

Building a Better FIRST SC: Connect with FRC, FTC, and FLL

FRC Kickoff – January 6, 2024
ECPI University

Catherine Zende Bowers – *FIRST* LEGO League Program Delivery Partner (PDP)
Elizabeth Link – *FIRST* Senior Mentor (FSM)

Welcome & Introductions

1. Name
2. Team
3. Favorite part of being in *FIRST*

Agenda

1. How to support the *FIRST* community
2. Mentoring teams
3. Building relationships in FRC
4. Supporting FLL + Core Values activity
5. Supporting FTC
6. Register to volunteer!
7. Youth Advisory Council

Ways to Support *FIRST* South Carolina

- Mentor a *FIRST* Team (FLL, FTC, or FRC)
- Volunteer at a *FIRST* Event (FLL, FTC, or FRC)
- Support outreach activities organized by *FIRST* South Carolina

How To Mentor a Team

You can mentor or support fellow teams in-person or virtually

- FRC examples: provide technical support for key areas, help with travel arrangements, help with fundraisers, provide parts/materials, or help at an event (scouting, pit support, etc.)
- FLL and FTC examples: start a team, host a team at your school/shop, mentor a team in person or virtually, offer to help with judging or robot game support.

Finding Teams to Mentor:

- Contact one of your FSMs to learn how to connect with a local team.
 - Elizabeth.Link@FIRSTSouthCarolina.org
 - Pam.Melling@FIRSTSouthCarolina.org
- 20 Rookie FTC teams in SC this year
- 48 Rookie FLL teams in SC this year

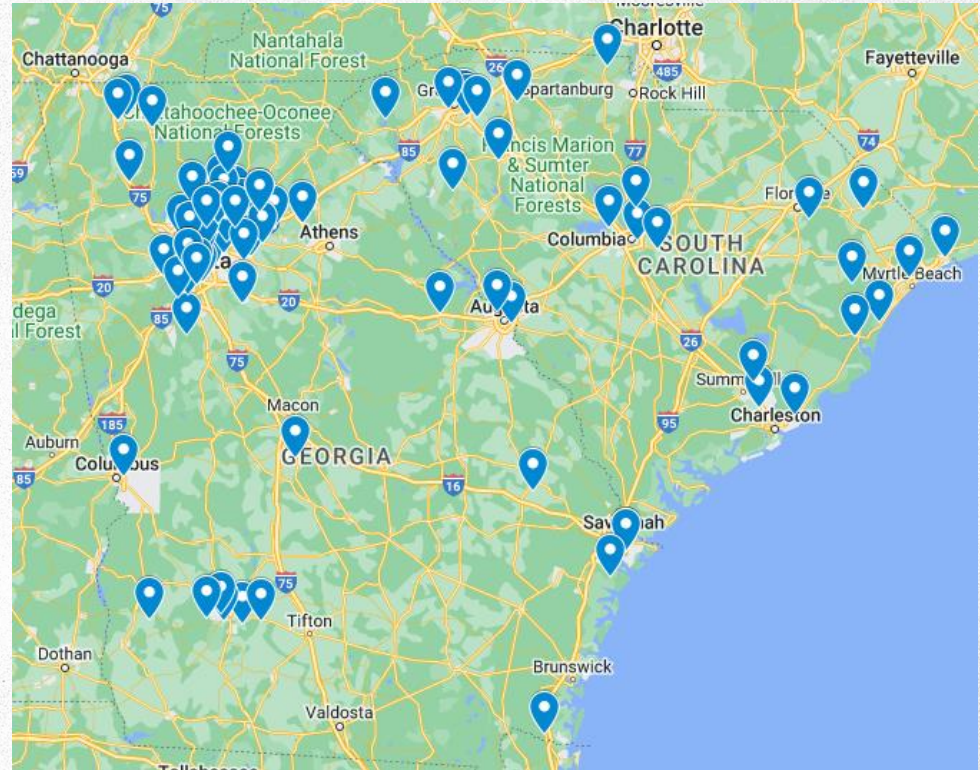
Building Better Relationships in FRC

- Relationships in *FIRST* are KEY to the success of teams and events. Building strong relationships with your fellow teams and event volunteers leads to better experiences for all members of your team now and in the future.
- Understand that we are a COMMUNITY above all. Individual team success = success for the entire community!
- What are some challenges with building relationships outside your team?
- What are some initiatives you can take to build better relationships?

