

FIRST 2025

CHAMPIONSHIP

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FIRST[®] ROBOTICS COMPETITION EVENT GUIDE

Updated 4.7.25

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Introduction

The 2025 FIRST® Championship presented by BAE Systems will join thousands of students for the ultimate celebration of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and innovation will bring together 600 teams. Congratulations on qualifying for this amazing, life-changing event; we are so glad you are joining us!

Teams may also reference the [FIRST® Robotics Competition FIRST Championship webpage](#) for similar information in addition to layouts and eventually pit locations (once assigned). The webpage will be updated as soon as information is available while this document is updated every few weeks.

Please reference [this webpage](#) for final details and timing.

Teams are required to follow all Event Rules (found in [Section 14 of the Game Manual](#)) at FIRST Championship. This guide contains helpful information, but if you have additional questions or concerns, please contact us at customerservice@firstinspires.org. Please also reference the [FIRST Championship Event Guide](#) for info that is applicable to all attendees such as information about badging, Conferences, Innovation Faire, and more!

Accessibility

Accessible Seating

Accessible seating is available for all fields. If your team needs accessible seating, please indicate this when you register for badging to help us with planning. There will be space for the person in need plus up to 3 additional members from their team. Due to space constraints, most of the team will need to sit in the reserved stands behind the accessible seating on the lobby side. If a student is the one in need, we ask that at least 1 adult sit in the reserved area.

Please be aware that anyone sitting in the Accessible Seating area must wear safety glasses. Please see a volunteer for directions to seating.

Please see the [Einstein Tournament](#) section for information on Accessible Seating during Einstein.

Gender Neutral Bathrooms

Gender neutral bathrooms will be available as shown in the layouts on the [FIRST® Robotics Competition FIRST Championship webpage](#) as well as layouts on the [FIRST Championship website](#).

Lactation Pods

Two [Mamava lactation pods](#) are conveniently located on the North and South side of Mezzanine Level 2. Nursing parents can access these private, clean, and comfortable spaces to breastfeed or pump using the [free Mamava app](#) available on the Apple iOS Store or Google Play Store. Click here for guidance on using the app and locating the pods.

Quiet Room

A Quiet Room is available for those participants who need a quiet space to de-stress and take a break from the business of the competition. The Quiet Room is located on Level Three, Room 362 C F. If you would like to donate items (things like playing cards, board games, stress balls, puzzles) for the room, please bring them to the room. The Quiet Room hours are below:

Day	Times
Wednesday	7 AM – 6 PM
Thursday	7 AM – 6 PM
Friday	7 AM – 6 PM

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Saturday	7 AM – 6 PM
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Prayer Room

There will be two prayer rooms available for anyone wishing to observe religious practice onsite during event hours. Prayer rooms are located on Level Two Skybridge Marriott Marquis Montgomery Rooms A & B.

Alliance Selection

Alliance Selection takes place on each Division Field on Saturday from 7:15 AM - 7:45 AM. Each team needs to send at least 1 representative to the floor in front of their Division Field before the start of Alliance Selection. Alliances are comprised of 4 teams. More information about Alliance Selection can be found in the [Game and Season Manual](#).

Badging & Hotels

All teams traveling to *FIRST* Championship will be required to book their housing accommodations within those designated hotel blocks. The partnership enables *FIRST* to ensure that all hotels are pre-approved for safety and accessibility and that enough hotel rooms are available for qualified teams.

Once a *FIRST* team qualifies for the championship event, they will receive an email from ConferenceDirect with information to book their team housing and register for badges. Teams can review additional housing information including available hotels on the [FIRST Championship webpage](#).

Buttons (Drive Team, Media)

Each team receives 7 Drive Team buttons in its registration packet. Replacements are not available. These buttons allow the wearers access to specific areas or help designate them as a point of contact for that team:

- 1 Coach
- 3 Drive Team Members
- 1 Technician
- 1 Safety Captain (no field access)
- 1 Media

Pit Crew Buttons for Playoff Rounds:

During the playoff rounds, extra team members are often needed to move the team robot from the pit station to the queuing area and playing field. Each team on an Alliance can have 3 additional Pit Crew members to help with necessary robot repairs and maintenance. These buttons provide access to the field. These Pit Crew members must stay with the team and robot in queue and during matches they may stay with the team's robot cart in the cart box with the technician.

