeting

The Safety Captain Meeting will be held by the Safety Manager immediately following the Driver's Meeting, north of the Air Force Human Mission, Exhibit Hall C. Please plan to have your designated Safety Captain attend the mandatory meeting. The Safety Manager will give the Safety Captains important safety information and will let them know more about the Safety All Star Award.

[FIRST Ladies Meet-Up](#)

Team 3504, Girls of Steel, is hosting the *FIRST* Ladies Meet-up Level Three Room 331, Thursday, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Tables will be available for you to bring your lunch. All are invited to attend a panel discussion featuring STEM professionals who will participate in a Q&A session about their experiences and give advice for students pursuing STEM careers.

[Local Sponsor Visits](#)

Local program Sponsors will visit the teams in the pits and throughout the event. The busiest time is expected to be Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Consider becoming a student ambassador to show off what *FIRST* is all about. Plan to enjoy some conversations with our local sponsors, and request to have your photos taken at their banners, share bling, and extend thank you's.

[Air Force Human Mission](#)

We welcome the US Air Force as one of our newest partners in *FIRST* Robotics Competition Western and Central PA, who are bring us The Human Mission display, Friday 0800 to 1600. Please stop by the display to see all the US Air Force has to offer.

[Scholarship Row](#)

Please join us at Scholarship row in Exhibit Hall A. More than \$80 million of scholarship funds is available to *FIRST* members. Meet some of the colleges who offer these scholarships as well as gather information on other scholarship opportunities. Days and times may be found on the schedule.

[T-Shirts](#)

T-Shirts and other event apparel will be available next to the Pit Admin tables in Hall C.



Mentor's Meeting at the Event

The Mentor's Meeting at the event is scheduled for Friday, 12:15 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Mentor's Lounge Level Three Room 338. Tables will be available for you to bring your lunch for a "Town Hall" meeting. Mentors, coaches, and parents of all teams are welcome to attend. This meeting is not mandatory and is intended as a check-in around the middle of the event to address your concerns, comments, and suggestions to enhance your visit.

Mentor's Parade

The Mentor's Parade is scheduled for Friday, around 5:40 p.m., around the playing field between Qualification Matches and the Awards Ceremony.

FIRST LEGO League, Explore, FIRST LEGO League Challenge, and FIRST Tech Challenge Demonstrations

Area teams from *FIRST* LEGO League Explore, *FIRST* LEGO League Challenge, and *FIRST* Tech Challenge will host a demonstration of this season's robots in Event Hall A, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 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.

Mascot Parade

The Mascot Parade is scheduled for Saturday around 12:10 p.m., around the playing field between Qualification Matches and Alliance Selections.

Senior Photo

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

Combined Double Elimination Matches and Award Ceremony

The Double Elimination Match Play is a pilot for the 2023 season. We want to hear from you after the event. If you have any feedback, please email dfrownfelter@firstinspires.org. The award ceremony will be combined with the Elimination Matches.

The following is the list of judged team awards in the order of their presentation during the award ceremony:

1. Highest Rookie Seed Award
2. Imagery Award
3. Gracious Professionalism Award
4. Team Spirit Award
5. Rookie Inspiration Award
6. Autonomous Award sponsored by Ford
7. Creativity Award sponsored by Rockwell Automation
8. Quality Award
9. Industrial Design Award sponsored by General Motors
10. Innovation in Control Award
11. Excellence in Engineering Award
12. Team Sustainability Award
13. Judges' Award
14. Rookie All-Star Award
15. *FIRST* Dean's List Finalist
16. Engineering Inspiration Award
17. Regional Finalist Award
18. Regional Winner Award
19. *FIRST* Impact Award
20. Wildcards

Load Out

Staging your gear and loading out may begin right after alliance selection. During Load-out, Teams will need to have all their materials staged and ready to load before having their vehicle pull up to the loading dock. If the team isn't ready to load out when the vehicle is next in line, we will ask the driver to circle back for another position in line. Once your gear is loaded out, please join us for the Combined Elimination Matches and Award Ceremony.

