

# Westwood Meeting: How to Start an FLL Team

**Date of Meeting:** 4/29/09

**Location:** Westwood Library

**Publicity:** We ran the attached flyer for two weeks in the District Bulletin, an e-newsletter from the Westwood Superintendent's office.

**Pitch:** A program promoting teamwork, love of learning & opening paths to science and technology for boys & girls ages 9 to 14. FIRST Lego League (FLL) activities include building a robot to perform missions, as well as research projects focusing on challenges facing our society. A great experience for all involved – both students & parents.

## **Agenda:**

- We asked parents to sign up on a sheet with names of children who might be interested and contact information as they entered the room
- Steve Cremer, FIRST's Regional Director in Boston, gave an overview of FIRST, values and experience for kids.
- Coaches from an FLL and a JrFLL team talked about their first year experiences, how to set up a team etc.
- Q&A Parents asked questions- good interaction
- We told people to network with each other at the meeting so they could find other parents/students to form a team

## **Follow Up:**

- We published the sign up list to all interested people.
- We answered questions and directed people to each other during the summer.

## **Results:**

- Over 100 parents and children attended the meeting on 4/29/09
- 65 students were on the sign up list
- 4 JrFLL teams registered from Westwood in 2009-2010
- 5 FLL teams registered from Westwood in the Sept.-Dec. 2009 season
- At least one team in Dover, an adjacent town formed as a result of this meeting

You are invited to an informational meeting

**F.I.R.S.T. Lego League**  
**For Inspiration & Recognition of Science & Technology**

A program promoting teamwork, love of learning & opening paths to science and technology for boys & girls ages 9 to 14; details also available for Jr. FLL ages 6 to 8

FLL activities include building a robot to perform missions, as well as research projects focusing on challenges facing our society –

A great experience for all involved –

Both students & parents

Wednesday April 29, 2009

4:30-5:30 pm

Westwood Public Library Meeting Room

Questions or for further information:

[lucindalinde@verizon.net](mailto:lucindalinde@verizon.net),

[christine\\_ouellette@verizon.net](mailto:christine_ouellette@verizon.net),

[kmcjordan@verizon.net](mailto:kmcjordan@verizon.net)

Or visit First Lego League at [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org)

**You are invited to an informational meeting**

# **F.I.R.S.T.**

**(For Inspiration & Recognition of Science & Technology)**

**Saturday May 22, 2010**

**Lexington Public Library, Large Meeting Room**

## **Lego League (K-8) – 2:30 PM**

A program promoting teamwork, love of learning & opening paths to science and technology for boys & girls ages 9 to 14; details also available for Jr. FIRST Lego League ages 6 to 8.

FIRST Lego League activities include building a robot to perform missions, as well as research projects focusing on challenges facing our society – A great experience for all involved – Both students & parents.

## **Robotics Competition/Tech Challenge (High School) – 3:30 PM**

“The varsity sport for the mind,” FIRST Robotics Challenge combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. Under strict rules, limited resources, and time limits, teams of 25 students or more are challenged to raise funds, design a team “brand,” hone teamwork skills, and build and program robots to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors. It’s as close to “real-world engineering” as a student can get.

FIRST Tech Challenge is designed for those who want to compete head-to-head, using a sports model. Teams of up to 10 students are responsible for designing, building, and programming their robots to compete in an alliance format against other teams. Teams, including coaches, mentors and volunteers, are required to develop strategy and build robots based on sound engineering principles.

