

FIRST[®] CHAMPIONSHIP 2023

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EVENT GUIDE

Updated 4/20/23

FIRST[®] ENERGIZESM

PRESENTED BY **Qualcomm**



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Introduction

The 2023 *FIRST*® Championship will join thousands of students for the ultimate celebration of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and innovation. This 2022-2023 season, *FIRST*® ENERGIZESM powered by Qualcomm, empowers *FIRST* teams around the world to collectively reimagine a path forward and invent the future of energy. It's time to go Full Speed Ahead. Join us as we celebrate a future that's built better together at *FIRST* Championship.

Get ready to have fun and be part of something extraordinary! We can't wait to see you!

Accessibility at the Championship

If a member of your team requires ADA accessible seating, please make sure that you request that during the Championship registration process. Each program will make available accessible seating that accommodates as many of the team members as possible.

All Closing Celebration activities will be Closed Captioned.

App

Download the *FIRST* Championship App for interactive maps, personalized schedules, activities, team info, volunteer info, alerts, and more. (coming soon)

Block Party at Discovery Green

Wednesday, April 19, 2023 – Friday, April 21, 2023

The *FIRST* Championship Discovery Green Block Party is the outside extension of our campus. A variety of activities will be available throughout the week such as giant family and lawn games, Live Band Karaoke, Silent Disco and musical acts. Discovery Green is directly across from the George R. Brown Convention Center. A detailed schedule of activities will be available in the app.

Closing Celebration

Our closing celebration experience will bring together *FIRST*® LEGO® League Explore, *FIRST*® LEGO® League Challenge, *FIRST*® Tech Challenge, and *FIRST*® Robotics Competition celebrations under the roof of the George R. Brown Convention Center. Each program will have a custom experience, while a global broadcast throughout the convention center will keep attendees up to date on highlights from each program. All are invited to this joint Closing Celebration involving all programs which will kick off at 1:30 PM and is expected to end in the early evening.



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FIRST Championship Conferences

The *FIRST* Championship Conference will be held Wednesday- Friday. The conference includes sessions and workshops on topics of interest to all members of the *FIRST* community in the following conference tracks:

- Discovery
- Innovation
- Impact
- Inclusion
- Teamwork

Sessions are either 15 or 45 minutes in length and will be held in rooms 350 and 360 on the 3rd floor of the convention center.

For a full list of conferences please download the app.

FIRST Programs

FIRST LEGO League Explore (grades K-4)

Elementary school kids are challenged to explore a STEM topic, then present what they learned with on their team journey through their team poster and a motorized LEGO team model. Sixty teams will present their findings at the *FIRST* LEGO League Explore World Festival located in **Room 320, Level 3**. For program-specific information in Houston, see [FIRST LEGO League Explore Addendum](#).

FIRST LEGO League Challenge (ages 9-16)

Friendly competition is at the heart of *FIRST* LEGO League Challenge, as teams of students ages 9-16 engage in research, problem-solving, coding and engineering – building and programming a LEGO robot that navigates the missions of the SUPERPOWERED robot game. All activities will be held in **Ballroom, Level 3** at the George R. Brown Convention Center, where you can see 108 teams work on their robots and compete. For program-specific information in Houston, see [FIRST LEGO League Challenge Addendum](#).

FIRST Tech Challenge (grades 7-12)

Middle and high school students have advanced from competitions around the country to compete on 12 x 12 foot playing fields with robots they have designed, programmed, and built themselves. 192 teams will compete in **Hall B, Level 3**. For program-specific information in Houston, see [FIRST Tech Challenge Addendum](#).

FIRST Robotics Competition (grades 9-12)

High school students from over 600 teams compete on special playing fields with robots they have designed, programmed, and built themselves. *FIRST* Robotics Competition Fields and pits (*safety glasses provided and required*) will be in the George R. Brown Convention Center **Halls A – E, Level 1**. Watch teams compete in this year's robotics challenge on six playing fields. For program-specific information in Houston, see [FIRST Robotics Competition Addendum](#).



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Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame is a booth in front of the bleachers in Hall C that honors previous FIRST Robotics Competition Championship Chairman's Award Winners (now called the FIRST Impact Award). The FIRST Impact Award represents the spirit of FIRST and remains FIRST Robotics Competition's most prestigious award. The Hall of Fame booth also has the FIRST Impact Award Clock and Woodie Flowers Award on display for viewing. This is a great opportunity for you to interact with some of the top FIRST Robotics Competition teams and learn what it takes to become a Hall of Fame team!

