



# HOW IT WORKS

AGES  
14–18\*

GRADES  
9–12

We express the *FIRST* philosophies of *Gracious Professionalism*® and *Coopertition*® through *FIRST* Core Values:

- **Discovery:** We explore new skills and ideas.
- **Innovation:** We use creativity and persistence to solve problems.
- **Impact:** We apply what we learn to improve our world.
- **Inclusion:** We respect each other and embrace our differences.
- **Teamwork:** We are stronger when we work together.
- **Fun:** We enjoy and celebrate what we do!

Each January brings a new challenge for *FIRST*® Robotics Competition teams. Starting with a Kit of Parts, they design, program, and build industrial-sized robots to play an action-packed game on a themed field as part of a three-team alliance. Students learn engineering and problem-solving skills as they compete for awards, create a team identity, raise funds, hone teamwork skills, and advance appreciation for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) in their community.

*FIRST* Robotics Competition is a sport where all participants can choose to become a professional.

## WHAT IT OFFERS:

- Students work on teams alongside professionals who mentor and guide them.
- Build and compete with a team-designed robot.
- Learn and use professional hardware and software.
- Develop skills in design, project management, programming, teamwork, strategic thinking, and *Coopertition*.®
- Compete in front of cheering crowds for judged and competition awards at action-packed, multi-day events, qualifying up to the *FIRST*® Championship.
- Gain access as participants and alumni to education and career discovery opportunities, connections to scholarships and employers, and a place in the *FIRST* community for life.
- Have fun as part of an engaged and supportive community.

## GET STARTED:

- Recruit high-school students and at least two adult mentors per team.
- Identify financial sponsors and a meeting space with tools. Teams form in schools, after-school programs, home schools, and community groups.
- Attend Kickoff in January for game details and receive your Kit of Parts, which includes an optional guided Kitbot robot build to help you get started.
- Compete in exciting, sports-like events to earn awards and build community.

**"It's not just about robots. It's about building self-confidence, respect, and important relationships with people who invent new technologies to make a better future."**

— DEAN KAMEN, FOUNDER, *FIRST*

[www.firstinspires.org/frc](http://www.firstinspires.org/frc)

\*Suggested ages



**FIRST doesn't just work, it is the gold standard.  
Proven impact on workplace skills\***



**87%** confidence in approaching problems in science and technology



**98%** accept input and feedback from others



**87%** sense of team identity and belonging

## SEASON OVERVIEW

### MAY

Registration for the season opens

### JANUARY

Season Kickoff and start of build season

### FEBRUARY-APRIL

Regional and district competitions

### APRIL

*FIRST*<sup>®</sup> Championship

### SUMMER/FALL

Off-season events and prep for next season

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT *FIRST* IN YOUR AREA [www.firstinspires.org/find-local-support](http://www.firstinspires.org/find-local-support)



*FIRST*<sup>®</sup> prepares young people for the future through a suite of life-changing youth robotics programs that build skills, confidence, and resilience. Because our programs are *More Than Robots*<sup>®</sup>, students build self-confidence and collaborative problem-solving skills as they conduct research, fundraise, design, build, and showcase their achievements. Founded as a nonprofit organization in 1989 by inventor Dean Kamen, *FIRST* is backed by a global network of mentors, educators, volunteers, sponsors, families, alumni, and program delivery partners.



\*SOURCES: 2023 *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> Robotics Competition end-of-season youth survey

*FIRST*<sup>®</sup>, the *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> logo, *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> Robotics Competition, *More Than Robots*<sup>®</sup>, *Gracious Professionalism*<sup>®</sup>, and *Coopertition*<sup>®</sup> are trademarks of For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (*FIRST*). ©2024 *FIRST*. All rights reserved. FR035