Map of PCH FRC Teams



SCAN ME





FIRST
LEGO
LEAGUE

*FIRST*LEGO League introduces science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) to children ages 4-14 through fun, exciting hands-on learning. Participants gain real-world problem-solving experiences through a guided, global robotics program, helping today's students and teachers build a better future together.

Our three divisions inspire youth to experiment and grow their critical thinking, coding, and design skills through hands-on STEM learning and robotics.

*FIRST*South Carolina has supports teams and events for FLL Challenge and FLL Explore.

Many FRC students participate in FLL in elementary and middle school!

FLL teams can be formed in schools, community groups, or in family/neighborhood settings.

MASTERPIECE



Supporting *FIRST* LEGO League

- **Host** an event:
 - The event takes place at a team facility OR the event takes place at a facility arranged for by the team
- **Run** an event:
 - Team members are involved in the majority of the planning of the event. Team members are involved in the majority of the on-site event execution or have arranged for and are supervising the volunteers to handle the majority of the on-site event execution.
- **Support** an event
 - Multiple team members are involved in some part of the planning of the event. Multiple team members are involved in the on-site or online event execution for the entirety of the event (i.e. Team members have volunteered for the entirety event)
- **Assist** a local team
 - Providing communication, either in person or via phone/email/video conference, to the Assisted team helping with technical or non-technical program specific issues. OR Providing funding and/or supplies to the Assisted team.
- **Mentor** a local team
 - Providing consistent communication, either in person or via phone/email/video conference, to the Mentored team helping with technical or non-technical FIRST program specific issues.

FIRST LEGO League Event Volunteer Roles:

- Referee
- Judge (prior FLL experience required)
- Scorekeeper / Timekeeper
- Master of Ceremonies / Game Announcer
- DJ / Tech Support
- Queuer (Robot Game or Judging)
- Event Set-up and teardown
- Practice Table Monitor
- General Event Support / Floater



Benefits of Supporting FLL Events/Teams

- Good outreach opportunity to reference in FRC judging
- Team building
- Fundraising
- Recruitment
- Promotion of FRC team in community/school



What do others say about volunteering?

"I have participated in FIRST in some capacity since 6th grade. As a student, I was amazed by the incredible people who volunteered their time to give me a great time and an even better future. When I moved on to high school robotics, it was a no-brainer for me to give back to FLL. Giving my time as others did for me is a fulfilling experience and something I wouldn't give for the world." - **Ben S. (FRC alum, 3489)**

"I love helping FLL because it allows me to give back to the community that sparked my love for FIRST, while also giving me a better perspective of what it takes to be a FIRST mentor on a day-to-day basis." - **Jacob B. (FRC student, 342)**

Where is FLL in South Carolina?

