

FIRST 2025

CHAMPIONSHIP

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FIRST TECH CHALLENGE EVENT GUIDE

Updated 4.10.25

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Before the *FIRST* Championship Event

This document has been put together to cover *FIRST* Tech Challenge specific information for the *FIRST* Championship.

Please make sure to read [Section 15 in the Competition Manual](#) and the [last update of the Team Updates](#).

Please read the [FIRST Event Guide](#) for event-wide information.

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.

Gender Neutral Bathrooms

Gender neutral bathrooms will be available as shown in the layouts on the [FIRST Championship website](#) and the app.

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. Please read the *FIRST* Championship Event Guide for more information.

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

Airport Letter

If you need a letter to help bring your robot through airport security, you can find that on our [Team Resources webpage](#).

Certificate

The *FIRST* Championship event team certificate is available on our ["Team Management Resources" webpage](#), under the "*FIRST* Championship Corner" section.

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Check-In

Early Team Check-In is Tuesday, April 15, 3:00-6:00pm. Your team may also check in on Wednesday, April 16 from 7:30am to 10:00am. **All teams must be checked in by 10:00am on Wednesday.**

When teams check in, they will receive their team packet which contains their judging and inspection appointment schedule, driver and coach buttons, team schedules, event information, and media passes. To complete check-in, teams will need to send an adult to the registration desk (on the first floor or on the third floor near Pit Admin in the *FIRST* Tech Challenge Pit Area). Coaches should bring their ID so they can get the team badges printed. Team members will need official team badges to access most areas of the event. All team members should be pre-registered for the event through the housing system. All people traveling with the team may register as team members.

Drivers' Meeting

Wednesday, April 16 at 3:00pm on the *FIRST* Tech Challenge Competition Fields. Teams should assemble in the stands. Drive teams should assemble in the center section of the Edison and Ochoa field stands. We ask non drive team members to please sit on the Jemison and Franklin stands side. On site you can submit any Drivers' Meeting questions to Pit Admin until 12:00 noon CT on Wednesday.

Inspection

Wednesday, April 16

You will receive your inspection and judging appointment schedule via email a few days before the event. You will also receive your inspection and judging appointment schedule on site when you check in at Pit Admin.

Robot Hardware Inspection will take place in your team's pit area. Inspectors will come to your team's pit at your scheduled appointment time.

Field Inspection will take place on our competition fields. Robot sizing will be completed as part of the Field Inspection process.

Appointment times for field and robot inspection appointments are non-negotiable. The inspectors often spot problems and provide suggestions for correction. Your robot must pass inspection before it can compete in matches.

Please be sure that your robot follows the Robot Rules outlined in the [Competition Manual in Section 12 Robot Construction Rules](#). Please review [the Inspection Checklist](#) before this event.

Judging

Wednesday, April 16

You will receive your inspection and judging appointment schedule via email a few days before the event. You will also receive your inspection and judging appointment schedule on site when you check in at Pit Admin.

Please check-in early to your formal interview scheduled time. The check-in table will be near the exit of Hall B3 and we recommend checking-in 20 to 25 minutes ahead of your scheduled interview. Please bring your printed portfolio, and robot to your judging appointment with your team. The only thing you need to leave with the judges is your printed portfolio.

Please note that there is no power available in the judging rooms. Teams may not prerecord their 5-minute presentation. Teams should review the judging process and criteria in [Section 6 Awards, in the Competition Manual](#) prior to their formal interview appointment.

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If your team requires accommodation for judging, please email ftcteams@firstinspires.org and use the subject line "Judging Accommodations". The team will have a total of 15 minutes for the formal interview. Pit Interviews will be conducted throughout the day on Thursday and Friday morning. The team's Portfolio & Judging Interview Feedback form will be returned (via Pit Admin) on Friday afternoon.