FIRST distributes the buttons to Alliance Captains during the alliance selection process on the Division Fields. Each Alliance Captain must set a logistics plan for button distribution prior to the pairings to distribute the buttons to the Pit Crew members.

Media Button

Each team receives 1 non-transferable Team Media button and related instructions/caveats in its registration packet.

Media representatives are permitted in designated media access areas around the playing field only during their team's Qualification and Division Playoff Matches. Team Media are not permitted on the actual playing field surface, in areas marked off for human players, in any private venues or VIP/Volunteer areas, or the *FIRST* Media Center.

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Division Fields

Field Measurement & Robot Sensor Calibration and Connection Test

This time is reserved for teams who want to measure the field and to allow teams to calibrate sensors and test their connection to the official competition playing fields.

Event	Date	Time	Where
Field Measurement & Robot Sensor Calibration and Connection Test	Wednesday	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	All Division Fields
Field Measurement & Robot Sensor Calibration and Connection Test	Thursday	7:30 AM – 8:00 AM	All Division Fields

Match Play

See the official match schedule on [FRC-events](#) for exact times for each match

Event	Date	Time	Where
Practice Matches	Wednesday	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	All Division Fields
Qualification Matches	Thursday	8:10 AM - 6:00 PM	All Division Fields
Qualification Matches	Friday	8:00 AM - 6:00 PM	All Division Fields
Division Playoff Matches	Saturday	8:30 AM - 12:00 PM	All Division Fields
Einstein Playoff Matches	Saturday	2:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Einstein Fields

Drivers' Meeting

Every event hosts a Drivers' Meeting as a way for Key Volunteers to introduce themselves to the Drive Teams and cover event procedures and is a time for teams to ask questions to the Head Referee or *FIRST* Technical Advisor. Questions must be submitted in advance to Pit Admin by 3:30 PM.

Event	Date	Time	Where
Drivers' Meeting	Wednesday	4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Galileo Field - Drivers report to the stands

Einstein Tournament

The 8 Division winning alliances are known as Division Champions. These teams compete in the Einstein Tournament. The tournament will be a Double Elimination Tournament as described in Section 13.4 of the [Game Manual](#).

Einstein Field Access

Beginning at 1:00 PM on Saturday, additional security measures are in place for the Einstein fields. Anyone within the area without proper access will be asked to leave. Immediately following Division Playoff Matches, Division winning alliance drive teams and robots need to report to the Einstein Mass & Energy fields (Galileo & Johnson Fields). A special access badge is issued to teams.

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Due to space constraints and limitations, Team Media are not allowed on the field before or during Einstein Matches.

Within the Einstein area, accessible seating will be restricted to only the person in need + one friend and is limited to first come, first served. Those who do get seats within the Einstein area will be given a wristband. Those who are interested may report to one of the designated entrances (designated with a yellow star in Figure 1) to receive a wristband for access starting at 1:00 PM.

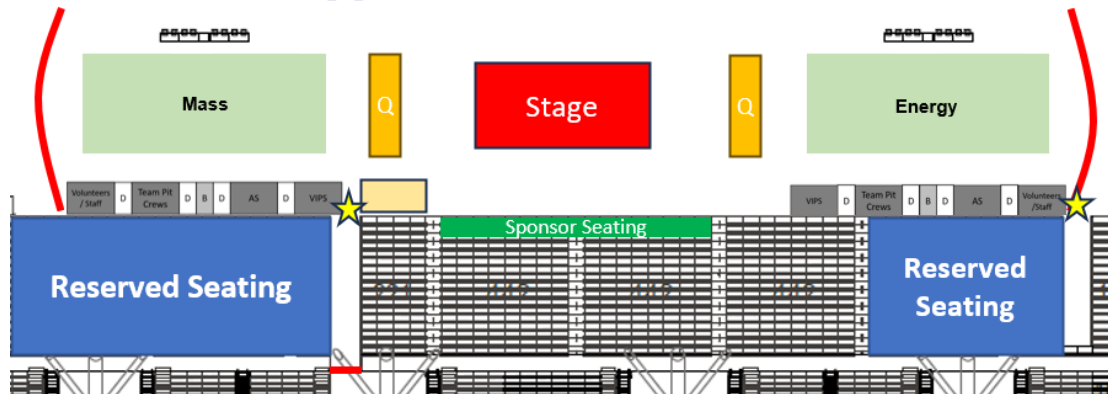
Outside of the Einstein Area, teams who need accessible seating may use additional accessible bleachers on each field.

