



ROBOTICON Team Update - October 2, 2017

Greetings from ROBOTICON Tampa Bay 2017!

You're receiving this note because you've registered your *FIRST* team for ROBOTICON Tampa Bay, our annual Robotics Showcase & *FIRST* Robotics Competition Off-Season Event! As you'll see from this update, ROBOTICON Tampa Bay is #MoreThanOffSeason !

ROBOTICON is an opportunity for all four *FIRST* programs to come together in one place, and for the general public to see *FIRST* in context, and learn how to get involved, from starting teams to mentoring, volunteering and sponsoring. In addition to program specific activities, there are workshops for students and educators, a USF Engineering & Technology Showcase, an Innovation Fair highlighting our great program partners, and a variety of science and tech exhibits.

It takes a lot of work, over weeks and months, to produce ROBOTICON, by a lot of fantastic volunteers and community partners who believe deeply in the power of *FIRST* and hands-on project based learning to help build our next generation of intelligent, graciously professional future leaders and innovators.

Please help us help our students have a great event and get the most benefit out of the ROBOTICON experience by reading event updates thoroughly, following instructions completely, being patient if you find an error or encounter a difficulty and keeping the spirit of Gracious Professionalism front and center in all you do, all weekend long, at ROBOTICON Tampa Bay!

This is the 2nd of two updates you'll be receiving. *FIRST* LEGO League, Jr. *FIRST* LEGO League and *FIRST* Tech Challenge teams may also receive additional updates from their program partners with program specific information. In this final update and team guide you'll find:

1. [General Event Information](#)
2. [Travel , Lodging & Dining](#)
3. [Load In/Load Out Information](#)
4. [Pit Info](#)
5. [Cross Program Info](#)
6. [Awards](#)
7. [Innovation Fair](#)
8. [Special Guests & Opportunities](#)
9. [Program Contacts](#)
10. [Attachments](#): Press Release – Final Arena Floor Plan – Public Agenda

1. GENERAL PARTICIPATION INFORMATION - IMPORTANT

→**Conduct:** First and foremost, are guests of the University of South Florida and the Sun Dome Arena. ****We represent with class and professionalism at all times. ****

The goal of ROBOTICON is to provide fun and educational robot game play for students, and to inform the business community and the general public about great STEAM education and career resources and opportunities. The more professionally and maturely teams conduct themselves, the greater the chances of gaining new mentors, sponsors, community and academic support in Tampa Bay and beyond.

All students, coaches, mentors, teachers, parents and all attendant team associates are encouraged to have fun, and expected to exhibit Gracious Professionalism while doing so throughout the weekend. There will be a lot of media in attendance, as well as VIPs from Tampa Bay and central Florida businesses and schools. Be sure to have plenty of information about your team handy, too, to share with them.

FIRST Robotics Competition Teams: Please remember

- This is an **Off-Season Event**,
- It **is intended primarily for fun, team building and educational purposes**
- Everyone producing the event is volunteering their time.
- Please thank them with your patience and understanding during game play
- Keep the right perspective about the intention of the event, it will improve your season readiness.

For ALL Teams

Safety:

- Please dress appropriately!
- Closed toed shoes at all times,
- Safety glasses while in the pits or around the fields.
- All usual common sense recommendations apply.
- No running or horseplay *anywhere* in the arena.
- Please Note: *FIRST* LEGO League Jr. and *FIRST* LEGO League students **do not need to wear safety glasses if they stay within the FLL Pit and Tables area or the FLL Jr. Expo Area**, but **must wear them if visiting the FTC and FRC pits or playing fields.** There will be signage indicating where safety glasses must be worn.

Team Rosters

STIMS is now open – Please bring your electronic roster with full list of participating students. Thank you!

2. TRAVEL, LODGING & DINING

ROBOTICON Tampa Bay is being hosted at the **University of South Florida Sun Dome Arena.**

DIRECTIONS TO University of South Florida

The University of South Florida Sun Dome Arena is easily accessible from I-275 and I-75 **The Sun Dome Address is: 4202 E Fowler Ave, Tampa, FL 33620 .**

Driving Directions can be found at <http://www.sundomearena.com/plan-your-visit/directions-parking>

Parking:

- We have arranged for free parking for up to 60 cars and 5 school buses for the weekend.
- **We will supply at least one car pass per team**, and I have to know which teams are coming by school bus so we can plan accordingly.
- **If your team is arriving by bus, please let me know by **October 2**.**
- Regular parking is \$10 to park at the Sun Dome parking lot, although we're awaiting confirmation on whether the Sun Dome will drop rates for our event. I'll have that info in next week's update.

Hotels: Thanks to American Express Meetings & Travel, we have been able to get good prices on area hotels with considerable amenities.

- All include breakfast, and some have shuttle service.
- Visit the ROBOTICON Travel & Lodging page for hotel info if you have not yet secured lodging: <https://roboticon.net/accommodations/> Most have extended the hotel reservation deadline.

Dining:

- There are plenty of onsite concessions at the Sun Dome Arena.
- Some are identified on the arena map.
- There is also dining on campus, and all around the University.

