



*FIRST*Tech Challenge teams (10+ members, grades 7-12) are challenged to design, build, program, and operate robots to play a floor game in an alliance format. Participants call it “the hardest fun you’ll ever have!” Guided by adult Coaches and Mentors, students develop STEM skills and practice engineering principles (like keeping an engineering notebook), while realizing the value of hard work, innovation, and sharing ideas. The robot kit is reusable from year-to-year and can be programmed using a variety of languages. Teams also must raise funds, design and market their team brand, and do community outreach for which they can win awards. Participants have access to tens of millions of dollars in college scholarships. Each season concludes with regional Championships and an exciting [FIRST Championship](#)



### Starting an *FIRST*TECH CHALLENGE Team

Anyone can start a *FIRST*Tech Challenge Team. Teams may be made up of members from a school, church, scout troop, club or group of friends. It is often necessary to form a new team since existing teams may not be adding new members. A starting point is [FIRST's Start a Team webpage](#). *Note: Neither iSPACE nor FIRST creates teams, hosts teams or places students onto teams.*

### Steps to Form a Team:

1. Recruit 3-10+ students; team members must be ages of 13-18. An individual can be on only one *FIRST*TECH CHALLENGE team per season.
2. [Register the team](#) with *FIRST*Tech Challenge. Registration opens in May and runs until mid-September or until all slots are filled, whichever comes *FIRST*. Team members do not need to be identified until tournament registration in late fall.
3. Order your robotics kit and begin practicing building techniques and learning the programming software.
4. Attend the *FIRST*TECH CHALLENGE OH Kick-Off in September, as *FIRST* reveals the yearly *FIRST*TECH CHALLENGE Challenge.
5. [Register for an Ohio Regional Qualifying Tournament](#). *FIRST*TECH CHALLENGE OH has a qualifying system whereby teams must compete in one of six qualifying tournaments to advance to the *FIRST*TECH CHALLENGE OH Championship. Qualifying Tournaments are usually in January and the OH Championship is in February. Approximately 1/6 of the teams competing in qualifiers advance.

### *FIRST*TECH CHALLENGE Timeline

May: Registration begins	January: Regional Qualifying Tournaments
September: Kick-off - Challenge is announced.	February: FTC OH Championship (teams must qualify)
September - March: Build and Practice Season	March: <a href="#">Super Regionals</a> - Iowa (teams must qualify)
October - March: Tournament Season	April: <i>FIRST</i> Championship - St. Louis, MO (teams must qualify)
November- February: Local Scrimmages	

### Expected Costs

Fees are based on last year’s prices. Costs are approximate and may vary if a team purchases additional parts or participate in multiple events. Travel costs will also vary.

#### **Cost: \$1500 – 3000 for a new team**

- \$275 *FIRST*TECH CHALLENGE Team Registration Fee
- \$100 *FIRST*TECH CHALLENGE OH Regional Qualifier Registration Fee
- \$250 *FIRST*TECH CHALLENGE OH Championship fee (if team advances)

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