Load In & Load Out

Load In

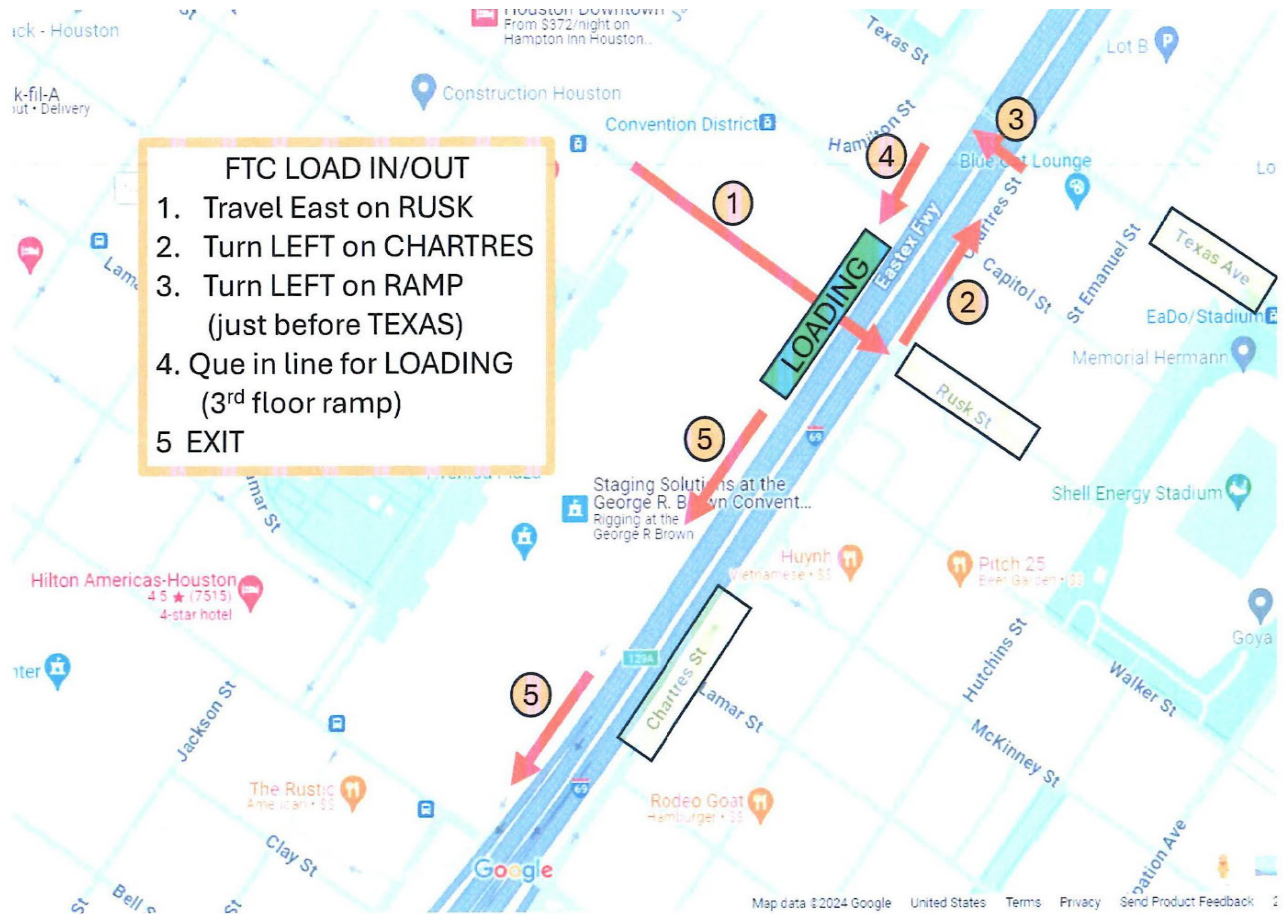
Will take place on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, from 3:00PM to 6:00PM and again on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, from 7:30AM to 10:00AM.

