



A-Z Guide for 2016 *FIRST*[®] Tech Challenge World Championship

April 27 – 30, 2016

Union Station

St. Louis, Missouri



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ADA Spectator Seating:

Seating for guests with disabilities in Union Station is in **the first row of the bleachers in each Division**. If you need further assistance, please stop by the Union Station Registration desk.

Admission:

There is no fee to attend the 2016 FIRST[®] Championship; the event and Pits are open to the public! Be sure to visit all the FIRST programs. The FIRST Robotics Competition Championship and the FIRST LEGO League World Festival are in the America's Center and Edward Jones Dome. The FIRST Tech Challenge World Championship and FIRST LEGO League Jr.

World Festival Expo are at Union Station. Opening and Closing Ceremonies are held in the Edward Jones Dome.

Alliance Scouting, Captains, and Hats:

Many Teams position a scout team in the audience for each division since the Championship amounts to four large competitions going on at once. Record each Team's specialty/strategies and be able to provide your Alliance Captain with a list of preferred Team choices for Alliance Selection if your Team advances to final rounds.

In the final rounds of competition, Alliance Captains will be provided with hats to wear in order to designate them as the person speaking on behalf of the team for Alliance Selection and final matches.

Air Force Rapid Strike Simulator!

Jump on board a ride that lets you experience a real Air Force mission including an F-22 flight, C-17 cargo drop, Special Operations ground surveillance, satellite communications, and a Reaper missile strike – all from a FIRST person point-of-view. Come and see the fast-paced, high-energy nature of a complex Air Force mission conducted in a deployed environment. Rapid Strike is located just outside of the front doors at the Edward Jones Dome on 7th Street.

Alumni Alley:

Wednesday, April 27th – Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel (Formerly the Renaissance Grand Hotel)
11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Thursday, April 28th – Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel (Formerly the Renaissance Grand Hotel)
10:00 am – 5:30 pm

Friday, April 29th – Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel (Formerly the Renaissance Grand Hotel)

10:00 am – 4:30 pm

Saturday, April 29th – Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel (Formerly the Renaissance Grand Hotel)

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

All team members - especially sophomores, juniors, seniors:
Visit the 2015 FIRST Championship Alumni Alley. Stop by to learn about the opportunities FIRST makes available to participants as they become alumni. You will have the ability to sign up for databases and groups.

Awards Schedule (*FIRST* Tech Challenge):

Wednesday

Welcoming Ceremony presented by Monsanto, America's Center 6:00 PM

Thursday, 6:00 pm—Edward Jones Dome

Dean's List Award

Friday

FIRST Tech Challenge Awards Ceremony – Peabody Opera House, 3:30 PM

Saturday:

FIRST® Robotic Competition Chairman's Award, Edward Jones Dome, 7:30 AM

FIRST® LEGO® League Jr. Award Ceremony, America's Center, 2:30 PM

FIRST® LEGO® League Champion Award, America's Center, 3:30 PM

Closing Ceremony and Finale, Edward Jones Dome, 6:30 – 9:00 PM

Event Badging for All:

FIRST is requiring that all FIRST Championship attendees register for the event. This includes all team Mentors/Coaches, student team members, parents, and spectators. Registration grants attendees access to participant-only activities and event transportation. Additionally, registration adds to the security of the expanded event.

Teams will be sent detailed registration instructions well ahead of Championship. Badges for Team Mentors/Coaches and students will be generated ahead of the event by FIRST Headquarters and will be included in the team registration packet. Anyone not preregistered will be required to get a badge onsite. To avoid waiting in long lines to receive badges, which could result in missing judging or inspection appointments, it is highly recommended that ALL team members be registered

ahead of time.

Detailed instructions are available here on our website:

<http://www.usFIRST.org/roboticsprograms/championship-travel>.

Competition Badges for Teams:

Drive Team Badges:

Each Team will receive drive team badges as a part of their [Team Registration](#) packet. Wear the badge on the front of your shirt near the left shoulder so Referees, Judges, and Queuers can see it. These badges allow the wearers access to the playing field and designate:

- One Coach Badge (this badge has a dot on it. *The Coach cannot score points or drive the robot.*)
- Two Driver Badges

Tip! Assign someone to keep the drive team badges in a safe place, such as a toolbox, when not in use. Please do not bring them to your hotel, because Teams often forget to bring them back the next day! **There are no replacement badges!**

IMPORTANT! Teams participating in the Semi-Final and Final rounds will each receive an extra access button that will give one additional Team member access to the field. Teams will be asked to report directly to the field and to be queued and ready to go. Plan to bring your robot, extra batteries, spare parts, your tool kits, and one member of your repair crew with you as there will be no time for Teams to run back to the pit. Temporary Pits will be set up in the Ballroom.

Media Badges: Each Team registration packet will contain 1 non-transferable Team Media Pass and a copy of the Media Pass Guidelines. The Media representative for a team will be permitted in designated media access areas in the bleachers only during their Team's matches. Team Media representatives are not permitted on the playing field surface, on the playing field floor during final rounds or ceremonies, or in any private venues, VIP, Volunteer, or Judges' areas, or the FIRST Media Center for professional, bona fide media. Mascots will not be recognized as an official Team media person.

