



January 2016

Happy New Year. I hope everyone enjoyed their winter break.

There are 7 upcoming [FLL Jr. Expos](#); 2 [State Championships](#) for FLL; 4 remaining [qualifiers](#), 6 [League Meets](#) and the [State Championship](#) for FTC, and 2 regional competitions for FRC. Volunteers are ALWAYS needed for our FIRST Illinois events. Please start off your new year by logging into the [Volunteer Information and Matching System \(VIMS\)](#) to volunteer your time for an event today. Share the VIMS link with parents, sponsors and students (13 or older may volunteer for events; 16 for certain events)

Important names and emails for each FIRST program in Illinois may be found on the [contact page](#) of our FIRST Illinois website.

2016 finds me pursuing a new personal journey. As such, I will be stepping down as FIRST Senior Mentor of Illinois. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting and working with all of you and your teams. I will still continue to volunteer for events, and I look forward to crossing paths with you again soon.

Diane Cabiness



SOCIAL NETWORKING: jrfl_illinois on [Yahoo! Groups](#)

Registration is open until April for the Waste Wise season. Illinois currently has 124 registered teams and 23 more teams in the process of registration. The new FLL Jr. Expo registration process is now in place. Coaches may register their team on the [FIRST Illinois website](#) for each Expo they plan to attend. Yes, your team may attend more than one Expo.



SOCIAL NETWORKING: FLL Illinois / FIRST Illinois Robotics on [Facebook](#)

The Illinois qualifier tournaments are complete. 128 of the top teams throughout Illinois have advanced to our championship tournaments. The [results](#) from the Illinois qualifiers are on the FLL Tournament tool. Congratulations to all teams for a job well done.

The Championship tournaments will be held on January 16 at Elgin Community College and January 23 at the University of Illinois in Champaign. Competing teams and other tournament information is [here](#). Illinois has received one slot at World Festival in April. The slot will go to the winner of a lottery between the 1st Place Champion's Award winners from each of our championship tournaments.



SOCIAL NETWORKING: @FTCIllinois on [Twitter](#); Illinois FIRST Tech Challenge on [Facebook](#)

Congratulations to the teams already qualified for the Illinois State Championship from the Peoria, Francis W. Parker, and Highland Park qualifiers. State qualified teams will receive an email invitation. This year's 36 team State Championship will be held at Elgin Community College on February 26 & 27. Thank you to all our qualifier and league meet organizers and volunteers! FTC teams and mentors are encouraged to volunteer at upcoming FTC and FIRST programs events. Volunteering adds value to your program and beefs up your award resume too. Illinois FTC is also looking for 2016-17 qualifier and league meet organizers. Use this [Google form](#) to indicate your organization's interest.



SOCIAL NETWORKING: #ILFRCCIR and #ILFRCMWR on Twitter

Build your champion. Rally your kingdom. [FIRST STRONGHOLD](#) will be revealed this Saturday, January 9. We will be holding two Illinois FRC regionals: Central IL Regional (CIR), Bradley University, Peoria March 16-19 and the Midwest Regional (MWR), University of Illinois, Chicago, March 30-April 2. In addition, Illinois teams will also be competing at regionals in Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, Wisconsin and Australia.

To aid the district planning committee and for future grant possibilities, it is important that your team profile in [TMS](#) contains all prompted information such as the number of students on your team broken down by gender, a link to your website, budget information, etc.



GENERAL SOCIAL NETWORKING: @Illinois FIRST on [Twitter](#); Illinois FIRST on [Facebook](#); FIRST Illinois Robotics [website](#)