

Four Points Middle School Robotics Club FIRST Lego League Application

The FPMS Robotics Club works with the FIRST Lego® League (FLL) program to increase student interest in math and science. FLL is a partnership between the non-profit group FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science & Technology) and the Lego® company. Please visit <https://www.firstinspires.org/> for more information. The FPMS Robotics Club promotes team building, problem solving, creativity, and analytical thinking with a hands-on philosophy that incorporates Lego Mindstorms™ technology. Over a 4 to 10 month period, teams of 3-6 students strategize, design, build, program, experiment, test and refine a fully autonomous robot capable of completing pre-assigned missions. Teams also research a predefined scientific problem and develop a presentation on a solution that they have developed. The season culminates with a local tournament. Top performing teams at the local tournament are invited to state & international tournaments.

About the FPMS Robotics Program...

- No prior experience with Lego® Mindstorms™ or FIRST Lego® League is necessary.
- Teams meet about twice a week for 1.5 - 2 hrs per meeting (more frequently as tournaments approach)
- Season begins between May and August 2018 and ends between December of 2018 and April of 2019
- Local tournaments are in November-February (an entire Saturday)
- Central Texas tournament is in late February or early March (it should be in Austin).
- If the team advances to Nationals or World, those are held in April or May.
- **Applications are due 5/11/18 to the FPMS main office. Please give to Patrice and ask to have them placed in the FLL folder.**
- Teams are limited to a maximum of **six** members (unless requested by the coach for more)
- Late applicants will be put on a waiting list. Teams will be placed using applicants that turned in forms on time first and then filled with late applicants in the order they are received.
- **All new applicants (incoming 6th graders and 7th/8th graders that have never participated in FIRST or FLL) must attend an informational meeting with a Parent on April 4th at 6:00 pm.** The meeting will be held in the Four Points Middle School conference room. In order to be placed on a team, you must attend the meeting.
- If you have participated in an FLL team during the 2017-2018 season at FPMS (or you are on an incoming elementary school team), you will be guaranteed a team slot contingent on if your coach continues to volunteer.
- Your child is guaranteed a spot if you are willing to coach and there are enough students to form a team.
- **Each team member is required to have one parent volunteer**
- All applications will be reviewed for missing or inaccurate information. Applications with missing or inaccurate information, students with excessive absences, or disciplinary issues deemed to be unbecoming of FIRST, FLL, and its other sponsors and supporters will be excluded from eligibility
- **Participation fee of \$150 is due on or before 5/24/18**
- Make checks out to **"Four Points Middle School"** and note **"FLL Robotics Club"** in the Memo. **Please include your phone number and driver's license number on your check or it can not be processed.** There may be additional costs of \$75-100 throughout the season depending on numbers of students who participate..
- Need based scholarships are available on a case by case basis. Please email Dr. Ciccarelli at joe.ciccarelli@leanderisd.org for additional information
- **Eligible applicants will be notified by email on 5/18/18.**

Please contact Dr. Ciccarelli to apply for financial assistance.. For more information contact parent volunteer, **Karen Norrod at knorrod@aol.com or Tayla Terral, teacher sponsor Tayla.Terral@leanderisd.org .**

Student's Name _____ 2018/2019 Grade _____ Birth Date _____ Gender _____
Address _____
Home Phone _____ Student Cell Phone _____ Student Email _____

Parents'/Guardians' Names, Cell numbers, & Email Addresses:

(OPTIONAL) Provide the name(s) of other participants/siblings with whom you wish to be teamed:

Applicant Name: _____

Please provide the following information in order to help your placement on a team with similar experience, goals and time commitments – use additional page if necessary:

Are you already on an existing robotics team? Do you want to remain on that team?

Have you had experience with robotics at school? At camp? On a competitive FLL team?

Have you participated in Destination Imagination? Theater? Debate team? Band? Other?

Do you have any other information you would like to share about your interests?

Parent Name: _____

This activity is dependent upon Volunteers. **One parent volunteer role per student is required:** Technical Coach, Team Organizer, Project/Research Coach, Snack Parent, TShirt Coordinator. No experience is necessary. See *Club Volunteer Positions* for descriptions.

If your child was on a team last year, who were the coaches?

Can your child participate over the summer? Do you know any of your child's schedule for next Fall i.e. she will have soccer on Tues/Thurs or he has piano on Wed?

How did you hear about this Club? _____

Any additional information you would like to share?

Four Points Middle School Robotics Club Volunteer Positions

The FPMS Robotics Club is dependent upon adult volunteers to have this program. **Each team member must have one parent adult volunteer.** The time commitment includes reading about and understanding the FLL program. Experienced coaches will act as your “big sisters/brothers” before and during the season. The first year is a learning experience and will be rewarding for you and the students. **You and your team (and team parents) will decide when to start meetings (May through August), how many meetings to have per week, how much your team will spend on materials, t-shirts, etc. as these costs are not included in the registration fees.** Keep in mind that the students are responsible for the ideas and work; volunteers are there to guide, teach, and help them “make their dreams come true”.