Questions or for further information: Henry Houh - [hkh@alum.mit.edu](mailto:hkh@alum.mit.edu)

**Or visit First Lego League at [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org)**



Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Club of Boston



Boston  
**FIRST**

## **MIT Club of South Texas invites you to the FIRST Robotics Competition**



Thursday April 1 through Saturday April 3 at the George R. Brown Convention Center

[FIRST Lone Star Regional Tournament](#)

George R. Brown Convention Center

[1001 Avenida de las Americas](#)

Houston, TX 77010

713.853.8000

[www.houstonconventionctr.com](http://www.houstonconventionctr.com)

Feed your inner nerd! You know that it's hiding in there somewhere. Share your love of science and engineering with someone you love. **The MIT Club of South Texas cordially invites you and your friends and family to the FIRST Robotics competition at the George R. Brown convention center from April 1 -3. Robots constructed by high school students will be playing Breakaway, a robotic soccer game at the Lone Star Regional event. Best of all, admission is free!**

The MIT Club of South Texas is one of the proud sponsors of the rookie Cypress Ranch Robotics Team #3335 which will be competing in the Lone State Regional Tournament this Thursday, Friday and Saturday. They will be making their debut at this tournament after a long "construction season". **Come to the competition on Friday from 9-4:30 or Saturday from 9-4:30 and sit in the rooting section for Team 3335. Keep your eyes open for the yellow hard hats and an MIT flag.**



This year's competition is "Breakaway" a fast paced game of robotic soccer, featuring 120 pound robots operating at speeds comparable to human soccer players! For more information check out the website

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ex90Aw4PdAI&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ex90Aw4PdAI&feature=player_embedded)

[MIT Alumni Association and FIRST Robotics](#)

**The MIT Alumni Association has designated FIRST Robotics one of its K-12 educational initiative, and has started pilot programs in five areas of the country. The MIT Club of South Texas, although not in one of the designated areas, has accepted the challenge and has provided financial sponsorship and mentoring for one of the rookie teams from the Houston area. Cecilia Cisar, charter member of the Cypress Ranch Robotics Team, and daughter of Alan '73 and Marilyn'76 Cisar approached the MIT Club for sponsorship of her team.**

"FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), a not-for-profit organization founded by inventor Dean Kamen to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) ... announced a global strategic alliance and a U.S. pilot program to promote the importance of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in K-12 education. Specifically, FIRST and the MIT Alumni Association will marshal resources to collaborate and promote K-12 STEM education through after-school FIRST robotics programs.

The MIT Alumni Association is in a unique position to further the shared mission, vision and values of FIRST," said Judith M. Cole, executive vice president and chief executive officer of the MIT Alumni Association. "This synergistic relationship with FIRST and its dedication to attracting and inspiring students with an interest in science and technology clearly puts the intellectual energy of the MIT community to work where it is needed the most — igniting the minds of young people." " MIT press release Dec 14, 2009

[About this event](#)

<http://houston.txfirst.org/node/2>

FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) is a unique varsity sport of the mind designed to help high-school-aged young people discover how interesting and rewarding the life of engineers and researchers can be.



The FIRST Robotics Competition challenges teams of young people and their mentors to solve a common problem in a six-week timeframe using a standard "kit of parts" and a common set of rules. Teams build robots from the parts

and enter them in competitions designed by Dean Kamen, Dr. Woodie Flowers, and a committee of engineers and other professionals.

Admission is free and open to the public (but there is a charge for parking near the George R. Brown Convention Center).

#### Schedule of Events

##### **THURSDAY, APRIL 1 - PRACTICE DAY**

7:45 AM                3 Team Reps to uncrate  
8:30 AM                Pits and Machine Shop opens  
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Registration and Inspection  
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Practice Rounds  
12:00 AM - 1:00 PM Lunch  
8:00 PM                Pits and Machine Shop closes

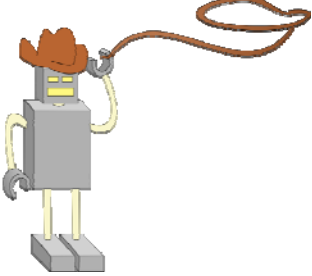

##### **FRIDAY, APRIL 2 - QUALIFICATION ROUNDS**

8:00 AM                Pits and Machine Shop opens  
9:00 AM                Opening ceremonies  
9:30 AM - 4:15 PM Seeding matches  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Lunch  
4:30 PM                Awards Ceremony  
6:00 PM                Pits and Machine Shop closes