Einstein Tournament Competing Teams Seating Area

When the Division alliance winners are announced, each team receives 40 wristbands to designate special seating for the Einstein Tournament. Division Champion alliance teams are seated in reserved bleachers. Teams obtain the wristbands from the field Volunteer Coordinator. Please arrive at reserved seats no later than 1:45 PM. *Note: any open areas in the bleachers after 2:00 PM become open to the public for seating.*

Beginning at 12:30 PM on Saturday (or at the conclusion of the Division Playoffs Matches), we will be clearing the lobby side bleachers – Mass (Galileo) and Energy (Johnson) – of all spectators and team members. Anyone sitting in these sections will be asked to move. These sections are reserved teams competing in Einstein Tournament and FIRST® Impact Award Finalists.

Figure 1: Reserved Seating for Einstein (Blue boxes)



FIRST Impact Award Finalist Seating Area

The 6 FIRST Impact Award Finalist teams receive 40 wristbands for team members to sit in reserved audience sections (the lobby side bleachers) during the Einstein Playoff Matches & Closing Celebration.

Judging & Awards

FIRST Robotics Competition celebrates the excitement of competition both on and off the field. Through our awards, we celebrate the FIRST Core Values which makes us so much #morethanrobots.

FIRST Impact Award Interviews

The FIRST Impact Award interview schedule is posted in Pit Admin on Wednesday. FIRST Impact Award Interviews occur on Thursday and Friday.

There are four FIRST Impact Award Interview rooms on site, Rooms 380 A – D, located on the 3rd floor of the building. To avoid schedule conflicts, FIRST Impact Award Interviewees are not recommended to be drive team members. Swapping interview times is not encouraged, but if you must change your time, switch with a team (once you have their consent) that

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is assigned to the same interview room as you and notify Pit Admin. Pit Admin must approve the change and they will work with the judges to keep them apprised of changes.

Teams can reference the [Hall of Fame webpage](#) to see what other teams who have won the Championship FIRST Impact Award have accomplished.

Pit Judging

Judges visit each pit to interview teams for the Judged Awards just like they do at local District or Regional Competitions. Judges may interview and observe teams in the Pit, on the playing field, and other areas of the event. Visit the [FIRST Robotics Competition Awards page](#) for a full description of the awards. To be eligible for any award, teams are required to follow FIRST Core Values, demonstrate *Gracious Professionalism*[®], and implement and follow appropriate safety practices.

Awards Schedule

Event	Date	Time	Where
Hall of Fame Flag Raising Ceremony	Wednesday	4:30 PM – 4:45 PM	Galileo Field
Dean's List Award	Friday	12:00 PM – 1:00 PM *Doors open at 11:15 AM	Hilton America's Ballroom
FIRST Impact Award Finalist Awards	Saturday	7:00 AM	Division Fields
Division Awards	Saturday	presented during Playoffs (8:30am – 12:00pm)	Division Fields
Closing Ceremony including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer of the Year Award • Woodie Flowers Award • Championship FIRST Impact Award • Finalist • Winner 	Saturday	2:00 PM	Division Fields

Hall of Fame Booth

The Hall of Fame Booth 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 is part of the Innovation Faire on the second floor. The Hall of Fame Booth is open Wednesday – Friday from 10 AM – 4 PM

The Hall of Fame booth also has the FIRST Impact Award Clock 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!

Load In & Load Out (Robot Shipping)

Robot Shipping

Once you qualify for FIRST Championship, you are sent an email asking if you want to bring your robot to the event yourself or ship it via the FedEx voucher. You must select one or the other, as there will be no 'default' option. Teams can reference the [Robot Transportation page](#) for more information.

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- If you opt to hand carry your robot yourself, you must bring your 1 competition robot to *FIRST* Championship along with all your other pit equipment.
- If you opt to ship your robot, we provide a FedEx shipping voucher and a ship-not-later than date. Teams must ship no later than that date or risk their robots not arriving at *FIRST* Championship in time for the event.
 - Please note that during the early load in timeframe, teams can only bring in 1 tote and all other items must be brought in through the loading dock during normal team load-in hours. (See Load In below for more details)
 - Teams who chose to ship their robot must follow the [Shipping Crate Instructions](#).
 - Teams may not use a FedEx Voucher for pit equipment/other non-robot items. Using a voucher in this way is considered an abuse of the donor's intent and generosity. If you are shipping using the FedEx voucher, only your robot, bumpers, and batteries may be in the crate. If you'd like to ship additional equipment, you must coordinate, ship, and pay for it on your own.