Mark the position(s) you are willing to serve:

- Technical Coach** – Some engineering and/or programming experience is valuable for this position in order to mentor the students about how to build and program a Lego Mindstorm robot. However, mentors can be found from outside of the team and coaches can learn from reading, the internet and other mentors. Time commitment is what your team and you decide. Generally teams meet a few times over the summer, then begin once weekly meetings at the start of school and once or twice per week starting in about September or October through the local tournament in December. If your team advances to the March tournament they can meet January-March as you all decide. It is helpful if you have room at your house/garage for a competition table and can allow your team to meet there. **Meetings will not be held at school.**

- Team organizer** – Organization includes coordinating parents to complete online paperwork for registration and tournaments. Emailing team members to organize practices, transportation, money collection, purchasing necessary materials, etc.

- Project/Research Coach** – Coach the students on working on their research project and presentation and arrange field trips and/or speakers. You also make sure they stay on track. This could be once per week and more closer to the tournament date.

- T-Shirt Coordinator** – This parent would coordinate team members to create a t-shirt design, collect payment, and print t-shirts for team members and requesting parents.

- Snack Parent** – Hard working kids need snacks. This position will be sure all the kids have snacks and drinks by collecting money or snacks and delivering snacks to wherever they are meeting. The team can decide that each child must bring their own but often this does not work and the kids are unfocused due to hunger.

List volunteer roles by preference below, one as greatest preferred and three as least preferred:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Other volunteer opportunities will present themselves for transportation (you can be sure all the kids get to the off-campus meetings by driving them), Club activities, finding mentors, etc.

Printed Name

Parent Signature

Date

Four Points Middle School Robotics Club Student / Parent Contract

This contract is to insure that students and parents understand the responsibility and commitment required for participation in the FPMS Robotics program. Breach of this contract may result in dismissal from the program with no refund of the participation fee.

STUDENT CONTRACT

- I realize that no problem has only one solution, and that a successful team is one which cooperates by considering EVERYONE'S solution and ideas. I will not criticize anyone's ideas.
- I agree that my behavior at meetings and tournaments will be constructive.
- **I agree that each team meeting is valuable and I will attend each meeting as best I can.**
- **If a conflict with meetings arises, I will notify my coach in advance.**
- I agree to cooperate on whatever solution the team chooses, even if it is not my first choice.
- I agree that all solutions will be my work or the work of my teammates.
- I understand that the FLL program recognizes all teams that bring a solution to the tournaments are considered winners. I agree to show other teams the utmost respect and good sportsmanship.
- I agree that the goal of my team should be to do our best to solve a challenging problem.
- I agree to stick with FPMS Robotics all season, even if I sometimes get frustrated.
- I agree that I will not miss more than two robotics meetings in a row, except under extenuating circumstances previously discussed with the coach.
- I agree that breaking any part of this contract may prevent myself from continuing to be a part of the team, even if I am already part of the team.
- I agree the Technical Coach and Team Organizer have the right to let my parents know if I am not abiding by this contract which may prevent me from continuing to be part of the team at the Technical Coach and Team Organizer's discretion.
- I agree to HAVE FUN!

I, _____, have read and agree to each of the above items.

Printed Student Name

Signature of team applicant _____

Date _____

PARENT CONTRACT

- I agree, in the spirit of FLL, not to interfere with the team's solutions. All creations, inventions, and ideas must come from the team members.
- **I agree to take on one volunteer role and fully see the role to completion in order to sustain my student's team eligibility.**
- **I understand that my child has a commitment to his/her team. I agree to make every effort to have my child attend all team meetings. If there is a conflict, I will notify the coach as soon as possible.**
- I understand that my child's coaches are volunteers and as such are not compensated by the FPMS Robotics program or LISD. I realize that coaches will be contributing a significant amount of time and effort to provide a rewarding experience for my child and the team. I will be as cooperative and helpful as possible to insure their success.
- I agree that breaking any part of this contract may prevent my student from continuing to be a part of the team, even if my student is already part of the team.
- I agree the Technical Coach and Team Organizer have the right to let me know if my student is not abiding by the Student Contract which may prevent my student from continuing to be part of the team at the Technical Coach and Team Organizer's discretion.
- **I understand that the FPMS Robotics participation fee pays for some of the equipment, registration fees, and materials & that it cannot be returned. Should my child withdraw from the program there will be no refund. If our team loses parts during the season; our team will be charged for the replacement of those parts.**
- I agree to hold harmless the team coaches, volunteers, program coordinator, and the School District for any injuries that may occur during participation in the FPMS Robotics program.

I, _____, have read and agree to the above items.

Printed Parent Name

Signature of Parent _____ Date _____