

November 2014

Hi everyone.

Welcome to the 2014-2015 season. Challenges have been released for Jr.FLL, FLL and FTC. FRC teams have been registering for competitions. Hang on tight – it's going to be another exciting ride this year with FIRST.

Diane Cabiness, FIRST Senior Mentor – Illinois

ALL FIRST PROGRAM EVENTS

All *FIRST* expos, qualifiers, tournaments, and competitions are open to the public and are FREE. We encourage you to attend an event in your area to support our students.

FIRST is a volunteer driven organization. Events can only be successful with the help of many volunteers. I encourage you to log in to the Volunteer Information and Matching Systems (VIMS) on the *FIRST* website ([here](#)) and volunteer today. Training is available for key positions, and some roles merely require a willingness to show up to help.

FTC AND FRC 3D PRINTER DEADLINE

The deadline to apply for a free EKOCYCLE Cube 3D Printer is this Sunday, November 2. All FRC and FTC teams that are registered for the 2014-2015 season are eligible to apply. For more information, including a link to the online application form, please visit [here](#).

IL FIRST DEMOS

As Chicago is the home to many trade shows and conferences, *FIRST* has been asked to supply teams to perform demonstrations at many venues during the months of September, October, and November. Thank you to all of the teams who have brought students and/or robots to show people from a variety of professional fields the values of our *FIRST* programs. Having teams demo at these events helps us to spread the word about *FIRST*, obtain new mentors, and partner with new sponsors.

IL FIRST OUTREACH

All programs in *FIRST* throughout Illinois have the opportunity to partner with the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Simply have your team collect soda pop tabs from home, family, friends, and school. Collected tabs may be turned in at qualifiers and tournaments. We will convert the soda tabs into cash and present a check to the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

FTC AND FRC WORKSHOP

Our neighbors in Indiana have invited our teams to join them in the annual Indiana *FIRST* and Purdue *FIRST* Programs Forum at Armstrong Hall, Purdue University, on November 1. Team main and alternate mentors were sent workshop information earlier in October. Please contact me if you need more information.



While exploring this year's theme, Think Tank – Redefining Learning, teams will learn about simple machines as they build a model made of LEGO elements with a motorized part. They will also learn to present information through a *Show Me* Poster. Throughout their experience, teams will operate under Jr.FLL's signature set of Core Values.

Registration is open and Base Kit ordering is now available. Click [here](#) for more information. Jr.FLL team registration opened August 4 and lasts through April 15, 2015. Illinois currently has 47 teams registered. There are 1,986 teams registered so far in the US and Canada. Illinois has four Jr.FLL Expos scheduled to date. More information may be found on the IL *FIRST* website [here](#).

Specific questions may be directed to our Illinois Jr.FLL program partner, Mary Buchanan, at jrFLL-contact@ILfirst.org.



The World Class Challenge asks FLL teams to redesign how we gather knowledge and skills in the 21st century. Teams will teach adults about the ways that kids need and want to learn.

FLL team registration is now closed in Illinois for the season. In Illinois we have a total of 510 teams. Teams have noted their choices for qualifying events, and the rosters for each qualifier will be announced by November 7. Qualifiers are held in November and December in various locations throughout the state. A listing may be found [here](#). Pre-season scrimmage information may be found [here](#). In Illinois we will hold two Championship Tournaments ... one in Elgin and one in Champaign. More information may be found on the IL *FIRST* website [here](#).

Specific questions may be directed to our Illinois FLL program partner, Diane Michalczuk, at contactFLLillinois@gmail.com.



Welcome to the 2014-2015 Cascade Effects game. To see the kickoff video – [click here](#). This will be another exciting challenge for teams and will definitely be the hardest fun you ever have. The 2014-2015 FTC [Game Page](#) is full of helpful information, tools, and resources to help teams with this year's challenge. Make sure you bookmark it to keep up with updates.

Registration is now closed and we have 118 teams registered in Illinois. Round 1 and Round 2 qualifiers have been selected. Round 3 selections will be assigned on November 3. Some teams in Northern Illinois are piloting League Play. Information on League Play in Illinois may be found [here](#).

League meets ([here](#)) and qualifying tournaments ([here](#)) occur throughout November and December. You may find more information on the links above, and also on the FTC calendar on the IL *FIRST* website [here](#).

Specific questions may be directed to either of our Illinois FTC program partners: Sue Kunzeman at FTC-contact@ILfirst.org or Jonathan Weiland at jwFTCil@gmail.com.

The logo for the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) features the letters "FRC" in a large, bold, blue font.

FIRST®Robotics Competition

Registration for regional competitions closes November 24. We currently have 60 FRC teams that have completed their registration and selected their competition events. Illinois will host two regional FRC competitions in 2015. The Central Illinois Regional (CIR) will be held at the Renaissance Coliseum at Bradley University, Peoria, on March 18-21. Questions specific to CIR may be directed to Tim Koch at frccir2014@gmail.com.

The Midwest Regional (MWR) will be held at the UIC Pavilion at the University of Illinois, Chicago, on April 1-4. Questions for MWR may be directed to Gerry Smith at gasmith@uic.edu.

If you need any additional assistance, please feel free to reach out to Katrina Adams (kadams@usfirst.org) or Mari Miller (mmiller@usfirst.org). These are the AmeriCorps VISTA members serving with IL *FIRST* in Chicago. They are here for your assistance and we are glad to have them for the upcoming season.

Some dates worth noting:
11/02 – FRC rookie grant deadline; EKOCYCLE Cube 3D printer applications due
11/13 – Award submission applications open for Chairman's, Dean's List, Entrepreneurship and Woodie Flowers
11/24 – 1st regional event payment due; kit and kickoff registration deadline; all regional registrations close

The kickoff for FRC will be on Saturday, January 3, 2015. A full calendar for FRC events may be found [here](#).

Specific questions on these FRC areas or overall questions for Illinois may be directed to our Executive Director, Dan Green at dgreen@usfirst.org. Be sure to follow Dan's new blog on the IL *FIRST* website ([here](#)).

Feel free to contact me with questions on any of our FIRST programs in Illinois. Share success stories, pictures, outreach activities, and workshop/scrimmage information with me for future newsletters and/or for our IL FIRST website. If you are on Facebook, please send me a friend request to my new FIRST account (the FIRST logo is my profile pic). Feel free to follow me on Twitter also ... @DCabiness.

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Please feel free to share this newsletter with mentors, parents, students, and sponsors so everyone knows what is happening throughout Illinois for all *FIRST* programs.

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