A big thanks to FedEx for once again sponsoring robot shipments to *FIRST* Championship!

Packing for Championship

Please review the [Event Experience webpage](#) for suggestions on what to bring to each event.

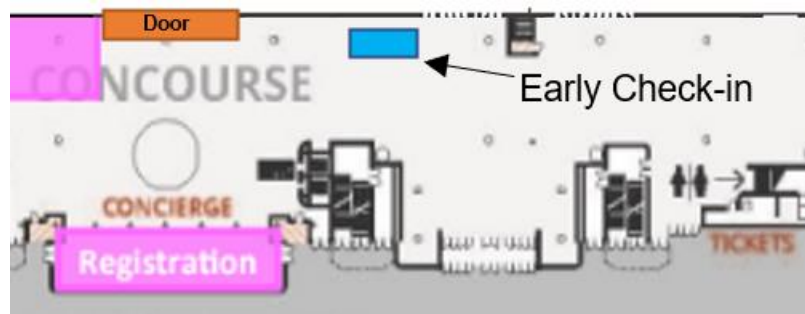
Load In

All teams must follow the Load-In process as outlined in the [Team Load-In Instructions](#) in order to bring materials into the Pits from their vehicles. Teams may only unload into the Loading Dock and not onto Chartres Street. Teams cannot leave vehicles unattended at any time.

Early Load In

All Early Load-In teams must check in at the early check-in desk (see the image below) in the lobby to obtain wristbands to enter the pits.

Figure 2: Early Load In Desk Location

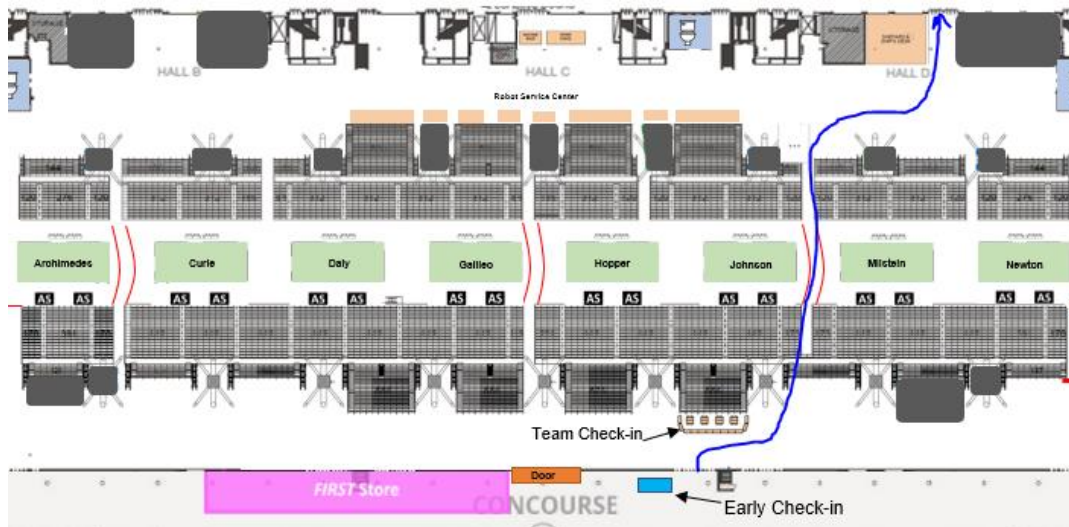


Teams who need to print name badges at the Team Check In desk or need to send members to the loading dock from the lobby may also check in at the early check-in desk to obtain a different colored wristband to allow them access. These teams will not be allowed in the pits until 9 am. Teams with the correct wristband will be allowed onto the loading dock via the door in Hall D in order to help unload items (see Figure 3). Teams should not go onto the loading dock until their team is assigned a spot to help minimize traffic for safety purposes.