The Hall of Fame Booth is open on the following dates & times:

- Wednesday, April 19 - 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- Thursday, April 20 - 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM
- Friday, April 21 - 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM

FIRST Store

The *FIRST* Store is your on-site source for merchandise made exclusively for the *FIRST* #STEMsquad, including limited edition *FIRST* Championship must-haves. Get your *FIRST* gear now!

The FIRST Store is located on site on Level 1, outside Hall C.

Hours of Operation:

Wednesday, April 19, 2023	6:00am – 6:00pm
Thursday, April 20, 2023	6:00am – 6:00pm
Friday, April 21, 2023	6:00am – 6:00pm
Saturday, April 22, 2023	6:30am – After Closing Ceremonies

Food

Concessions

There are concessions located within the convention center, with many food options around the George R. Brown Convention Center as well. Local food trucks will be around Discovery Green. [View a list of nearby restaurants.](#)

Pre-Order Lunch

Pre-order lunches are available at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

- [Lunch Order Form](#)



Health and Safety

All children under the age of 12 must always be accompanied by an adult while in the Pit area.

Be aware of apparel and hair safety issues while working on your robot. Sandals, open-toed shoes, and Crocs are not allowed in the Pits, fields, or other teamwork areas. Wear relaxed, fun and appropriate clothing; remember, you represent your team and *FIRST*. Body paint in lieu of clothes, bathing suites and other revealing clothes are not appropriate.

Face coverings and vaccinations are not required but are recommended. If you are feeling ill, please do not attend the event.

Mascots

Please keep safety in mind and make sure that mascot and team costumes are safe for the wearer as to vision and movement and are comfortable and cool enough to prevent fainting and dehydration. Mascots are not allowed on the playing field.

Medical Incidents

Incidents and Emergency Reporting

FIRST requires that physical injuries and medical problems, however slight, be documented and reported to the party conducting the event or his or her designee and to *FIRST* Headquarters within 48 hours of the occurrence. *FIRST* requires that all safety concerns and non-medical incidents be reported to the party conducting the event and to *FIRST* Headquarters within 48 hours.

If you need to report an incident (medical or non-medical), Pit Admin will have the proper forms. In case of an emergency, please evacuate with the teams and guests.

Reporting Non-Medical Concerns

[FIRST Online Reporting Portal](#)

This form can be used for any concern ranging from or related to volunteer issues, venue issues, Code of Conduct issues, or Youth Protection issues. Read more about it [here](#).

Safety Glasses

Safety Glasses are required to be worn by everyone while in the *FIRST* Robotics Competition and *FIRST* Tech Challenge Pit Area. Safety Glasses are available for spectators at the major Pit Entrances for these programs, but teams should plan to bring their own.

Security

Be sure to keep valuable items with you always or placed in a lockable compartment in your Pit station. *FIRST* and the George R. Brown Convention Center do not guarantee security of personal items. We strongly recommend that you do not leave behind valuable items in your Pits at any time, such as personal computers, cell phones, cameras, etc. You can report any lost items to the Event Information Desk (see *Lost and Found*).



Remember, the Pits are open to the public. Please take proper security measures to protect your valuable items.

Prohibited Items

- Abusive, foul, or disruptive language
- Aerosol containers of any kind
- Animals (except service animals to aid guests with disabilities)
- Coolers*
- Fighting, taunting, threatening remarks, gestures, or harassment of any kind
- Fireworks, firearms, and weapons of any kind (including parking lots)
- Glass containers of any kind
- Illegal substances, drugs, and drug paraphernalia
- Knives of any length except pocketknives no longer than 4"
- Laser Pointers
- Noisemakers (musical instruments, bullhorns, air horns, whistles, etc.)
- Outside Alcohol/Flasks
- Outside food or beverages*
- Smoking or the use of vapor (or similar) devices
- Throwing objects
- Trespassing, soliciting, peddling, and loitering
- Unauthorized/unlicensed vendors are not allowed.
- No unauthorized solicitation and materials including handbills, flyers, stickers, giveaways, samples, etc.
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems & Radio-Controlled Model Aircraft/Drones
- Any other item or action deemed dangerous or inappropriate

Event security reserves the right to deem any other item inappropriate. No prohibited item will be accepted at the entry gates for safekeeping.

