



HOW TO START A *FIRST* LEGO League Team

.....for the 2009 *FIRST* LEGO League Season

FIRST LEGO League 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.

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. **Register the team** with FIRST LEGO League <http://register4fll.com/> and order the equipment: Smart Move Field Set-up Kit and NXT Robot. Registration begins in May and ends the last week of September or when FLL runs out of registration numbers.
- b. **Find a meeting place:** classroom, basement, community center space, etc.
- c. **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, 2009 or younger to participate.
- d. **If possible, enlist one or two other adults to help you** manage the team.
- e. (Optional but suggested) **Register and attend ORTOP Adult Workshops** <http://www.ortop.org/res.htm#work> Workshops begin in June and end in Sept.
- f. **Register the team to participate in a December Oregon Qualifying Tournament** <http://www.ortop.org/overview.htm#tour> Registration open from Oct 1 – 12.
- 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 and prepare a 5 minute Project Presentation.
- h. **Bring your team to a qualifying tournament in December.** Tournaments have traditionally been held in the Portland Metro area, Corvallis, Roseburg, Bend, Salem and LaGrande.
- i. If your team does really well, it will be invited to one of two Championship Tournaments on January 2010

To find out if a team existed in your community in 2008 please refer to:

http://www.ortop.org/Documents/QT_2008FLL-Roster_County.pdf .

This lists 2008 teams by county, city and affiliation. **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 a international non-profit education foundation located in Manchester, NH. www.usfirst.org

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. www.ortop.org

Additional Questions? Email questions@ortop.org or call 503-821-1136