##### **SATURDAY, APRIL 3- FINALS**

8:00 AM                Pits and Machine Shop opens  
9:00 AM                Opening ceremonies  
9:30 AM - 11:30 PM Seeding matches  
11:30 PM - 12:00 PM Alliance Selections  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Lunch  
1:00 PM - 4:15 PM Final rounds  
4:30 PM                Awards ceremony  
5:00 PM                Pits and Machine Shop closes, crates packed for shipping

Hope to see you there! For further information contact Alan or Marilyn Cisar at [mitcstreplies@prodigy.net](mailto:mitcstreplies@prodigy.net) or call 281-373-9262 after 6 pm

	<p><b>MIT CLUB OF SOUTH TEXAS</b></p> <p>presents its first</p> <p><b>ROBOT ROUNDUP</b></p> <p>Sunday August 15, 2010</p> <p>2pm to 5 pm</p>	
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Learn about the FIRST Robotics program and how to set up a team  
 See student built robots in a game of “world cup summer” soccer  
 Have a barbeque dinner

Join the members of the MIT Club of South Texas for an afternoon of Robotic fun and a barbeque dinner. Beat the August heat for a Sunday afternoon at Stress Engineering's offices

<p><b>Stress Engineering Inc.</b>          13610 Westfair East Dr.          Houston, Texas 77041          (near West Road just off 290)  <a href="#">Map to Stress Engineering</a>  <a href="#">Google Map to Stress Engineering</a></p>	<p><b>Barbeque Dinner</b>          Adults - \$15.00      Children under 18 - \$5.00</p> <p>RSVP to <a href="#">SmarTrans</a> by          11pm CDT Wednesday, August 11, 2010</p> <p>For additional information contact Marilyn or Alan Cisar at          281-373-9262 or <a href="mailto:mitcstreplies@prodigy.net">mitcstreplies@prodigy.net</a></p>
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The MIT Club of South Texas will be kicking off their formal participation in the MIT Alumni Association / FIRST Robotics alliance with a fun filled family event featuring robots from local FIRST teams and a barbeque dinner. See the robots go through their paces and learn how to start you own team for students from elementary through secondary school. Mentors and team members from FIRST Robotics will share their experiences starting up and working on local robotics teams.

The FIRST program was started by MIT professor Woody Flowers and Dean Kamen , inventor of the Segway. “FIRST engages thousands of adult Team Mentors and Coaches volunteering with young people ages 6-18. Team Mentors and Coaches work side-by-side with our FIRST teams to build self-confidence, knowledge and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology and engineering. They have a variety of backgrounds, but all share in the FIRST commitment to inspiring in young people, their schools, and communities, an appreciation of science and technology, and how mastering these can enrich the lives of all. The time needed for a Team Mentor or Coach will vary with the program selected but generally these positions would require a 6-month commitment to team support. “

We promise not to leave you on your own. The unofficial motto of Houston FIRST is “No robot left behind”. Whether you’re from MIT ’40 or MIT ’10, Course 2 or Course 21, there is an opportunity for you to participate. Teams vary from FIRST Lego League , Jr to FIRST Robotics. This is a perfect volunteer opportunity for a recent grad or seasoned alum with a little extra time on their hands. It’s also a great way for parents of elementary and secondary school aged kids to get involved in a project for the whole family! Opportunities are not limited to those with engineering degrees. Help is also needed for coaching decision making, handling logistics, writing, giving presentations, and for the oldest kids- putting together business plans.

The Robot Roundup will feature the robot from the Cypress Ranch Robotics team, #3335, winners of the Lone Star Regional Rookie All Star Award for 2010 , sponsored in part by the MIT Club of South Texas. Also participating will be the highly decorated veteran Team 57 from BT Washington High School, an HISD magnet school. The teams will be putting their robots through their paces in a friendly game of soccer. The veterans and rookies will be available to show the technology employed in their machines. There will also be Legos Mindstorm Robots running for an afternoon of nerd fun, in the air conditioned space at Stress Engineering!

