

Welcome to the *FIRST* Robotics Competition - Central Illinois Regional (CIR)!

We are thrilled that your team has registered for the inaugural Central Illinois Regional. The Regional Planning Committee has been working hard since September to launch this Regional, and we are firming up many details in the next few weeks. It will be important for you to visit the Central Illinois Website <http://www.ilfirst.org/frc/events/central-illinois-regional/> at least weekly, for updates and watch for email blasts, so we can keep you informed. The following information will help your team start planning for the CIR:

Hotels: We have several events in the Pekin / Peoria area during the same weekend as the CIR that will drive demand for hotel rooms, so we recommend that you secure rooms as soon as possible. There are several hotels available through Steele Meetings that are listed on the Illinois First website: <http://www.ilfirst.org/frc/events/central-illinois-regional/central-local-lodging-resources.html> More hotel details will be forthcoming.

Box Lunch: We are planning to have a box lunch option for teams on Friday and Saturday. As soon as the contracts with the vendor are confirmed, you will be getting a notice via email and the forms will also be available on the Central Illinois Regional Website.

Team Social: We are planning a Team Social for Friday night that we are hoping many will be able to participate in and yet be over in time to allow you all to do your team scouting meetings as well!

Unique to this Event: We are hoping to make this Week One Regional special for all the teams that are participating.

We need your help and enthusiasm to make this possible. The Regional Planning Committee has developed several unique ideas that will promote creativity and friendly competition among the teams throughout the weekend, even off the field!

Poster Contest: The Poster Contest is outlined in the attached PDF. Since this is the first time that a Regional has been held in Central Illinois, we are anticipating a huge interest in the event, but we need your help in creating the posters that will be used to publicize your Regional! We hope to attract students and their families, but also future supporters and VIPS's.

FIRST Lamps: We know you all have a lot of bright ideas! So this is your chance to prove it. We are planning a VIP event to publicize *FIRST* robotics to a select group of individuals that will be providing support for the CIR in the future. We want to make this VIP event special as well, so we are asking each team to consider participating in the Central Illinois VIP Lamp project outlined in the attached PDF. These lamps will be used to decorate the VIP breakfast tables.

Get to Know the Teams: Since this is a new mix of teams that normally might not attend the same regional, we want to get to know each other! We are asking each team (at their option) to develop a one minute (or less) video that introduces your team, so we can play these between matches. The video formatting instructions will be sent to you in a future email. You can be thinking about how you want to introduce yourselves and planning your video in the mean time. At a minimum, we will need: Team Number, Name, Rookie Year, how many students are on your team, a team picture including your mentors, a picture or video of where you build your robot, something unique about your town, or school or team, something about your sponsors, and something you are especially proud of that you did this past year as a team. Remember, this is going to play in front of thousands of students, families, judges and sponsors during the weekend. Make it something you can be proud of.

TIMS Contacts / Main mentors: We are counting on you to disseminate the information contained in the email blasts to your team. Also, if you have any constructive ideas, comments, or questions regarding the Central Illinois Regional, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact us at FRCCIR2014@gmail.com

Thanks!

The Central Illinois Regional Planning Committee
Tim Koch, *Central Illinois Regional Chair*
Dan Green, *Illinois FIRST Executive Director*