*Exceptions will be made for those with medical requirements and/or special needs. Individuals with these special needs should contact a security person at their entry gate for special attention.

Innovation Faire

The Innovation Faire on **Level 2** brings together *FIRST* sponsors and supporters with the student community in the Grand Ballroom with engaging interactive events and booths. There will also be a college scholarship row, and other interactive exhibits. The students will take away a deeper understanding of why each sponsor celebrates STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) as the basis for their companies' existence, and how they can be a part of it in the future.

Hours of Operation:

Wednesday, April 19, 2023	10:00am - 4:00pm	
Thursday, April 20, 2023	10:00am - 4:00pm	Plus, <i>FIRST</i> Scholarship Providers and Alliances
Friday, April 21, 2023	10:00am - 4:00pm	Plus, <i>FIRST</i> Scholarship Providers and Alliances

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Campus Map



Prayer Rooms

There will be two prayer rooms available for anyone wishing to observe religious practice onsite during event hours. Prayer rooms are located on the 2nd level of the Marriott Marquis Houston in Montgomery rooms A&B. The Marriott Marquis Houston is attached to the George R. Brown Convention Center and can be accessed from the level 2 skybridge located north of Mezzanine A.



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Registration and Badging

Please be ready to present you ID when picking up your badge. [Badges can be printed / reprinted with preferred name.]

Check-In

FIRST requires every Championship attendee to be registered and badged, including adult team mentors, youth team members, parents, family members, chaperones, etc. who are participating in the event. Attendee registration grants access to participant-only activities and increases the security of the event.

We strongly encourage your team to [complete attendee badging prior to your arrival](#), as this will expedite your team's attendee badge collection and your entrance to the event.

Consent and Release Forms

All participating team members and volunteers must complete a current season FIRST Consent and Release form.

Pronoun Ribbons

Available at Central Registration and program Pit Admins.

Registration and Badging Hours

Central Registration Hours:

Date:	Open:	Close:
Tuesday, April 18, 2023	7:00 AM	6:00 PM
Wednesday, April 19, 2023	6:00 AM	8:00 PM
Thursday, April 20, 2023	7:00 AM	6:00 PM
Friday, April 21, 2023	7:00 AM	6:00 PM
Saturday, April 22, 2022	7:00 AM	2:00 PM

Satellite Registration Hours:

Date:	Satellite Area:	Open:	Close:
Tuesday, April 18, 2023	FIRST Tech Challenge	3:00 PM	6:30 PM
Wednesday, April 19, 2023	FIRST Tech Challenge	7:00 AM	Noon
Wednesday, April 19, 2023	FIRST Robotics Competition	8:00 AM	7:30 PM
Wednesday, April 19, 2023	FIRST LEGO League Challenge	11:00 AM	3:00 PM



Schedule

Please see the *FIRST* Championship app for the full list of events.

Student Ambassadors

Guests are invited to take an in-depth tour of the Championship with our most knowledgeable tour guides, our students! Tours are available Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. All tours are subject to availability. Please see the Student Ambassadors desk located near registration to set up a tour.

Team Picture Area

There is a designated area at the *FIRST* Championship where teams are welcome to take group pictures with their sponsors, team mates etc. This area is located right outside of the GRB Convention Center. There will be a *FIRST* sign where teams can pose for their pictures to be taken. Please note, teams will need to supply their own photographers for the pictures.

Venue and Local Information

We are aware of the concerns members of our community have expressed regarding our continuing to host the *FIRST* Championship in Houston, Texas. We do plan to remain at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston for *FIRST* Championship through 2025, due in part to pre-existing contractual commitments. We are keenly aware of the issues at stake in Texas and other states throughout the country, and we remain deeply committed to supporting the rights of LGBTQ members of our *FIRST* community wherever they live. We've built a strong relationship with the Houston mayor's office, which is committed to defending equal rights in Houston and has been [recognized](#) as one of Texas' strongest advocates for LGBTQ rights. We're proud of the work that the administration has done to advance LGBTQ rights in Houston, and we're proud of their [support of everything that FIRST does](#). In addition, the Harris County DA also supports LGBTQ rights and opposes the recent proposed legislation on transgender issues.