If you’d like to know more about the FIRST Robotics initiative, check out the website at [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org) and <http://houston.txfirst.org/>

## MIT Club of Boston Special Reception at BostonFIRST

### **Saturday, March 27th:**

8:30 am	Room open, coffee and beverage service Check-in / registration until 12:30pm
9:00 am to 12:30 pm	Pit Tours- visit FIRST teams at their stations in the Pit
10:00 to 11:00 am	Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dave Provost GM '04 President, MIT Club of Boston</li><li>• Christine Tempesta- Director, Strategic Initiatives, MIT Alumni Association</li><li>• Henry Houh '91 VP K-12, MIT Club of Boston</li><li>• Matt Haggerty '83 (Intro to Prof. Flowers) –</li><li>• Professor Woodie Flowers</li></ul>
Noon to 1:30 pm	Buffet Lunch for those who purchased it
1:30 pm	Room closes
1:30 -4:00 pm	Attendees can watch elimination rounds from the stands
1:30-2:00 pm	Break down and clean up

### BostonFIRST Schedule

#### **Saturday, March 27th:**

8:00 am -- Pits and Machine Shop open  
9:00 - 9:30 am -- Opening ceremonies  
9:30 am - 12:15 pm -- Seeding matches  
12:15 - 12:30 pm -- Alliance selections  
12:30 - 1:30 pm -- Lunch  
1:30 - 4:30 pm -- Final rounds  
4:45 - 5:45 pm -- Awards ceremony  
6:30 pm -- Pits close; crates packed



## Attending the Regional FIRST Robotics Competition

Boston University (BU) Agganis Arena, March 26<sup>th</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Please make time with your family to experience the most compelling youth sporting event of all time. The atmosphere is often described as “a rock concert that meets the Super Bowl mixed with science and technology.” Find full information for the Boston FIRST event at [www.BostonFIRST.org](http://www.BostonFIRST.org). Here you find the agenda, location, transportation, etc. Everything about the event is free with full access to all areas.

Doors open at 8 am each day, opening ceremonies begin at 9 am. The competition ends at about 4 pm on Saturday and awards ceremonies follow immediately, concluding at about 5 pm.

Opening ceremonies each morning are worth attending. In addition to our National Anthem, the competition format is reviewed, simulations presented, the judges, refs and dignitaries introduced. The founders and leadership of FIRST and FRC speak and add FIRST color!

All day Friday, and Saturday morning, you can watch qualifying matches and tour the pit area where all the teams are setup to support technical matters with their entrant. It is a good time to get a feel for the kids' enthusiasm, experience and ambitions – they are amazing! You will see families and kids of all ages, in addition to the high-school team members, mentors, judges and innovators like Bob Metcalfe, Steve Wozniak, Woodie Flowers, Dean Kamen and many more.

Qualifying matches end at about 11 am or so on Saturday morning. At about 11:45 am the eight top-ranked teams will each publicly draft two teams each as their permanent alliance partners for the Final Rounds. It is tense and exciting for everyone. Because the kids select the teams they want to be in the finals, the competition is certain to be the best of all.

Prime show-time of the event begins Saturday at 1:30 pm. From 2 pm to 4 pm, the kids, teams, mentors and spectators in the stadium are on fire. The place is packed and the level of energy goes up a factor of ten over what you experience in the qualifying matches. By the final rounds of the elimination, the energy in the arena will be as intense as the best major sporting event you have ever experienced – the place goes wild!

Following the final match, Award Ceremonies commence. Although we celebrate the winning teams of the competition, the highest accomplishments within the FIRST community are the Chairman's Award for the team that best exemplifies the values and purpose of FIRST, and the Woodie Flowers Award for the one Mentor, of hundreds, recognized for effective motivation and communication in the art and science of engineering and design. You will certainly enjoy it all, and get a unique glimpse of our future as a Nation!