- Teams will drive up to the third-floor loading dock at the entrance located on Chartres Street (on the back side of the George R. Brown Convention Center). FTC loading docks will be behind Hall A3 and Hall B3.
- Team vehicles will check in at the entrance to the ramp and proceed up the ramp.
- Team vehicles will be directed to spaces by load in volunteers.
- Teams traveling in multiple vehicles need to arrive together in order to get load in spaces together.
- Teams cannot unload on Chartres Street or Avenida de Las Americas.
- Teams cannot leave vehicles unattended at ANY time.
- Load in volunteers will not have information on parking. Please use this [link](#) for parking information.

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FIRST Tech Challenge Team Load Out

Will take place on Saturday, April 19, 2025, from 8:00AM to 6:00PM utilizing the below plan.

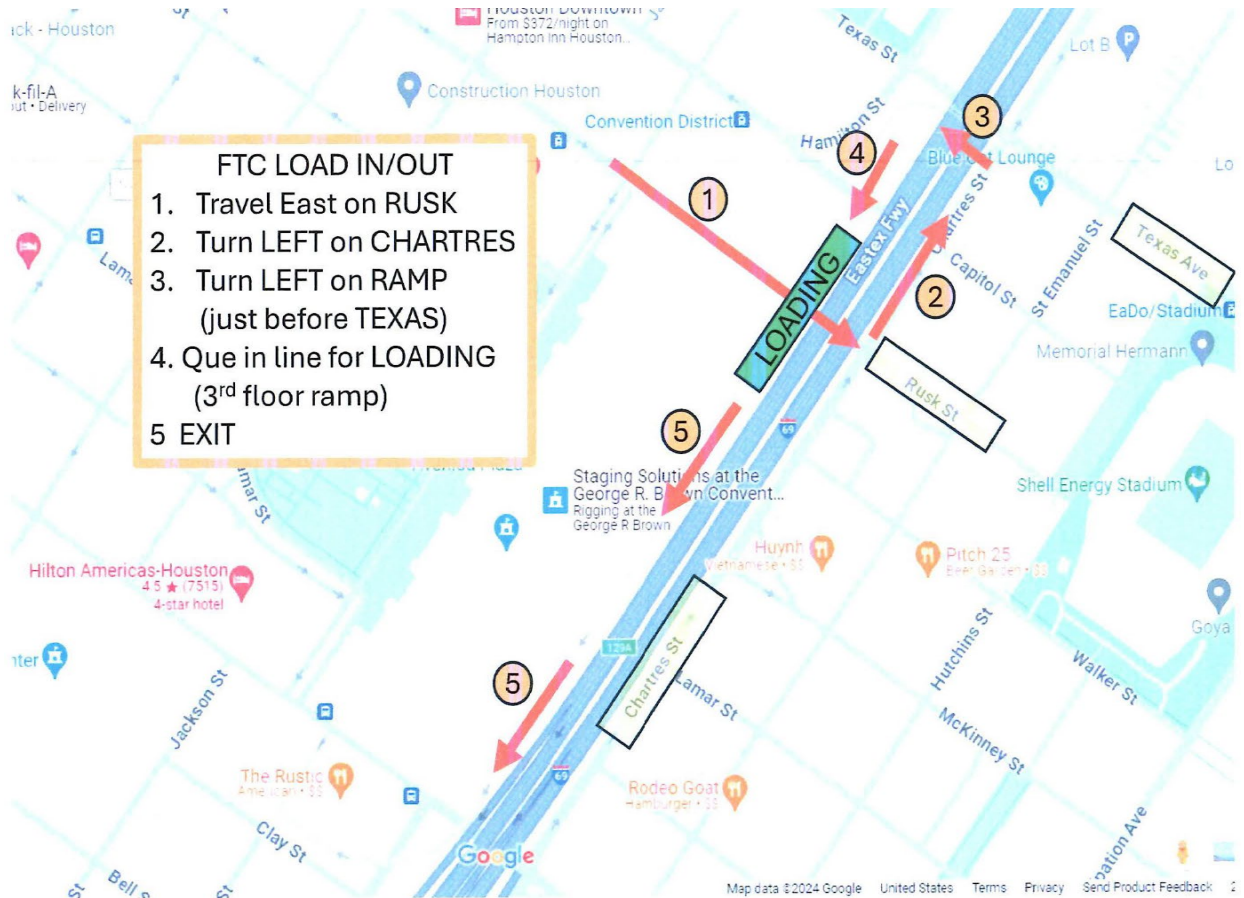
- Step 1: Please have your driver place and their orange load out pass in the front of the windshield of their vehicle. Vehicles will have to check in at the ramp entrance as they did during load in.
- Step 2: When your team is completely packed and ready to load out, bring your packed equipment to the queue, Door A, by the loading docks on level 3.
- Step 3: Check in with a load out volunteer, and then please call your driver and have them proceed to the third-floor ramp. (See map below) NOTE: If teams follow the map they will avoid all FRC traffic.
- Step 4: Team vehicles should arrive within 10-15 minutes of your call. Drivers cannot arrive before the team is in queue at the loading dock. If they do, they will be sent around to get back in the queue. Your driver will be directed to a loading dock space as they pull into the loading dock area by a load out volunteer. Drivers MUST stay with their vehicles.

