

Anacortes Robotics Booster Club

Parent Information Session

Things all parents need to know about ARBC-supported
FIRST Robotics Teams

I'm wondering why I'm here

- What are we talking about today?
- How does my student get on a team?
- Who leads my student's team?
- Team meetings - when, where, how long?
- When/where does the team go besides team meetings?
- How does my student get to team events?
- What does it cost me for my student to be on a team?
- Who/how do I pay for my student to be on a team?
- When am I done with the process of getting my student onto a team?

Initialisms and other definitions

- ARBC - Anacortes Robotics Booster Club, 501(c)(3) non-profit, public charity
- ASD - Anacortes School District public school for Fidalgo, Guemes
- ASB - Associated Student Body - ASD's public school club organization
- *FIRST* - For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology
- FIRSTWA - *FIRST* Washington, state-level operating partner of *FIRST*
- LEGO - the LEGO Group - toy company based in Denmark
 - Also the pointy bricks you might step on in the night at some point
- *FIRST* LEGO League - partnership between *FIRST* and LEGO

ARBC-supported/sponsored *FIRST* Robotics Teams

The Anacortes Robotics Booster Club supports 3 programs, 2 types of teams

***FIRST* LEGO League Explore** Grades 2-4

Community Teams

- Not offered by Anacortes School District
- Organized & led by parents/volunteers

***FIRST* LEGO League Challenge** Grades 4-8

AMS Robotics Club teams

- ASB Club
- Organized & led by parents/volunteers OR ASD-stipended coach

Community Teams

- Separate from ASD
- Organized & led by parents/volunteers

***FIRST* Tech Challenge** Grades 8-12

AHS Robotics Club teams

- ASB Club
- Organized & led by ASD-stipended coaches

No community teams

- ASD opportunity is open to all

Initial sign-up, also known as “pre-registration”

If your team is in the AMS or AHS Robotics Club, you must fill out TWO forms

FIRST LEGO League Explore

ARBC Parent Interest Form

- Information ARBC needs

FIRST LEGO League Challenge

ARBC Parent Interest Form

- Information ARBC needs

AMS Robotics Club only

ASD FinalForms

- Information ASD needs

FIRST Tech Challenge

ARBC Parent Interest Form

- Information ARBC needs

ASD Final Forms

- Information ASD needs

Team Formation

AHS Club teams form within the Club, Community/AMS Club teams form outside

FIRST LEGO League Explore

External organization or group of parents can form team and approach ARBC for support

Otherwise, ARBC helps interested students and parent/volunteer coaches align meeting day/time

Every team needs 2 adults coaches; can be limiting factor

FIRST LEGO League Challenge

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Every team needs 2 adult coaches; can be limiting factor

FIRST Tech Challenge

Students sign-up for AHS Robotics Club

Coaches organize students into one or more teams, depending on number of students and other factors

The 2 ASD coaches serve as coaches for all teams

Team Meetings - Schedule/length/frequency/duration

Team meetings are progressively longer in higher-level programs

FIRST LEGO League Explore

Once/week

90 minutes/meeting

12 - 15 weeks

FIRST LEGO League Challenge

Twice/week (sometimes more)

2 hours/meeting

3 - 6 months (based on interest
and/or tournament
advancements)

FIRST Tech Challenge

Thrice/week (sometimes more)

3 hours/meeting

Typically for the school year

Team Events outside of Team Meetings

Higher-level programs - more team events, including competitions

FIRST LEGO League Explore

Possible field trips depending on parent/coach inclination/availability

One capstone non-competitive Festival where teams exhibit their work and are reviewed/awarded for their accomplishments - 3-4 hrs

FIRST LEGO League Challenge

Possible field trips

Two “practice” days:

- Oak Harbor Jamboree
- Anacortes Scrimmage

One guaranteed tournament
Possible state semi-final
Possible state championship
All tournaments are a full day

FIRST Tech Challenge

Remote Kickoff event
Team-building events
Hosts for Anacortes FLL Challenge Scrimmage and possibly FLL Explore Festivals
Three guaranteed tournament days (very full day)
Possible state semi-final
Possible state championship
Possible “bowl games”

Team Events Travel and Food/Beverages

Except for AHS Robotics Club, parents are responsible for travel, food, beverages

FIRST LEGO League Explore

Parents arrange for travel to field trips (if applicable) and Festival

Anacortes hosts local Festivals (school, library, local business)

FIRST Washington hosts Festivals in other areas, usually 1+ hours from Anacortes

FIRST LEGO League Challenge

Parents arrange for travel to all events - coaches DO NOT arrange carpools

Longer events need either packed lunch OR parents who volunteer to supply lunch (group buy or build)

FIRST Tech Challenge

AHS Club provides one van for most events

Parents are asked to supplement when needed - coaches DO NOT arrange carpools

AHS Club provides food for students at tournament only
Parents are asked to feed team when necessary at meetings

How much will all this cost me?