This note was generously provided by Team ALARM from Millis, MA

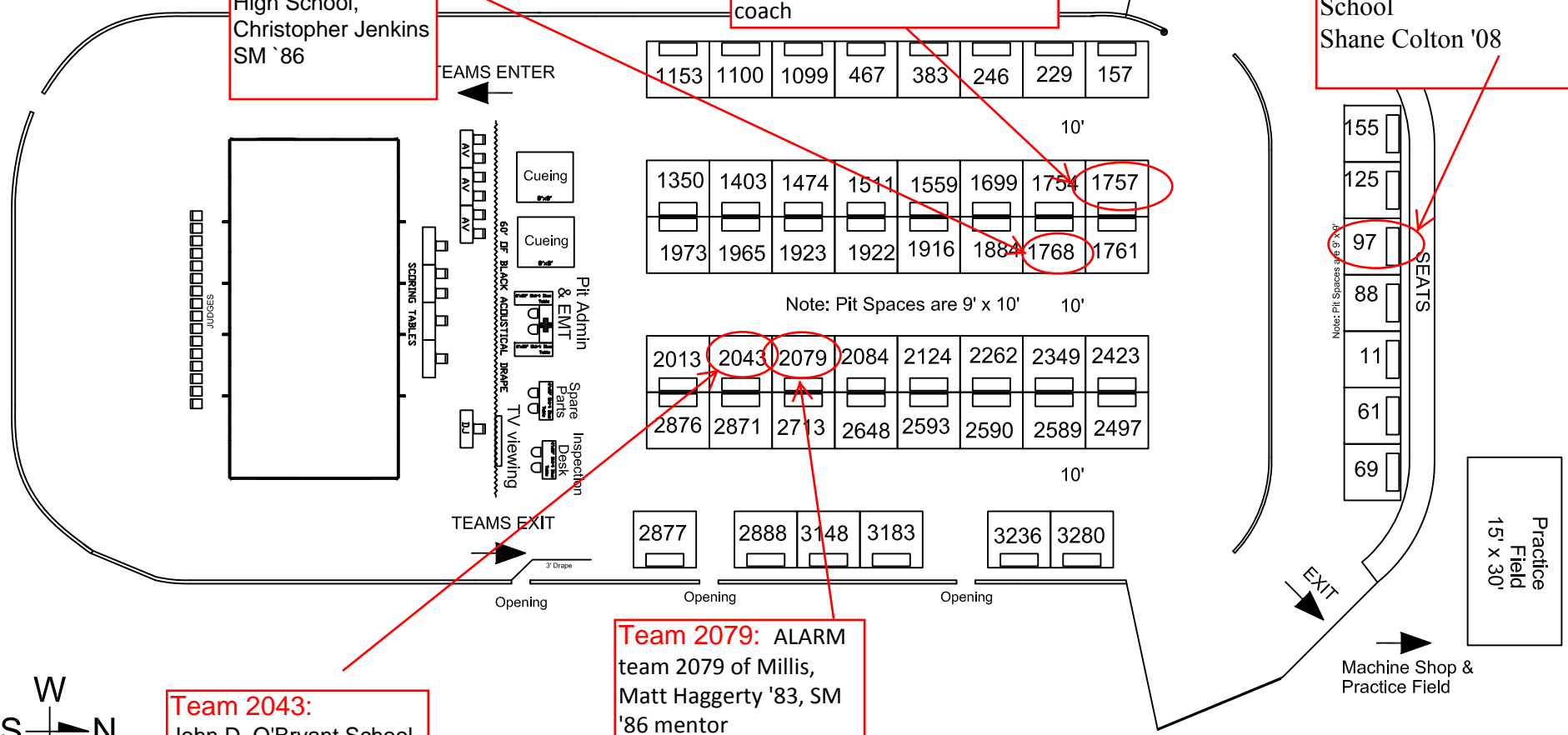
**“To create a world where science and technology are celebrated... where young people dream of becoming science and technology heroes.” - Dean Kamen**