As we have in previous years' *FIRST* Championship, we will continue to remain focused on ensuring a safe and welcoming space for all participants at every one of our future events. If you have ideas about how we can make our spaces even more welcoming, we would be more than happy to discuss them with you.

Campus Locations

The *FIRST* Championship Event is a multiple point campus, which will include four venues/spaces:

George R Brown Convention Center

FIRST LEGO League Explore World Festival Expo, *FIRST* LEGO League Challenge World Festival, *FIRST* Tech Challenge World Championship, *FIRST* Robotics Competition Championship, *FIRST* Championship Conferences, the *FIRST* Store, and the Innovation Faire including Scholarship Row.

The George R. Brown Convention Center is located on Avenida de las Americas. Visit the venue site here: <http://www.grbhouston.com/>

Discovery Green

FIRST Championship Block Party



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The Marriott Marquis Hotel
Headquarter Hotel

The Hilton America's Hotel
Headquarter Hotel along with a range of meetings and events

All of this will contribute to the overall event goal of making a unique, transformative experience to all teams, sponsors, volunteers, and supporters of *FIRST* in a fun and safe environment in the city of Houston.

Local Transportation

An advertisement for METRO's "FIRST Robotics Conference Convention Pass". The background is dark blue with yellow and white text. At the top, it says "POWER YOUR TRAVELS TO THE 2023 FIRST ROBOTICS CONFERENCE". Below this, it explains that attendees can explore Houston with the "METRO FIRST Robotics Convention Pass", which includes unlimited local bus and light-rail service from April 19-22. A central graphic shows a stylized robot head with three yellow eyes and a yellow arrow pointing down to a blue "DAY PASS" card. To the left, under "Pass Options", it lists "Single Day Pass (Student) - \$1.50" and "Single Day Pass (Adult) - \$3.00" with a "CLICK HERE TO BUY" button. At the bottom, there are icons of various robots and the METRO logo with the website "RideMETRO.org" and phone number "713-635-4000".

[Metro Transportation is available in Houston](#) - Purchase discount passes

Lost and Found

Items for lost and found will be logged in at the information desk located near registration for the duration of that day. At the end of the day, the items will be delivered to building security where they will remain through the event. At the end of the event and for up to 30 days post event, please call the facility directly for missing items.

George R. Brown Convention Center

713-853-8087

GRBinfo@houstonfirst.com

Items lost under the bleachers: Items of extreme importance such as medication, a purse or wallet, please note where you were sitting and check in at pit administration. Pit Administration will then contact security to retrieve your lost item. For all other items, security will make periodic sweeps and deliver found items to the Lost and Found at the information desk where you can then retrieve your items.

Under no circumstances should anyone but security go under the bleachers.

FIRSTCHAMPIONSHIP.ORG



Parking

[Surface Lot & Garage Parking](#) is available around the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Restrooms

Gender-neutral accommodations available.

Shipping

The George R. Brown Convention Center cannot accept shipments directly. For robot shipping please refer to the program addendum.

Wireless

Free wireless internet access is available in the common areas of the George R. Brown Convention Center. This access is not available on the Pit floor or in the playing field areas of the George R. Brown Convention Center. When not actively using you Wi-Fi, please switch off your Wi-Fi and personal hotspots to benefit robot performance.

Due to the wireless nature of *FIRST* control systems, wireless availability will be evaluated during the event. Teams will not be allowed to set up their own wireless networks at the Championship. While we certainly appreciate the positive potential team-created wireless networks could represent, there is a chance such wireless networks could interfere with planned activities during the event.

Volunteers

As part of our global robotics community, *FIRST*® volunteers build and bolster millions of young people to embrace innovation and collaboration. At the 2023 *FIRST* Championship, you will work side by side with *FIRST* participants from around the world to help build their leadership and problem-solving skills and, their sense of belonging and self-confidence, and most importantly, help them have fun! Join us for the ultimate innovation celebration and build up and inspire the next generation of changemakers. Find out more about volunteering at *FIRST* Championship at <https://www.firstchampionship.org/volunteer>.

Check out the [Volunteer Guide](#) for the most up-to-date information on the *FIRST* Championship volunteer experience.

Webcast

The live stream will be available on [FIRSTtv](#). Visit Twitch for airtimes and archives.