



HOW TO START A *FIRST* LEGO League Team

.....for the 2010 *FIRST*® LEGO® League Season

FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL) is very exciting program for kids 9 – 14 years old where....
“*what you discover is more important than what you win*”.

ORTOP does not place team members onto teams or give out existing coach contact information. Parents, teachers and school administrators and community group organizers are encouraged to form teams on their own. For more information consult www.ortop.org/fll

Here are suggestions to help you get started.

Every team needs an adult coach over the age of 18. The coach is responsible to:

- a. **Recruit 3 – 10 kids** to be on the team. Kids slightly younger than 9 are ok. Kids must be 14 years of age on January 1, 2010 or younger to participate.
- b. **If possible, enlist one or two other adults to help you** manage the team.
- c. (Optional but suggested) **Register and attend ORTOP Adult Workshops**
<http://www.ortop.org/res.htm#work> Workshops begin in June and end in Sept.
- d. **Register the team** with *FIRST*® LEGO® League <https://gofll.usfirst.org> and order the equipment: The annual Field Set-up Kit and NXT Robot. National Registration begins in early May and ends the last week of September or when FLL runs out of registration numbers for the USA.
- e. **Find a meeting place:** classroom, basement, community center space, etc.
- f. **Register the team to participate in a December Oregon Qualifying Tournament organized by ORTOP** <http://www.ortop.org/overview.htm#tour> ORTOP Tournament Reg opens in early October.
- g. **Facilitate weekly (or more frequent) team practices** from Sept – December. The team works on building and programming the robot to solve the mission challenges. Researched The Project topic, shares it with the community and prepares a 5 minute Project Presentation for the qualifying tournament.
- h. **Bring your team to a qualifying tournament in December.** Tournaments have traditionally been held in the Portland Metro area, Corvallis, Roseburg, Bend, McMinnville, and LaGrande.
- i. If your team does really well, it will be invited to one of two Championship Tournaments on January 2011

For schools with existing teams we suggest that you contact the school office to learn about FLL team formation and how to involve your child.

Q&A:

WHAT IS *FIRST*®? *FIRST*® stands for For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. It is an international non-profit education foundation located in Manchester, NH. *FIRST*® creates the FLL Challenge www.usfirst.org . Students in 56 countries around the world participate in FLL every year.

WHAT IS ORTOP? Oregon Robotics Tournament and Outreach Program is a program of the Oregon University System. ORTOP is volunteer-driven with the exception of one part time staff person. It is funded from grants and donations from corporations. ORTOP implements the FLL program in Oregon. www.ortop.org

Additional Questions? Email questions@ortop.org or call 503-725-2920



FIRST® LEGO® League at a GLANCE (in Oregon) for 9 – 14 year old students

2010 Timeline for FIRST® LEGO® League / “Body Forward: Engineering Meets Medicine”	
May 3	National Team Registration Open for FIRST LEGO League and materials order submitted. A team registration is for a maximum of 10 students. NXT Robot Kits ships upon payment
mid-August	LEGO® Education ships “Body Forward” Challenge materials to teams
Sept 5 th	2010 FLL Challenge released –Teams begin to solve Body Forward: Engineering Meets Medicine
Late September	National FLL registration closes when Field Set-up kits are sold out
Early October	Registration for a ORTOP Qualifying tournament in Oregon
December 4,5,11,12	20+ Qualifying Tournaments held in Portland Metro area, Bend, Corvallis, Roseburg, McMinnville and La Grande. New sites for 2010 TBD
January 2011	Intel Oregon FLL Championship Tournament held in Hillsboro, Oregon

FREE ORTOP Workshops for Adults Schedule and Registration at http://www.ortop.org/fll	
June – September Portland Area	Free ORTOP Workshops offered for adults to learn how to be coaches and mentors. Held in Portland Metro area.
Outside of Portland	If there is interest, ORTOP will hold Extended Saturday workshops in Southern, Eastern and Central Oregon (one per location) during the summer.
Workshop I – Introduction to FIRST® LEGO® League, ORTOP and LEGO Robotics	
Workshop II – Coaching and Mentoring Techniques	
Workshop III – Robotics Techniques	
Workshop IV – All Day Extended Saturday – combines Workshops I, II & III	
Each workshop includes some aspect of learning to build and program an NXT Robot as well as the aspects of the tournament elements and procedure/paperwork details.	

Program Costs when purchased through FIRST LEGO League (prices listed are for the 2010 season and are subject to change)	
FIRST® LEGO® League National Registration (up to 10 students)	\$200*
FIRST® LEGO® League annual challenge Field Set-up Kit (Body Forward) (can be shared by two or more teams at one location)	\$65*
LEGO® Mindstorm NXT Robot Kit with software (reusable each year)	\$395*
* Total Shipping and Handling for a NEW team	\$50
ORTOP Tournament Program Fee	\$75
Materials to build a 4' x 8' competition table for field set-up kit (reusable each year –can be shared by two or more teams at one location)	\$50 - \$75 range
~Total cost for a first year rookie team	\$850
~Total cost for returning team	\$360

ORTOP Grants: Application available at www.ortop.org
ORTOP has a limited number of partial grants to cover fees, robot kits or tournament materials to schools and community organizations serving students that meet financial aid requirements based on free and reduced lunch status. Requirements: At least a two year commitment to the FLL program Coach must attend ORTOP workshops if within 100 miles of a workshop location Commit to at least weekly meetings and bringing the team to a qualifying tournament

Web Resources	
Oregon Robotics Tournament & Outreach Program (at Oregon University System)	www.ortop.org/fll
FIRST® LEGO® League	www.usfirst.org
SuperQuest (community partner of ORTOP) Low cost Professional Development Summer Training for teachers in LEGO Robotics & other tech topics	www.techstart.org/superquest.html