# Boston Regional

**Team 1768**  
Nashoba Regional High School,  
Christopher Jenkins  
SM '86

**Team 1757:** Wolverines of  
Westwood; Mark Holthouse '76  
coach

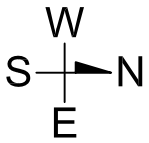
**Team 97:** MIT/Vecna  
Technologies, Inc/Draper  
Laboratories/Bluefin  
Robotics & Cambridge  
Rindge and Latin High  
School  
Shane Colton '08



**Team 2043:**  
John D. O'Bryant School,  
Ed Moriarty '76

**Team 2079:** ALARM  
team 2079 of Millis,  
Matt Haggerty '83, SM  
'86 mentor

Regional Name:	Boston Regional
Regional Date:	3/24/2010 - 3/27/2010
Facility:	Boston University
Portion of Facility/Hall:	Agannis Arena
City, State:	Boston, Massachusetts
Aisle Size Unless Noted:	10'
Number of Pit Spaces:	53
Pit Booth Size Unless Noted:	9' x 10' and 9'x9'
Table Size Unless Noted:	2' x 6'
<b>DISCLAIMER</b>	
<p>Every effort has been made to insure the accuracy of all information contained on this floor plan. However, no warranties, either expressed or implied, are made with respect to this floor plan. If the location of building columns, utilities, or other architectural components of the facility is a consideration in the construction or usage of an exhibit. It is the sole responsibility of the exhibitor to physically inspect the facility to verify all dimensions and locations.</p>	



# **Jr. F.I.R.S.T. Lego League** **For ages 6 – 8 years**

Team size: 4 – 6 students

Meetings: 1.5 to 2 hours, once per week (time to be decided by coach). *I recommend two-hour sessions based on my experience and recommendations by another coach.*

Location: Location will vary by team. Solon schools has given us permission to meet at the schools depending on room availability. The schools have not agreed to store Legos or robots on our behalf.

Season: September – December (expect 8 – 10 meetings per season)

Typical Activities: Team building, brainstorming, research (some limited at-home work), building with Legos, creation of Lego project & presentation

It is typical to schedule an additional meeting or two close to the time of the tournament/expo to finalize preparations and/or permit practice runs. This will vary by team.

Cost: **\$80/student Due when matched to a coach.**

To Register a student or become a Coach or Mentor:

Contact Nadine Otterman

email – [nadine.otterman@roadrunner.com](mailto:nadine.otterman@roadrunner.com)

Home – 440-349-4467

## **Student Deadline: July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

(I will do my best to accommodate everyone until I run out of coaches. I cannot guarantee a spot.)

**Registration Process: (This will be a rolling process, but just to give you an idea.)**

June 2<sup>nd</sup> – July 5<sup>th</sup>: Open registration for students and coaches by e-mail (I will be unavailable 6/11 – 7/5)

July 5<sup>th</sup> – Aug 6<sup>th</sup>: Contact coaches, match students to teams, collect payment, register & order equipment.

Aug 6<sup>th</sup> – Aug 15<sup>th</sup>: Contact students who are not yet placed & call for additional coaches as necessary.

Aug 15<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> day of School: Hold coaches meeting, confirm meeting locations & timing.

# **F.I.R.S.T. Lego League**

## **For ages 9 - 14 years**

Team size: 4 – 8 students

Meetings: 2 hours, once or twice per week (time to be decided by coach).  
*The team may meet once per week early in the session and add additional meetings as necessary to prepare for the tournament.*

Location: Location will vary by team. Solon schools has given us permission to meet at the schools depending on room availability. The schools have not agreed to store Legos or robots on our behalf.

Season: September – December (expect 8 – 12 meetings per season)

Typical Activities: Team building, brainstorming, research (some limited at-home work), robotic programming, building with Legos, creation of robot project & presentation

It is typical to schedule an additional meeting or two close to the time of the tournament/expo to finalize preparations and/or permit practice runs. This will vary by team.

Cost: **\$225/student**    **Due when matched to a coach**

To Register a student or become a Coach or Mentor:

Contact Nadine Otterman

email – [nadine.otterman@roadrunner.com](mailto:nadine.otterman@roadrunner.com)

Home – 440-349-4467

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