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Figure 3: Path to Loading Dock



During the Early Load-In timeframe for teams that shipped their robot, teams can bring in one tote (approximately Kit of Parts size), with the preference that it is hand carried. The tote must fit through a standard doorway. The tote should include all hand tools needed to open the team's crate(s) and can include a corded or cordless power drill.

Early Load-In teams should expect that all items will be searched upon entry into the front doors of the venue and should have the tote ready to be inspected (i.e. don't have it zip-tied shut). Teams should not have items on the prohibited items list (per the [Event Rules E109](#)) in the tote. All other items must be brought in through the loading dock through the standard Load-In process.

Load Out

All teams must follow the Load-Out processes as outlined in the [Team Load Out Instructions](#) in order to carry out materials from the Pits from their vehicles. Additionally, Load Out rules change depending on how a team's robot arrived to Championship.

Teams that shipped their robot to Championship must visit the *FIRST* Ship Desk prior to Load Out, regardless of if they are shipping their robot home or will change to Hand-Carry home. The desk is open Thursday through Saturday. If you come early, you can skip the long Saturday line!

Teams that Hand-Carry their robot to Championship do not need to visit the *FIRST* Ship Desk. However, these teams must still visit the Load Out Desk once ready to leave the venue. Note: Hall A Load Out Desk is located in Hall A, while Hall E Load Out Desk is located in Hall D. This is updated for 2025 for load out safety.

Please be respectful of other teams and the public on your departure, leave your area clean and be safe. Once your team has finished competing in the matches on Saturday, have a Mentor visit the Load Out Desk in the same Hall as your team's pit. The mentor will be given an Access Code which can be given to the team vehicle's driver. The driver may then queue to the loading dock on Chartres Street, and once inside the loading dock can let the team know to bring all materials out to load. **Vehicles without access codes will not be allowed to queue.**

Use of 53' Trailers for Load In and Load Out

Groups of teams may pool their resources to transport their pit materials and/or robot with a 53' Trailer. All groups must apply for this allowance and receive authorization to enter the Loading Dock. Unauthorized 53' Trailers will not be allowed

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to enter the Loading Dock – no exceptions.

Rules, guidelines, and how to apply can be found in the [Community 53' Trailer Option Information document](#). Deadline to apply for the Community Trailer Option is March 27th, 2025.

Local Transportation

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

Figure 4: Metro Pass Advertisement

POWER YOUR TRAVELS TO THE 2025 FIRST ROBOTICS CONFERENCE

Conference attendees can now explore our nation's fourth largest city with the **METRO FIRST Robotics Convention Pass**. Enjoy unlimited local bus and light-rail service, April 16 – 19, including travel to destinations across the city.

Pass Options

Single Day Pass (Student) - \$1.50	CLICK HERE TO BUY
Single Day Pass (Adult) - \$3.00	

DAY PASS

METRO
RideMETRO.org | Call or text 713-635-4000

The advertisement features a blue background with yellow and white text. It includes icons of various robots and a stylized robot head with a yellow arrow pointing down to a 'DAY PASS' graphic. The METRO logo is prominently displayed at the bottom right.

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.

Meals & Breaks

Each division has been assigned a 1 hour 30-minute break for lunch on Thursday and Friday. Teams should listen carefully to announcements on each Division Field, as some matches are replayed during the Lunch Break. Please see the below schedule for Thursday & Friday by field.

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On Saturday, all Division Fields break from the end of the Division Field Playoffs until 2:00 PM.

Divisions	Day	Lunch Break Time
Archimedes	Thursday	11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
	Friday	12:45 PM – 2:15 PM
Curie	Thursday	11:15 AM – 12:45 PM
	Friday	12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
Daly	Thursday	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
	Friday	12:15 PM – 1:45 PM
Galileo	Thursday	11:45 AM – 1:15 PM
	Friday	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
Hopper	Thursday	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
	Friday	11:45 AM – 1:15 PM
Johnson	Thursday	12:15 PM – 1:45 PM
	Friday	11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Milstein	Thursday	12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
	Friday	11:15 AM – 12:45 PM
Newton	Thursday	12:45 PM – 2:15 PM
	Friday	11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Concessions

There are concessions located within the convention center, with many food options around the George R. Brown Convention Center as well.

The food kiosks at the George R. Brown Convention Center are cashless and will only accept debit and credit cards.