ARBC requires a contribution to team startup expenses for all programs

FIRST LEGO League Explore

ARBC cost will be similar to last year, which was \$50/student

Parents who are interested in/able to support the booster club can help keep these programs going for future students

FIRST LEGO League Challenge

ARBC cost will be similar to last year, which was \$110/student

Parents are asked to help with ARBC fundraising

Parents are expected to volunteer to support either ARBC events or *FIRST* Tournament events

FIRST Tech Challenge

ARBC cost is \$165 (up from \$160) for the regular season
Extended season costs are TBD

Parents are expected to pitch in and help with ARBC fundraising

Parents are expected to volunteer to support either ARBC events or *FIRST* Tournament events

ARBC provides a need-based scholarship for the team startup contribution

How much will all this cost me?

ASD requires an Associated Student Body fee for AHS Club participants

FIRST LEGO League Explore

Community teams only

No ASD ASB fee

FIRST LEGO League Challenge

Community teams - no ASD ASB Club fee

AMS Robotics Club - may require ASD ASB Club fee paid separately to AMS/ASD

FIRST Tech Challenge

AHS Robotics Club - requires ASD ASB Club fee paid separately to AHS/ASD

Coach must ensure FinalForms roster is complete/accurate; used to validate ASB fees were paid

AHS/ASD levies fine if ASB fee not paid

ARBC Payment Process for all programs, all teams

1. Parent makes purchase of “Team Membership Contract” on ARBC website
 - a. Credit card payments are processed immediately
 - b. Check/cash payments are possible, but must be initiated on website, then cash/check is handed into team coach or brought in to an ARBC meeting
2. When payment is received, purchaser receives download link for “Team Membership Contract”, then downloads/prints the contract
3. Parent/student fills in student name on contract, student reads/signs contract
4. Student turns signed contract in to team coach
5. Coach holds contracts for all student team members
 - a. The contract is how the coach knows the student is pre-registered and paid up

Sounds so simple - is that it?

One last registration is required...

1. Parents will receive an e-mail invitation to officially register their student with *FIRST*; parents must use a *FIRST* account and the *FIRST*Inspires website
2. A student is not officially registered with *FIRST* until the coach receives the student's contract and the parent has registered the student with *FIRST*

Students cannot attend FIRST tournaments unless they are registered

If anyone has a problem completing any of the interactions (pre-registration, team formation, ARBC payment, or FIRST registration) please let ARBC know by sending e-mail to Info@AnacortesRobotics.org OR coming to an ARBC meeting (schedule is on the website home page - <https://AnacortesRobotics.org>.)

Extra material - parent interest & payment screen

[HOME](#)[ABOUT/JOIN](#) ▾[PROGRAMS](#) ▾[VOLUNTEERING](#)[FUNDRAISING](#) ▾[CONTACT US](#)[NEIGHBORING PROGRAMS](#)**CHALLENGE**

Parent Interest and Payment

Complete this form to submit information for team formation

ARBC's FLL Challenge team formation for the 2026-2027 BIOGLOW season

[2026-2027 FIRST Canopy FLL Challenge BIOGLOW](#)

Please complete this pre-registration form in order to participate in ARBC's team formation this season. If you have multiple students with an interest in participating, please fill out a separate form for each student. **Each team of up to ten students needs two adult volunteers as coaches - we can't form teams without parents who volunteer. ARBC provides training and support to all coaches.**

Once a team forms, a non-refundable per-student contribution towards startup costs is collected for each student team member in order to register each team with FIRST and cover other costs. ARBC provides a scholarship (based on financial need) to cover the cost of the startup contribution for eligible students (contact Info@AnacortesRobotics.org for more information). The amount of the startup contribution for the season is shown on the ARBC website at the beginning of the school year.

If you have any questions, please contact ARBC via e-mail to Info@AnacortesRobotics.org.

To get started, enter your e-mail address; this will be the PRIMARY e-mail address used to communicate with you about your student during team formation and the rest of the season. If you are not the primary contact for the student whom you are pre-registering,

Participation details

You should be familiar with the details of participation covered on our [FLL Challenge Program page](#) as well as the *FIRST* Youth Protection Program information (further down on this page).

Team Seasonal Startup Costs

- **Per-student team startup contribution: \$TBD (was \$110 last season)**
 - This contribution to startup costs is needed to get the team officially registered with *FIRST*

A contribution to team seasonal startup costs for your student is only due after your student becomes part of a team. Do not make the contribution until asked by a coach or team administrator.

\$ [Contribution link not active](#)

FIRST Youth Protection Program

All adults with leadership roles and/or more than 30% involvement with a *FIRST* LEGO League team must be screened under the *FIRST* Youth Protection Program