



FIRST LEGO® League



Frequently Asked Questions

What is FLL?

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is an organization founded in 1989 to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. FLL introduces children ages 9-14 to real-world engineering challenges by building LEGO-based robots to complete tasks on a thematic playing surface. The children are scored on how well their robot completes the tasks. They are also judged on teamwork, robot design, and a research project based on the year's theme.

In 2008, the Museum of Nature & Science became the Affiliate and Operational Partner for the North Texas Region. The Museum coordinates and oversees all FLL events for the North Texas area. The largest of these events is the Regional Championship Tournament, typically held in January of each year.

When is the tournament?

Saturday, January 21, 2012
Event time is 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Where is the tournament?

The Hockaday School
11600 Welch Road
Dallas, TX 75229
www.hockaday.org

What volunteer positions are available?

There are over 150 volunteer positions available in 8 basic categories:

Technical Judge (engineering background preferred)	Judging Assistants
Project Judge (engineering background preferred)	Competition Assistants
Teamwork Judge	Event Set-up
Referee	Event Strike

What is the time commitment?

The FLL Tournament is a long, full day of excitement and learning. While we recognize that most of the assignments are long, managing a volunteer schedule with changing shifts during the day is not possible. On event day, there is a too much going on to facilitate a volunteer staff change. Please remember that when you sign up to volunteer, you are committing to serving the full duration of your assignment.

Event set-up volunteers need to be at Hockaday by 3 p.m. on Friday, January 20; the duration of this assignment is approximately 5 hours.

Event-day volunteers (Judges, Referees and Assistants) need to arrive at 6:30 a.m. on the day of the tournament and will be done with their obligations around 5:00 p.m. Breakfast, lunch, and snacks will be served.

Event strike volunteers need to arrive at Hockaday by 4 p.m. on Saturday, January 21; the duration of this assignment is approximately 5 hours.

How will I be trained on my role?

All event-day volunteers must attend a mandatory 2-hour training session on Saturday, January 7, 2011. The purpose of this critical training is to provide you with an overall sense of the event, familiarize you with the campus layout, and instruct you on your specific role(s) for the day of the event.

What are the physical requirements?

Volunteers for event set-up and event strike should be able to comfortably bend at the waist and knees, and should be capable of lifting 25 pounds.

Most event-day assignments require volunteers to stand for long periods of time. We will make every attempt to rotate volunteer assignments during the day so that you are not standing all day long. For example, if you are stationed at a position that requires standing in the morning, we will try to switch you to a less active role in the afternoon. This is why attending the training is essential. If you are trained on multiple roles, we have more flexibility with the schedule. Volunteers who attend the training will be given priority assignments and rotations.

Is there an age limit for volunteers?

The vast majority of volunteer positions will be filled by adults and college students. There are a limited number of positions available for responsible high-school students. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate volunteers under the age of 16.

How do I sign up to be a volunteer?

Please send the following information to Fyve Hilton at fhilton@natureandscience.org:

1. Name
2. Email address
3. Cell phone number
4. Preferred volunteer position
5. Relevant science / work background
6. Shirt size

All volunteers must pass a background check prior to volunteering at the tournament.

How do I get my son/daughter involved on a team?

Unfortunately the Museum cannot distribute team contact information. If you know a child between the ages of 9-14 that would like to be involved in FLL, you have several options:

1. Contact the child's school and see if they already have an FLL team that has an available spot.
2. If the child's school does not have a team, encourage them to start one.
3. Offer to become a team coach. There are great resources for coaches at www.usfirst.org.
4. Visit *FIRST's* TeamUp Page to try to find a team in your area
https://my.usfirst.org/FIRSTPortal/login/fc_login.aspx?s=fc.
5. Connect with local coaches on the North Texas coaches' forum
<http://groups.google.com/group/northtexasfll>.

For more information on FLL, please visit the following websites:

www.natureandscience.org/first-lego-league
www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/fll