Campus Map: There's a campus map online here: <http://www.usf.edu/administrative-services/parking/documents/campus-map-directory.pdf>

3. LOAD IN/LOAD OUT

- FRC, FTC, and FLL: Load in at your assigned time through the loading dock (See attached map.)
- **FIRST LEGO League Jr. teams can enter through the Gate A** proceed to the concourse area at Gate C area to set up for their mini-Expo.
- **FRC can load in between 8am and 8:45am Saturday morning.**
- **FTC Teams load in between 8:45am and 9:15am.**
- **FLL teams load in starting at 9:15am.**

All teams must be loaded in by 10am Saturday morning.

- All teams except FLL Jr. load in through the back loading dock area.
- Please check in at your respective program registration location: FLL, FTC or FRC, as you come in.
- Teams will receive pertinent program information as they check in, so you'll know how the weekend will work.

Load out starts at 6pm on Sunday, October 8, and all teams must be cleared out by 8pm.

4. PIT INFO – All Programs

- **Please make sure you have extension cords and power strips.**
- Each pit area has one 8 ft. long table and two chairs, and about an 8x8 ft. pit space.

- Only *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams have assigned pit tables – all other programs are first come first served for pit table choices
- No table covers are provided but you're welcome to provide your own.
- Thanks to Sun Dome management, **teams are allowed to bring water (*but NOT food*) into the arena**. There will be plenty of onsite dining or you can picnic outside of the Sun Dome during lunch.
- Please see the attached ROBOTICON Arena map for a layout of the field and pit tables.
- The Awesome Pit Contest for FRC, FTC & FLL Teams is on! So make yours ... Awesome!

5. CROSS PROGRAM INFO

***FIRST* Robotics Competition off-season:**

- Field connection and practices matches run from 9am to noon
- We'll start off-season game play after lunch on Saturday, with finals matches on Sunday.

We have a full field of robots, and there are a few things teams can do to make the event go smoothly.

- If teams have additional/spare robot radios (access points), bring them, as well as extra safety glasses and batteries if possible.
- ***FRC* teams: Please try to have your robot "competition ready."**
- Common causes of match delays are radios, code problems, loose wiring, and similar robot related issues. We know robots are used in demos and outreach between seasons, and tweaked and tinkered with, as they should be for fun and learning. So please go over your robot to make sure it's competition ready before ROBOTICON, so we can run all our matches as efficiently as possible.

***FIRST* LEGO League and *FIRST* Tech Challenge fans and audience members** will have a unique "birds-eye view" of the playing tables and field, as the stands will start at about 8 feet above them. All family and friends are asked to please enjoy FLL and FTC from the stands above to avoid causing congestion in the pits and competition areas.

***FIRST* Tech Challenge** programming runs from **10am to 4pm on Saturday, October 7.**

This is a great opportunity for participating teams to work together to build and test your new season robots on a full scale competition field. There will also be some workshops you might find helpful in preparing you for a competitive season, and look for the Robot in 1 Weekend builds on display and on the field, courtesy of the Florida *FIRST* Alumni Association!

***FIRST* LEGO League** programming runs from **10am to 4pm on Saturday, October 7.**

Practice matches run through lunchtime, with official(ish) matches running from 1pm to 4pm. There will also be some workshops and presentations teams may enjoy, plus FLL Judge and Volunteer training. Come prepared to play and learn!

***FIRST* LEGO League Jr. Mini-Expo** – Programming runs from **2pm to 4pm Saturday October 7.**

FIRST LEGO League Jr. teams can arrive through Gate A, and set up in the Gate D concourse area any time after 10am. This is a great opportunity to hone student presentation skills, and to get used to an event experience. Guests will be able to see your displays and you can tell them about your work.

6. AWARDS

Due to Hurricane Irma, we decided not to do the ROBOTICON Challenge this year, figuring the year was already challenging enough pre-and –post season. So here’s a list of the awards that are being given out at ROBOTICON Tampa Bay 2017:

For *FIRST LEGO League Jr.*

- Team Spirit Award
- Teamwork Award
- Robust Design Award
- Innovative Design Award

For *FIRST LEGO League*

- Robot Performance Award
- Team Spirit Award
- Awesome Pit Award

With certificates of participation for all teams.

For *FIRST Tech Challenge*

- Awesome Pit Award
- Gracious Professionalism Award
- Spirit Award

For *FIRST Robotics Competition*

- Winning Alliance Award
- Finalist Alliance Award
- Gracious Professionalism Award
- Awesome Pit Award
- Spirit Award

7. Innovation Fair - ARENA CLUB & CONCOURSE

University of South Florida College of Engineering Expo – Arena Club

The Arena Club is located on the 2nd floor overlooking the game floor. The USF College of Engineering will have a robust display of their research and engineering projects there, including interactive simulations and more. They’re also providing a pretty cool “half time” show for us on both days, with some amazing robotics displays and exhibitions. Please be sure to visit them and check out all the great things they’ll be showcasing.