Team Survey

A team survey will be sent to you after the event. Please complete the survey before the deadline. We want to hear from you in order to address your concerns and improve our event.

Volunteers

Before the Event

Once you are assigned a role, please take a look at the [Volunteer Event Roles and Training](#) found on the website for more information about your role, the training that may be necessary and information on other roles as well. You will receive information from your Volunteer Coordinator either before the event or in your event packet when you arrive at the venue.

Volunteer Check-In

Wednesday volunteers are to report to the field at 10:00 a.m. for field setup and at the Pit Admin at 5:30 p.m. for team load-in. Lunch for field setup will be provided at no charge from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Dinner will be provided at no charge from 4:30 to 6:30.

Judges are scheduled to arrive 7:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday and check-in at the volunteer table, Level Three of the Convention Center. You will then be directed to the the Judges' Deliberation Room #336 for a hearty breakfast. Please check in each day you are assigned a role. Judges will receive a judge shirt. If you already have a judge shirt from past events, please wear it proudly to the venue. They have not changed from previous years.

Other Volunteers are scheduled to arrive 7:00 a.m. Thursday, Friday, and(or) Saturday outside the Volunteer Lounge, Level Three of the Convention Center, Room 333/334 for volunteer check-in and a hearty breakfast. Please check in each day you are assigned a role. When you check in, you will be given a volunteer T-Shirt, information about your position, and other goodies. The Volunteer Lounge is a secure place for you to put your coats, backpacks, and other items.

Parking Validation

Parking validation for the Convention Center Parking Garage is available for each day a volunteer is assigned to a role through their firstinspires dashboard. Please visit the Welcome Table in Hall A to have your ticket validated.

Hydration

The events days are long. Please be mindful to be hydrated throughout the day. Water stations are available in the Judges' Deliberation Room, the Volunteer Lounge, at the scoring table in Hall B and at the EMT table in Hall C. The water stations are from a continuous water supply. You may use your own refillable water bottles for a fill-up.

Volunteer Meals

Meals will be provided buffet style to you at no charge in the Volunteer Lounge or Judge's Deliberation room each day you are scheduled to volunteer. Some volunteer positions may have staggered lunches. The position lead or Volunteer Coordinator will be sure you don't miss a meal. Other volunteers, such as those on the playing field, will all eat at the same time according to the public schedule. Judges will eat their meals in the Judges' Deliberation room.

Volunteer Meal Schedule

Wednesday

Coffee	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Lunch	11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Dinner	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Thursday

Breakfast	7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
Lunch	11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Dinner	5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Friday

Breakfast	7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
Lunch	11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Saturday

Breakfast	7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
Lunch	11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Judge Meal Schedule

Thursday

Dinner	6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Reception begins 5:30 p.m.)
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Friday

Breakfast	7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
Lunch	11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Saturday

Breakfast	7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
Lunch	11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please note: **Outside food and drink are NOT allowed at the venue.**

Safety Glasses for Volunteers

Please remember to bring your safety glasses. Safety glasses are required to be worn on and around the playing field and in the pit area per the Event Rules Manual. The pit area includes all of Hall C. You will not need to wear safety glasses when you are outside of the Field area in Hall B, outside of Hall B. Please see the Volunteer Coordinator if you need a pair of safety glasses.

Volunteer Attire

Please dress comfortably and wear comfortable shoes. Shoes must have closed toes and heels. Crocs or similar sling-back sandals are not acceptable. For health and safety reasons, volunteers are required wear long pants including casual dress pants, jeans, and/or leggings. Black pants for referees are preferred but not required.

Contact Us

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. Please contact Daphne Frownfelter, Regional Director, with any questions or concerns at dfrownfelter@firstinspires.org, 610-401-4310.