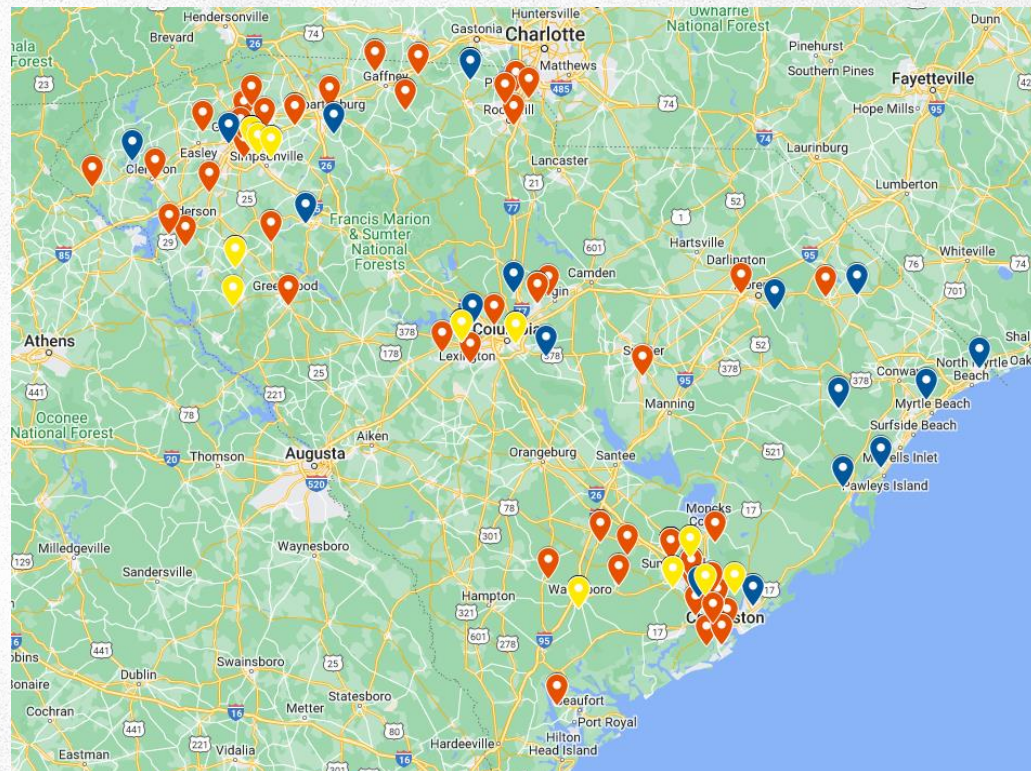
Red = FLL Challenge Teams

Blue = FRC Teams

Yellow = FLL Challenge Events

Needs for 2024:

- Teams and events in underrepresented areas like Aiken, Rock Hill, and Pee Dee/Myrtle Beach regions.



Core Values Activity!

Six bricks activity used in FLL

- **Instructions:** Two volunteers stand back-to-back. Person 1 makes an art piece using 6 LEGO bricks and gives instructions to Person 2 to duplicate.
- **Purpose:** This activity illustrates the importance of teamwork and communication.



FIRST TECH CHALLENGE

FIRST Tech Challenge students learn to think like engineers. Teams design, build, and code robots to compete in an alliance format against other teams. Robots are built from a reusable platform, powered by Android technology, and can be coded using a variety of levels of Java-based programming.

South Carolina has over 48 FTC teams and several events across the state each season.

FTC teams use the same tools and skills as FRC teams and thus make great mentoring opportunities for FRC teams looking to expand their impact!

***FIRST* Tech Challenge Opportunities:**

- **Field Resetter:**
Reset the playing field after each match.
Plays a critical role in ensuring smooth flow of match play and maintaining pace of the event.
Reset field after each match.
Check field for debris after match, remove.
Check field for damage; report damage to Head Referee.
Prerequisite: FIRST experience strongly preferred, but not required. BlueVolt training course.
Minimum Age Requirement: 13 years of age or older.
- **Game Announcer:**
The Game Announcer's role is working with the Emcee to:
Introduce teams.
Provide play-by-play commentary.
Report the scores.
Prerequisite: FIRST experience strongly preferred, but not required. BlueVolt training course.
Minimum Age Requirement: 15 years of age or older.

FIRST Tech Challenge Opportunities:

- **Queuer:**

- Responsible for managing team traffic to and from the playing field.
- Stage and position teams in preparation for the start of matches.
- Play a critical role in ensuring smooth flow of match play and keeping the pace of the event.
- Escorts teams from the pit to the queuing area.
- Stage and position teams for matches.
- Restrict access to the field for unauthorized individuals.
- Maintain an uninterrupted flow of teams to the playing field.
- Direct teams to fields, and from the field.
- Prerequisite: FIRST experience preferred, but not required. BlueVolt training course.
- Minimum Age Requirement: 15 years of age or older.

