



10 OFF-SEASON IDEAS FOR AN FLL TEAM

By Droids Robotics, 2015

1) **Learn a new programming skill.**

Perhaps your team did not use sensors or did not use a particular sensor. Use the off-season to learn how to use those sensors. Or maybe you didn't use any My Blocks. Use the FLL mat to test them out. There are more than 40 programming lessons available on just EV3Lessons!



- 2) **Complete more missions.** Did your team not get time to complete all the missions? Use the off-season to work on the missions some more. You can come up with different ways of solving the missions as well. Since you would have attended several events, you might be inspired to try something new. Have an internal contest at the end of three months.

- 3) **Purchase an old FLL kit.** If you are bored of this year's mat and missions, look on eBay or elsewhere for a previous year's Field Set up Kit. An experienced team might either sell or lend you an old kit. Old mats make brand new missions and can teach new skills (like colored line following)! EV3Lessons also has a set of training mats available.



- 4) **Practice programming skills.** Have the best programmer on the team write up code. Have the rest of the team explain what the code does and how they could improve it. Have small challenges such as "who can write the best line follower".



- 5) **Practice building skills.** Maybe your team did not use any gears or rubber bands. Try to build small mechanisms. Or build a Technic set that might have interesting gearing that you can learn from. There are LEGO building books you can look at too.



- 6) **Outreach.** You might have more time now to host an Open House or demo at your practice location or the library. You can simply demo your FLL robot on an FLL mat or you can even run workshops. EV3Lessons has workshop materials also posted that you can use.



- 7) **Think about the research topic.** Although you don't know the topic, you know the broad category (senior citizens, trash, etc). Look up some information about the broad category.
- 8) **Off-season event.** Check with your local Operational Partner if there is an off-season event teams can participate in. Or you can even organize one yourself. Local FRC teams might be willing to host one. You might even attend an Open Invitational or World Festival event as a guest for inspiration.
- 9) **Invite an experienced team over.** If you want feedback and ideas, invite a experienced local team to a team meeting. Experienced teams can often be good mentors for a team all year round. Share your work and see what feedback they have to give you.



- 10) **Go online!** How about making the team a website or Facebook/Twitter pages? Many FIRST teams have websites and social media sites to connect with other teams and with FIRST. You can use it to collect survey data, share you work with others, and even participate in FLL Twitter Chats.

