



### Tips for a Successful Season

- π Have all members read and sign the FLL Student-Parent contract.
- π Try to spend at least 3 hours a week working with *FIRST* Lego Team or 2 hours a week working for Junior *FIRST* Lego Team.
- π Have a guest speaker or take a field trip to gather research for the challenge.
- π Recruit mentors and volunteers from the community.
- π Make sure to document all of your information and backup every code change to your robot.
- π Spend lots of time practicing with your robot before your tournament.
- π Try to attend at least one scrimmage before the tournament.

### Valuable Resources

- π <http://www.usfirst.org/community>
- π <http://www.firstlegoleague.org>
- π <http://www.legoeducation.com>
- π <http://www.techbrick.com>
- π <http://rpowerhawksorg>



### **FIRST**Mission

...to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication and leadership.

### **FIRST**VISION

"To transform our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of becoming science and technology heroes."  
-Dean Kamen, Founder

Information collected from  
usfirst.org and formatted by:



# Starting **FIRST**LEGO® League or Junior**FIRST**LEGO® League Teams





### FIRST LEGO® League

(FLL) is a powerful program that connects kids ages 9 to 14 to the world of science and technology by offering them the opportunity to experience real-world

engineering challenges. An annual Challenge is announced in early September where teams will use LEGO bricks, sensors, motors and gears to design, build and program a robot in addition to researching the Challenge problem. Teams have the opportunity to compete in a tournament and present their Challenge solutions to a panel of judges. A FLL team consists of 3 to 10 kids and at least one adult coach and can come from schools, home schools, families, civic groups, churches or neighborhood groups. Team registration on the *FIRST* website begins in early May and continues until full capacity or through late September, whichever comes first; Challenge tournament application begins in early October. Estimated costs for a FLL team range from \$800 for new teams to \$500 for returning teams but do not include expenses for optional items such as team buttons, shirts and travel.



### Junior FIRST LEGO® League

(Jr.FLL) is an exciting program that introduces young children to the wonders of science and technology. Geared for children ages 6 to 9 years old and based on the FLL Challenge,

teams of Jr.FLL kids will design and build models using LEGO bricks and moving parts and present their research experience on a poster. A team is a group of up to 6 children and one adult coach and can come from schools, home schools, families, civic groups, churches or neighborhood groups. The Jr.FLL season is flexible with team registration on the *FIRST* website starting in the beginning of August. The Challenge is announced in early September. Teams can expect to complete their research and building in approximately 6 weeks before the presentation of their achievements at the Challenge Tournament. Fees for a Jr.FLL team include the required \$25 Team Access Pass, EXPO registration of \$35, and for a first year team the recommended Jr.FLL Base Kit for \$95. Optional costs may include the purchase of extras such as team buttons, t-shirts and travel.

### Funding Options

The money to cover the expenses of a team can come from a variety of sources. These sources could be school or organization funds, grants, sponsorships from businesses, fundraising activities, fees charged to the child participant or a combination of sources.

### Other Needs

A computer and internet access is essential for coaches and is helpful for research. A room to gather and work and tables for FLL will be needed. Storage space might also be a consideration. Connecting with community volunteers and mentors is enthusiastically encouraged.

### Mentors

Mentors provide valuable one-on-one interaction that develops both technical and interpersonal skills in team members. They can be professionals with either a technical or non-technical background. Mentors could also be teachers, parents, college students, FIRST Robotics Competition or FIRST Tech Challenge team participants.

### 2010-2011 South River Power Hawks Robotics Club



FIRST LEGO® League (FLL) is a result of a partnership between *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) and The LEGO Group. To start a FLL or Jr.FLL team, visit [www.usfirst.org/community](http://www.usfirst.org/community), [www.firstlegoleague.org](http://www.firstlegoleague.org) or [www.MDfirst.org](http://www.MDfirst.org) for registration and more information.