- **Load-In/Load-Out Crew:**

- These volunteers are responsible for either:
 - Setting up the event before the competition and/or tearing down the event after the competition.
- Prerequisite: FIRST experience preferred, but not required.
- Minimum Age Requirement: 13 years of age or older.

Becoming a Host Team:

- **PDP Contact Info for FLL and FTC:**
 - Catherine Zende Bowers (FLL) – Catherine.Zende@FIRSTSouthCarolina.org
 - Linda Stewart (FTC) - Linda.Stewart@FIRSTSouthCarolina.org
- **What to expect (Mentors):**
 - **Organize your students and volunteers to support the event by planning for key volunteer roles to be filled, venue space for event/pit/judging rooms, set up planning and coordinating, canteen & food items to be considered, etc.**
- **What to expect (Students):**
 - **As the host team, you and your teammates have the opportunity to serve as role models for younger students in FIRST. You gain valuable skills in running the event, networking, and serving in key volunteer roles**

FIRST Dashboard Volunteer Signups:

- **Log into firstinspires.org**
- **Click Volunteer Registration**
- **Search for events near you!**

[< Back to Dashboard](#)

Don't see an event in your area? Click here to [Apply to a Program](#). This option will allow you to complete your volunteer registration information, youth protection screening, and indicate your interest in volunteering at local events. Check back often for new events!

Event Filters CLEAR FILTERS

Program(s)

FIRST® LEGO® League - Explore

FIRST® LEGO® League - Challenge

FIRST® Tech Challenge

FIRST® Robotics Competition

Location

Country

United States ▼

State

14 Event(s) located

<p>FIRST Tech Challenge SC Lowcountry Scrimmage 3</p> <p>EVENT LOCATION: Pinewood Preparatory School Summerville, SC</p> <p>EVENT DATE(S): 01/06/2024 - 01/06/2024</p> <p>SET UP DATE: TBA</p> <p>TEAR DOWN DATE: TBA</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px;">VOLUNTEER</p>	<p>FIRST Tech Challenge SC PeeDee Scrimmage 3</p> <p>EVENT LOCATION: Governor's School for Science and Math Hartsville, SC</p> <p>EVENT DATE(S): 01/06/2024 - 01/06/2024</p> <p>SET UP DATE: TBA</p> <p>TEAR DOWN DATE: TBA</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px;">VOLUNTEER</p>	<p>FIRST Robotics Competition SC-Columbia-ECPI University Columbia Kickoff</p> <p>EVENT LOCATION: ECPI University Columbia Columbia, SC</p> <p>EVENT DATE(S): 01/06/2024 - 01/06/2024</p> <p>SET UP DATE: TBA</p> <p>TEAR DOWN DATE: TBA</p> <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid #0056b3; padding: 5px; color: #0056b3;">VIEW EVENT DETAILS</p>
---	---	---

Youth Advisory Council

- The *FIRST* South Carolina Youth Advisory Council is a committee made up of student representatives from all across the state who create, support, and participate in a variety of community initiatives. The council is being established to allow students to have a voice in the initiatives and decisions that would directly impact the state's youth.
- Members will take on an active leadership role and will be allowed to overlook and manage discovering solutions to issues that may present themselves within the *FIRST* community.
- What do YAC members do?
 - Attend regular meetings to plan initiatives for all programs, across the state
 - Participate in outreach activities and recruit others to do the same
 - Support FLL, FTC, and FRC programs as volunteers or content creators
 - Represent *FIRST* South Carolina at events and speak about the impact the program has on themselves and other students



How to Join Youth Advisory Council

- Contact information:
 - Pam Melling (FSM)
pam.melling@firstsouthcarolina.org
 - Elizabeth Link (FSM)
elizabeth.link@firstsouthcarolina.org
 - When emailing an FSM or any adult make sure to copy a parent or a mentor from your team.
- Apply today! Visit www.firstsouthcarolina.org/yac for link to application or scan the QR code below



Questions?