Partner Showcase – Concourse Gate A and Gate D areas

ROBOTICON Partner exhibits will be located along the Concourse by the main entrance. Please make sure students take some time to visit the ROBOTICON Exhibit Hall to check out college, business and other exhibits. In the Innovation Fair you’ll find:

- The Infento Playground by Green Mouse Academy - Concourse
- Cogmation Virtual Robotics Toolkit - Concourse
- Cigar City Multirotors - Concourse

- St. Petersburg College Workforce Institute Mini Urban Challenge - Concourse
- Polk State College Career Pathways - Concourse
- Solid Professor - Concourse
- SOFWERX - Concourse
- Agile Learning Center - Concourse
- USF Engineering Exhibits in Arena Club

8. SPECIAL GUESTS & OPPORTUNITIES

We'll have several special guests on site throughout the weekend, including

- *FIRST* Tech Challenge Director, Ken Johnson (a USF Alumnus)
- Dean of the University of South Florida College of Engineering, Dr. Robert Bishop
- Hillsborough County Commissioner Sandra Murman

Special Workshops & Presentations – Saturday, October 7

- *FIRST* LEGO League Judge & Volunteer Training – 10am & 2pm – room TBA
- Panel Discussion: Manufacturing the Future – 11am – room TBA – Meet & learn from industry and academic leaders about 21st century manufacturing opportunities. Panel members from the University of South Florida College of Engineering, St. Petersburg College (Industry Certifications), Lockheed Martin, JPMorgan Chase, and Solid Professor. A couple more panel members may be added.
- Additional workshops to be announced

Team Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer **student ambassadors** are invited to help out at the Invited Guests Luncheon on both Saturday and Sunday (different students please) to give pit tours, or assist event sponsors and partners. If you would like to nominate students as ROBOTICON Ambassadors, please do so here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/GQ6ljOEITDA2xKDn2>

PLuGHiTz Live Interviews for *FIRST* Looks Series

PLuGHiTz Live is run by *FIRST* Alumnus, Scott Ertz, who works with other *FIRST* alumni to annually cover ROBOTICON on his gadget and tech review show. Students interested in being part of his *FIRST* Looks series, specifically to highlight *FIRST* programs and teams, are invited to schedule a live interview time here: <http://scheduling.plughitzlive.com/event.php?EventId=54> . You can see examples of interviews from last year's event here: <http://plughitzlive.com/events/46-roboticon-tampa-bay-2016.html>

FIRST Looks provides a great way to tell your team's story, as well as the larger *FIRST* story. PLuGHiTz Live programming reaches the larger tech community nationwide, engaging a wider audience beyond our usual *FIRST* community. **If your team would like to participate in *FIRST* Looks interviews, please sign up in advance at the PLuGHiTz interview scheduling site for ROBOTICON.** If you have any questions regarding *FIRST* Looks, please email Scott at scott@plughitz.com

9. PROGRAM CONTACTS

The ROBOTICON team is a big and generous one, full of amazing people who are extremely generous with their time and expertise. We are very grateful for the collaborative support of the following program

leaders for *FIRST* LEGO League Jr., *FIRST* LEGO League, and *FIRST* Tech Challenge, in addition to *FIRST* Robotics Competition.

- **Alison Roth**, (robotleague@outlook.com) chair of **Tampa Bay ROBOT League** for our *FIRST* **Tech Challenge** portion of ROBOTICON, with **ROBOT League** Volunteers
- **Joyce Walters** (Joyce@CentralFloridaRobotics.org) and **JT Yoerger** (JT@CentralFloridaRobotics.org), of **Central Florida Robotics**, managing our *FIRST* LEGO League and *FIRST* LEGO League, Jr areas.
- **Robert Cobaich** – **ROBOTICON Off-Season Volunteer Coordinator** -rcobaich@gmail.com with support from **USF *FIRST* Alumni organization**.
- **Steve Willingham** – with the **Foundation for Community Driven Innovation (FCDI)** **Sun Dome Arena coordination, overall logistics, and event administration for FRC and all programs** - Steve@FFCDI.org

If you have any questions or would like additional information about any aspect of ROBOTICON relating to a specific program, please contact the appropriate individual listed above.

10. ATTACHMENTS

Attached to this email you'll find:

- Sun Dome Arena Floor Plan – final
- ROBOTICON Promo flyer to share with friends and associates

You'll be able to download the public Event Program and Media Package at the website at Roboticon.Net by Tuesday.

You can reach me prior to the event, or throughout the weekend of ROBOTICON on my cell at [813-728-2822](tel:813-728-2822), or email me at Terri@WillinghamLLC.com . Volunteers will be wearing **green** ROBOTICON shirts and will be available throughout the weekend to help with most needs.

Thank you for being part of our 5th Annual ROBOTICON Tampa Bay. We hope you have a wonderful weekend, and that it's the start of a fantastic season for you!

Go Teams! :-)

Kind Regards,

Terri Willingham
Terri@WillinghamLLC.com
Eureka! Factory
ROBOTICON.net