

Washington First Lego League Robotics Program Overview and Application Instructions

Program Overview

Thank you for your interest in Washington Middle School's First Lego League Robotics Team. The Washington FIRST Lego League Robotics Team will begin meeting in October. The team will consist of up to 10 students (6th-8th grade). To be eligible to participate in the competition, students must demonstrate positive attitude, participation, and excellent in-school behavior. The application will be part of the selection process, so **please answer completely and return it on time**. We usually get a lot of applications, so please pay attention to detail and provide in-depth answers to the questions. You will also need a teacher recommendation (more information below).

We will meet as a full team once a week (Mondays 3:00 - 4:30) from October through the winter 2023 competition season (early February, dates to be announced). You will also participate in a weekly work session on either Wednesdays or Fridays from 3:00 – 4:30. There is a \$25 participation fee for each of the students who is selected to participate, due before our first meeting. **Attendance at each full-team meeting and weekly work sessions is mandatory.** (You may need to choose between this team and a sports team or check with your coach to see if it is a problem for you to attend Robotics Team meetings and work sessions.) Our team's 2022-2023 kick off meeting will be on Monday, October 3rd, 3:00-4:30 in room 211 (Mr. Arntzen's room). There will be a parent meeting later this fall. I will email everyone details as that time nears.

What is First Lego League?

FIRST LEGO League is a robotics program for students aged 9 to 14 years, which is designed to get children excited about science and technology -- and teach them valuable employment and life skills. In FLL, teams learn both through what we do (the Robot Game and the Project) and how we do it (the FLL Core Values). Through the Robot Game, teams build and program an autonomous robot using LEGO SPIKE PRIME technology to score points in 2.5 minute matches on a themed playing field. Through the Project, teams explore an actual problem that today's scientists and engineers are trying to solve, develop an innovative solution to that problem (either by creating something that doesn't exist or building upon something that does), and share their findings with others. Throughout their work on the Robot Game and the Project, teams are guided by the FLL Core Values to build teamwork skills and make this a great experience for everyone involved. The FLL Core Values are the cornerstones of the FLL program. They are among the fundamental elements that distinguish FLL from other programs of its kind. By embracing the Core Values, participants learn that friendly competition and mutual gain are not separate goals, and that helping one another is the foundation of teamwork.

Application Instructions

The application consists of two parts: the student application and a teacher recommendation.

Part 1: Student Application Instructions

We typically get a lot of applications for the WMS Robotics Team. Please pay attention to detail and provide in depth answers so that you are representing yourself well in the application. Late applications will not be considered.

The student application is a google form, available through a link on the Washington Middle School Robotics activity page. <https://www.mcpsmt.org/domain/3790>. Please answer all questions on the form in depth. It is a good idea to have a helpful adult read through your application before you submit it. Your answers should be free of errors and provide complete and thoughtful answers to the questions.

Student Application Deadline: Wednesday, September 14

Part 2: Teacher Recommendation Instructions

A positive and thoughtful teacher recommendation is an important part of the WMS Robotics Team application. You should choose a recent teacher who knows you well. For example, 7th and 8th grade students probably want to choose one of their teachers from last year. Likewise, it would be best for 6th grade teachers to get a recommendation from their 5th grade teacher. If you are unable to contact a teacher from last year, a current teacher's recommendation is acceptable, but not preferred, since they have probably not had a chance to get to know you very well this early in the school year. If you had several teachers last year, please only ask one of them for a recommendation.

The teacher recommendation is a google form, available through a link on the Washington Middle School Robotics activity page. <https://www.mcpsmt.org/domain/3790>. The teacher recommendation has been designed to respect your teacher's time while providing them the opportunity to provide helpful feedback. Please tell your teacher that the recommendation won't take them too long to complete. Make sure to say thank you!!!

Teacher Recommendation Deadline: Friday, September 16

Please direct any questions to Mr. Alec Arntzen. atarntzen@mcpsmt.org