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- Step 5: Please move your packed put items to the assigned dock space number when told by one of the load-out volunteers.



Match Play

Please see the [official team schedule for match times](https://ftc-events.firstinspires.org/2024/FTCCMP1). The official team schedule will be generated before the Drivers' Meeting and will be available online here: <https://ftc-events.firstinspires.org/2024/FTCCMP1>

Drive Team Badges

Each team will receive Drive Team buttons in their team registration packet. Please wear the buttons in a visible location above the waist so referees, judges, and queuers can see it. These buttons will allow the wearers access to the playing field and designate one coach button, two driver buttons, and one human player button. [These roles are outlined in the Competition Manual, Section 10.2 Drive Team.](#)

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Scoring Questions

All questions about a match or scores must be brought forward to the Referees by using the division specific Question Box located in the competition area. [Section 13.4 of the Competition Manual](#) lists specific rules and guidelines regarding the question box. Referees are not permitted to review video replays or images of matches.

Media

Each team registration packet will contain one team media badge and a copy of the media guidelines. The media representative for a team will be permitted in the designated media access areas only during their team's matches.

Team media representatives are not permitted in any private venues, VIP, volunteer, or judge's areas, or the *FIRST* Media Center for professional members of the media. Mascots will not be recognized as an official team media person unless they are wearing a media badge. There is no special access for media badge holders for final matches.

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](#):



- 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.

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Pits

The Pit Map is available here: <https://ftc-events.firstinspires.org/2024/FTCCMP1/pitMap>.

Each team is allocated a 10 foot by 10 foot by 10 foot by 10-foot (3.05 x 3.05 x 3.05 x 3.05 meter) pit space. Extending beyond your pit space is not allowed and you must set up your pit within your pit area (using the aisles is not allowed). There is a 10-foot (3.05 meter) height limit. Structures, signage, or banners cannot be higher than ten feet above the floor. Do not build any structure that supports people or stores items above the work area/pit space. If the height exceeds 10 feet, you will be asked to take it down. No advance placement requests are available.

Each pit area will be provided with one six-foot table but will not be provided with chairs. Each pit will have access to one electrical outlet in a dual outlet box. Teams should know they get one outlet and should bring a powerstrip that doesn't infringe on the other team's access to the outlet box. If you have any issues with your power please tell Pit Admin.

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 at the fields instead of overflowing the pit stations and congregating in the aisles.