Staff will be set up on Level 1 (near our Main Registration) and Level 3 (near the Grand Ballroom lobby) at kiosks that will have the ability to accept cash and turn that into a GiveX card (a gift card that can be used at the food concessions and can use it throughout the week.)

Signage will be scattered on Level 1 and Level 3 letting people know, in addition to at the start of every concession so they see that notice before waiting in line.

The activation fee will be waived for these cards. They also will refund money that is still left on the card at the end of the event at those same kiosks, or they can keep the card with the money still loaded and will be able to use it next year.

Local food trucks will be around Discovery Green. [View a list of nearby restaurants.](#)

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Pre-Order Lunch

[Pre-Order Lunches](#) are available at the George R. Brown Convention Center and must be submitted by March 28, 2025*. Orders submitted after this date are subject to availability and have an additional 25% charge. A map including the delivery location on Level 2 is included in the order form.

Mental Health Support

Taking care of your mental well-being is just as important as your team's performance on the field. If you're feeling overwhelmed, stressed, or need someone to talk to, confidential counseling services are available on-site for adult and youth participants. The Harris Center for Mental Health will provide trained counselors who will offer confidential, on-site counseling services to *FIRST* participants Wed-Sat from 7:00 AM to 6:00PM.

- To Schedule an Appointment, Scan the QR code below or complete [this form](#):

Figure 5: Mental Health Support Form



- Check in for your appointment at the Youth Protection Office (Room 352C).
- If you have questions, email safety@firstinspires.org.

Note about Confidentiality: All appointments are private, and the limited data collected via the form is used only for scheduling. It will be deleted after the event.

Parking

Parking is available around the George R. Brown Convention Center, see [Downtown Houston Parking webpage](#) for more information.

Pits

There are 2 pit areas – one located in Hall A and one located in Hall E. The following divisions have pits located in Hall A:

- Archimedes

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- Curie
- Daly
- Galileo

The following divisions have pits located in Hall E:

- Hopper
- Johnson
- Milstein
- Newton

Each team is provided with a designated pit space marked with their team number, where they can work on their robot. Each team's pit comes with a power outlet and a table, and the pit is 10'x10'x10'. International teams should remember to bring international adapters for any power tools, etc.

Aisles must be kept clear for robot movement, safety, and queueing, so we suggest that team members watch the matches and cheer on the teams to prevent overflowing the pits and congregating in the aisles.

Safety glasses are required for all participants and any visitors in the pits and by the playing field. Teams are expected to bring safety glasses for all team members and any visitors they invite.

Food is not permitted in the Pit Areas.

Pit Admins

Each Pit area has a Pit Administration area located within the Pits. The Pit Admin stations are located directly next to the playing fields within the pit area. *FIRST* staff members and/or volunteers run this area to check teams in and help answer questions from teams and visitors.

Pit Announcements

Parts requests are grouped together and announced every 15 minutes. To submit a request, write your division, team number, and needed part on a piece of paper and give it to the Pit Administration staff. Additional announcements will be made at half-hour intervals. Personal and irrelevant announcements will not be made.

Pit Closing

For safety purposes, be respectful of the pit closing time each day. On Saturday, only essential team members are allowed to disassemble and pack items in pits. Aisles must be kept clear for freight movement and team load out.

Pit Hours

Date	Hours	Item	Notes
Wednesday	7:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Teams that shipped robots can enter early	6 Team Reps Only
	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Team Load In	6 Team Reps Only
	2:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Pits Open	
Thursday	7:00 AM - 6:30 PM	Pits Open	
Friday	7:00 AM - 6:30 PM	Pits Open	
Saturday	6:45 AM - 2:00 PM	Pits Open	

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Division Playoff Pits

There will be assigned pits for *FIRST* Robotics Competition Division playoff matches closer to the fields to be shared by 4 team alliances. Division Playoff Pits are 15' x 15' (4.57m x 4.57m). Alliances must work together to share the space accordingly including tools and equipment. Any pit structures cannot exceed 8' (2.4 m) in height. Teams may move to these spaces immediately after Alliance Selection.

Practice Fields

There are 2 complete Competition Fields in each Pit area, as well as several Practice Field elements on carpet available. A few reminders:

- Safety glasses are always required on all Practice Field spaces.
- Remember that teams must pass inspection prior to accessing the Practice Fields.
- The complete Practice Competition Fields are slightly modified. There are no field sounds or sensors.
- Teams may only practice with their robots in their pits or in designated practice areas. Teams may not set up their own practice elements outside their pits.

