

December 2014

*Hi everyone.*

*The weather outside may be frightful, but FIRST activities are always delightful. Our Illinois FIRST FLL and FTC teams are busy with tournaments. Jr.FLL is holding their first Expo this month. FRC is busy making lists for FIRST Choice (and checking it twice) and preparing for their January kickoff. Hope your December is nice to remember, and best wishes for a happy new year.*

*Diane Cabiness, FIRST Senior Mentor – Illinois*

### WHO NEEDS FUNDRAISING IDEAS?

Check [here](#) on the FIRST website for a fundraising toolkit for all FIRST programs, information on selling FIRST LED light bulbs, and more team fundraising ideas.

### WHO IS SHOWING THEIR FIRST PRIDE?

The Edwardsville Robotics won an award for their float on Halloween night. Their FRC robot driven by HS students led the way, followed by FTC, FLL and Jr.FLL "minions". FRC team #2451, PWNAGE, had a float at a recent Electric Christmas Parade. More details and the latest news may be found on the IL FIRST website [here](#).

### OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

A new robot movie, CHAPPIE, will be released this spring. Contact your local movie theatre to arrange for your team to set up a demo for the opening weekend. The trailer may be viewed [here](#).

### HUFFINGTON POST BLOG ON FLL

A nice article on the Huffington Post by blogger Julie Rohl, a middle school science teacher at Rockford Christian School in Rockford and an FLL coach may be found [here](#).

### 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 aluminum tabs (soda, juice, adult beverage, or energy drink) from home, family, friends, and school. Collected tabs may be turned in at expos, qualifiers, tournaments and regionals. We will convert the soda tabs into cash and present a check to the Ronald McDonald House Charities.



This year's 1<sup>st</sup> Jr.FLL Expo for Illinois will be held this month in Oswego. We now have 68 Jr.FLL teams, and registration continues through April. Specific questions may be directed to our Illinois Jr.FLL program partner, Mary Buchanan, at [jrFLL-contact@ILfirst.org](mailto:jrFLL-contact@ILfirst.org).



Our 1st of 33 FLL qualifying tournaments in Illinois was held on Nov. 22 in O'Fallon. The remaining 32 qualifiers will take place throughout the month of December and approximately 25% of the teams will advance from the qualifiers to a championship tournament. The 1<sup>st</sup> Place Champion's Award winner from each championship tournament will have a slot at World Festival in April 2015. Check the schedule on the IL FIRST calendar [here](#) to attend one of our events for free or volunteer via VIMS. Specific questions may be directed to our Illinois FLL program partner, Diane Michalczuk, at [contactFLLillinois@gmail.com](mailto:contactFLLillinois@gmail.com).



Since last month's newsletter, a few more rookie teams were added and we have 123 teams on our Illinois FIRST FTC roster. League Play started last month and goes through the end of January. Traditional qualifying tournaments start this month and last through the beginning of February. The schedule for both may be found [here](#). Specific questions may be directed to either of our Illinois FTC program partners: Sue Kunzeman at [FTC-contact@ILfirst.org](mailto:FTC-contact@ILfirst.org) or Jonathan Weiland at [jwFTCil@gmail.com](mailto:jwFTCil@gmail.com).



Official FIRST kickoffs will be held at Bradley University in Peoria and Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago.

Some dates worth noting:

December 3 – FIRST Choice priority lists due  
January 3 - Kickoff!

A full calendar for FRC events may be found [here](#).