Positioning is numerical by division. No requests for displays, additional tables, pit locations, division assignments, meeting rooms, or additional space will be considered. [Pit information is outlined in detail in Section 5.5 of the Competition Manual.](#)

Please remember that everyone will be required to wear safety glasses in the pit area. [This is outlined in the Competition Manual, section 5.1 General Rules.](#)

Pit Announcements

To submit a parts request, write your division, team number, and needed part on a piece of paper and give it to the Pit Admin staff. Announcements will be made periodically, not more than once every 30 minutes. Personal and irrelevant announcements will not be made.

Pit Queueing

Teams are responsible for knowing their match schedule and must queue up before their matches without an announcer's help. For qualification matches, *FIRST* will make every effort to keep close to the published schedules. Keep a close watch of the pit display for any moment-to-moment changes. If your team is one of the first matches of the day, queue early enough to be on the field before the competition begins.

Playing Fields

All playing fields are assembled and set up as described in the [Competition Manual](#) and the [AndyMark Field Assembly and Setup Guide](#) with the following *FIRST* Tech Challenge approved setup options:

- Foam Tiles: To reduce electrostatic buildup, heavy duty Staticide is applied to the playing field foam tiles.
- Playing Field Walls: AndyMark playing field walls are used.
- Practice Playing Fields: AndyMark playing field walls are used.
- Playing fields are split-up by division: Edison, Ochoa, Franklin and Jemison.

We will also utilize a compliance check-list.

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Competition Fields

There are eight competition fields, two per division.

Setup: The playing fields, driver stations, and driver station stands are located on raised stages with a painted plywood decking. The decking is not guaranteed to have a uniform texture.

Access: Team access to competition playing fields is restricted to: a) scheduled field inspection appointments, b) scheduled qualification matches, and c) daily robot sensor calibration opportunities specified on the *FIRST* Tech Challenge team schedule.

Power: North American standard 3-prong (NEMA 5-15 Type B) power strip outlets are available to teams at the queueing tables. Drive teams do not have access to venue supplied power at the competition playing fields.

Safety: Procedures for safe entry and exit from the raised platforms are in effect. These procedures are described during Field Inspection and the onsite Drivers' Meeting. Safety glasses and shoes with a closed toe and closed back are required at all competition playing field spaces. [This is outlined in the Competition Manual, section 5.1 General Rules.](#)

Practice Playing Fields

There are ten practice fields.

Setup: Practice playing fields are assembled on the concrete venue floors.

Access: The practice playing fields are operational during normal Pit hours on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. On Saturday, all ten practice playing fields are open from 7:30 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. After 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, six practice playing fields are available until 1:00 p.m.

Miscellaneous: Wi-fi, power, and driver station stands are not provided at the practice fields.

Safety: Safety glasses and shoes with a closed toe and closed back are required at all practice field locations. Safety glasses and shoes with a closed toe and closed back are required at all competition playing field spaces. [This is outlined in the Competition Manual, section 5.1 General Rules.](#)

Portfolio

Teams must bring their portfolio to their scheduled judging appointment. Please read [the Competition Manual](#) for portfolio requirements. Portfolios will be returned to Pit Admin on Friday afternoon for team pickup.

Robot Help Desk

FIRST Tech Challenge will have a Robot Help Desk at Tuesday Team Check-In from 3:00pm-6:00pm to help any teams with robots that might have been damaged while traveling. Please see the Pit Admin desk for assistance.

Robot Service Booths

The robot service booths are in the *FIRST* Tech Challenge pit area. These booths are an opportunity for you to seek technical help, spare parts, or assistance with repairs from our vendors including AndyMark, goBILDA Pitsco, REV Robotics, and Studica. We encourage all teams to check out their booths and thank them for their support.

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Shipping

The George R. Brown Convention Center cannot accept shipments directly. Teams will need to make their own shipping accommodations.

Virtual Coaches Meeting

FIRST Tech Challenge will be hosting a Virtual Coaches Meeting for all our coaches attending *FIRST* Tech Challenge *FIRST* Championship. The webinar will be on Wednesday, April 9 at 8:00pm ET.

If you weren't able to join the meeting you [can view the slides here](#) and [watch the webinar recording here](#).