We recognize that teams shipping their robot are at a disadvantage as they cannot work on their robot after it ships. To help level the playing field, teams that ship their robot receive early access to the pits on Wednesday and:

- a fast pass that allows the team to skip the line one time on the 'playground' (non-official/wooden) practice fields any day they are open.
- a fast pass that allows the teams to skip the line one time on the official practice fields any day the practice fields are open.
- Note: Fast passes must be used prior to one hour before the day's scheduled closing time, i.e. prior to 6:00 PM on Wednesday and prior to 5:00 PM on Thursday and Friday.

Additional details on practice fields including times and rules are provided to teams in their Team Registration Packet.

Queuing

Teams are responsible for knowing their match times and are expected to queue 30 minutes prior to their matches without the help of an announcer. Teams need a minimum of 15 minutes to travel from their pit space to the playing fields. Please leave extra time to get back and forth between the pits and playing fields.

For qualification matches, *FIRST* will make every effort to keep close to the published schedules. There is no audio queuing.

FIRST will be using the [FRC Nexus](#) application at the 2025 Championship Event. Nexus is a web-based application, developed by Evan Forbes, and was widely used at events in 2023 and 2024. Nexus is not owned or managed by *FIRST*, and personal data (PII) collected by Nexus is not covered by the *FIRST* Privacy Policy. Participants should always review the privacy practices of third-party sites and applications before submitting any personal data. The [Nexus Privacy Policy](#) can be found on their website.

Nexus allows teams to sign up and receive notifications of their upcoming matches, which helps teams manage their time and makes teams aware of potential field delays.

It's important to note that while all 8 competition fields will be using Nexus, it is completely optional for teams to opt-in to receive notifications. The pit displays will still be available and will show the current match and how far ahead/behind the field is running. Teams that choose to opt-in to receive notifications from Nexus are still responsible for making it to their

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matches on time. **Matches will not be postponed or replayed because of a delayed or missed notification from Nexus.**

Report a Concern

Anyone can report a youth safety concern or medical incident to *FIRST* Headquarters using the [FIRST Reporting Portal](#) or by emailing safety@firstinspires.org:

1. **Youth Protection Concerns:** These can encompass a wide variety of issues impacting the safety of youth participants such as suspected abuse, bullying, harassment, discrimination, and/or questionable behavior or comments by adults.
2. **Medical Incidents:** All injuries or illnesses at a *FIRST* event, no matter how minor, must be reported. Incidents outside of events only need reporting if they involve *FIRST* materials, game design, or rules. For trip/slip/fall injuries, please include photos of the location, when possible, to help with documentation. Provide detailed information about the injury, immediate actions, and any follow-up care. Names can be removed for privacy, but key details like location and date/time are required. Accurate reporting helps improve safety.

Someone from *FIRST* will review youth protection reports and contact reporters, as appropriate/necessary. Anonymous Reports of Concern may be made on the *FIRST* Reporting Portal; however, the lack of contact information may impact our ability to follow up with the reporter and address the concern(s).

Remember that in the United States and Canada there are laws that require individuals working with youth to report known or suspected instances of child abuse and neglect. You can find a complete list for the USA and other contact information on the Child Welfare Gateway website [State Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Numbers](#). The contact information for reporting suspected child maltreatment in Canada can be found on the Canadian Child Welfare Research Portal under the [Provincial And Territorial Assistance](#) page.

FIRST requires all U.S. and Canadian teams to comply with youth protection policies and expects these standards to be applied internationally in accordance with [local laws and regulations](#).

Note: Feedback about issues such as game play, rule changes, awards, and event management (other than medical/safety issues) are considered program related concerns and not youth protection issues and should be shared with *FIRST* via customerservice@firstinspires.org.

Robot Services

Inspection

Inspection opens at 10:00 AM on Wednesday. Each Division has an inspection station and teams should go to the Inspection Station in their Division. Teams should start the inspection process as soon as possible to help every team get through it in a timely manner. The inspection process does not need to happen all at once and we encourage teams to weigh and measure their robot early in case any issues are identified. During inspection, if your inspector is unable to explain a decision or if you think there is an error, you can (and should!) ask for the Lead Robot Inspector (LRI) to assist.

Robots must pass inspection prior to accessing the practice fields and competing in Qualification Matches which begin on Thursday morning.

Robot Service Center

The Robot Service Center, located in the back of Halls B, C, & D, is an opportunity for you to seek and get support from Suppliers during the competition (e.g. technical help, spare parts, or assistance with repairs).

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Electrical & Software Assistance

Teams can request general help from Control Systems Advisors for troubleshooting software or electrical issues by submitting a request online at www.ni.com/frcsupport or by stopping by the NI booth in the Robot Service Center. There are also representatives from REV Robotics and CTR Electronics located in the Robot Service Center that can help troubleshoot issues with specific devices.

Machine Shop

NASA is graciously sponsoring and managing the *FIRST* Robotics Competition Machine Shop. The Machine Shop is now part of the Robot Service Center and are open when Pits are open. There is no grinding, braising, or welding in team pits; those requests must be completed by the machine shop.

Spare Parts

The Spare Parts Station has also moved to be part of the Robot Service Center. Parts are available on a limited basis. The attendant will be able to contact a *FIRST* Technical Advisor, Control System Advisor, or Lead Robot Inspector if approval is needed.

Team Service Center

We're thrilled to introduce the Team Service Center to the event! The Team Service Center is a team-run organization with the mission to help all teams. Competing in *FIRST* Robotics Competition is hard and they are here to help teams overcome challenges and get robots back out on the field. At the *FIRST* Championship, they will be providing spare parts, tool loans, and technical assistance. Teams 254 and 1678 will manage and run the effort, with participation from selected other teams. For those familiar with CheesyCare or Citrus Service, the Team Service Center is an expanded version of these groups, scaled to better meet the needs of teams at the *FIRST* Robotics Competition Championship.

The Team Service Center will have stations at both the Hall A and Hall E pit areas. Teams seeking parts or technical support may come to the location near their pit for help. Many parts and materials will be provided free of charge. Tools will be loaned and must be returned when work is complete to allow other teams access.

The Team Service Center looks forward to assisting many teams in having a successful *FIRST* Championship!

Schedule

Teams can reference the [FIRST Robotics Competition Public Schedule](#) and schedules are also available on the [FIRST Championship website](#) and in the Championship App. The [FIRST Championship App](#) can be downloaded from our website, or you may search for "*FIRST* Championship" in the App Store or Google Play Store.

Team Check-in

Team's lead mentor 1 or 2 must check-in at the Team Check In Desk in Hall C to receive their team's name badges and team Registration packet. Check-in times are Wednesday, 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

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.

Consent and Release Forms

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

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Pronoun Ribbons

Available at Central Registration and program Pit Admins.

U.S. Space Force Exclusive Planetarium Film Screening

The U.S. Space Force invites teams to join us for a free, exclusive premiere of our new planetarium film, *Always Above*. *Always Above* explores how close space is to our daily lives and the role that the U.S. Space Force plays in launching, operation, and defending these assets. This 12-minute, visually stunning journey will take audiences from the depths of the ocean to thousands of miles into space. *Always Above* is an inspiring, education experience for people of all ages who have ever looked to the skies and asked, "What's up there?"

Four screenings will take place on Wednesday, April 16th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Burke Baker Planetarium, just 3 miles from the Convention Center. All teams are responsible for transportation to and from the Burke Baker Planetarium. Free pizza and giveaways will be provided to all attendees.

To sign up, please RSVP for one of the below screening times. Space is limited to 160 people per session.

- [6:00pm to 6:20pm](#)
- [6:30pm to 6:50pm](#)
- [7:00pm to 7:20pm](#)
- [7:30pm to 7:50pm](#)

For any questions, contact Brittany Keegan at Brittany.keegan@gsdm.com.

Volunteers

Volunteers can also reference the [Volunteer Event Guide](#) for general volunteer information and the [FIRST Robotics Competition Championship Volunteer webpage](#) for volunteer information specific to the *FIRST* Robotics Competition Program.

Webcast

The live stream is available on [FIRSTtv](#). Visit Twitch for airtimes and archives. In addition to dedicated streams for each of the eight divisions, *FIRST* Champs Live will be back this season for combined coverage and analysis of the entire event! You can find links to all the streams on the [FIRST Championship website](#).