BrandIT[®] Marketplace for FIRST:

BrandIT[®] Marketing Solutions, in conjunction with Northwest Designs will be offering new and exciting merchandise at the Championship. The main stores will be located in the Edward Jones Dome, as well as at Union Station. In addition, a small kiosk store will be located in the Americas Center Concessions area. The stores will be open in conjunction with the Pit and competition schedules. The

Store at the Dome will remain open for the finale on Saturday night. Cash and major credit cards will be accepted.

This year, teams will be able to add their team number to their purchased apparel! The *FIRST* Marketplace online store (www.usfirstmarketplace.com) will allow you to pre-purchase Championship merchandise and customize it to reflect your team number.

Ceremonies and Events (*FIRST* Tech Challenge):

This year there will be several exciting events for Teams to attend.

***FIRST* Welcoming Ceremony** – Thursday 4/27 @ 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Edward Jones Dome

***FIRST* Tech Challenge Judged Awards Celebration** – Saturday 4/29 @ 3:30 – 5:00 PM in the Peabody Opera House

***FIRST* Closing Ceremonies and Finale** – Saturday 4/29 @ 6:00 – 9:00 PM in the Edward Jones Dome

Championship Participant Registration:

FIRST is requiring that all *FIRST* Championship attendees register for the event. This includes all team Mentors/Coaches and student team members. Registration grants attendees access to participant-only activities and event transportation. Additionally, registration adds to the security of the expanded event. Team Mentors/Coaches and students will receive their badges during team check in. Detailed instructions are available on our website: <http://registration.experientevent.com/ShowROB162/defaultTeams.aspx>.

Consent and Release Forms and Team Roster:

Upon checking in, Teams must provide a Team Roster and any paper-copy Consent and Release Forms for students or mentors that did not complete the form electronically. If under 18, Consent and Release Forms require a parent/legal guardian's signature. See [Resource Library](#) and [Consent and Release Form](#) for full details.

Conference Schedule

Conferences have been expanded this year to include the typical one hour session as well as two hour workshops at both the America's Center and Union Station. We have a packed schedule this year so I am sure you will find something that interests you!

Some of the new topics include:

- Learn how to Broaden your Innovation Skills with the GIA sponsors—Booz Allen Hamilton, XPRIZE, Rockwell Collins, John Deere and NRG
- Vikrum Aiyer—Chief of Staff, USPTO, will be talking about how ideas are the new currency of the world and how to protect yours.
- John Cohn—IBM Fellow, Internet of Things will be talking about “Serious Play”. Check out some videos of John innovation through play
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AnjFgSvj3vU>
<https://vimeo.com/49120803>
- Robot Saura (Naderi)-Qualcomm will tell us about the Thinkabit Lab
- Learn how to build and program the WeDo 2.0 with Alisha MacIntyre from LEGO
- Laura Stach—MIT Launch—will talk about the Myths of Entrepreneurship
- Of course we will talk about the future of cars (automated and flying?) with Bosch and Booz Allen Hamilton

And if you missed the screening of Most Likely to Succeed that was held at FIRST HQ, don't worry there will be one at Championship followed up by a discussion with Ted Dintersmith, producer and author.

Check out all of the sessions and workshops 2016 Championship Conference Schedule.

On the Championship Conference webpage, you will find:

- Conference Schedule (At-A-Glance) which is a grid of sessions/workshops for each day.
- Session and Workshop Descriptions provide a day by day description of each session/workshop with the presenters listed.
- Presenter Bios is an alphabetical listing of bios of all presenters.

Dean's List Finalists:

FIRST Dean's List Finalists are outstanding student leaders whose passion for, and effectiveness at, attaining *FIRST* ideals is exemplary. Dean's List Finalists are invited to the Opening Ceremony Thursday at 6pm where the 10 *FIRST* Tech Challenge Dean's List Winners will be announced. All Finalists and Winners will have lunch with Dean Kamen on Friday to celebrate their accomplishments! See <http://www.firstinspires.org/node/5356> for a list of previous winners.

Directions to Union Station and Parking:

From I-55N to Union Station

- Head North on I-55 N
- Take exit 207B-207C on the left toward Truman Pkwy

- Continue onto Truman Pkwy
- Continue onto S 18th St.
- Turn left onto Market Street (Destination on Left)

From I-55 S to Union Station

- Head south on I-55 S
- Keep right at the fork to continue on I-70 W (when entering Missouri)
- Take exit 249 on the left toward Tucker Blvd/Downtown/St Louis
- Turn right onto Cass Ave
- Turn right at the 1st cross street onto N 13th St
- Slight left onto Mullanphy St
- Continue onto N Florissant Ave
- Turn left onto N Market St (Destination on Left)

From I-64 E/US-40 E to Union Station

- Head east onto I-64 E/US-40 E
- Take exit 38A for Jefferson Ave
- Keep left at the fork to continue toward S Jefferson Ave
- Turn left onto S Jefferson Ave
- Turn right onto Cass Ave
- Turn left onto N 20th St
- Turn right onto Market St (Destination on Right)

From I-64 W to Union Station

- Head west on I-64 W
- Take exit 3B for Illinois 3 N toward Kansas City
- Merge onto I-70
- Take exit 249 on left toward Tucker Blvd/Downtown/St Louis
- Turn right onto Cass Ave
- Turn right at the 1st cross street onto N 13th St
- Slight left onto Mullanphy St
- Continue onto N Florissant Ave
- Turn left onto N Market St (Destination on Left)

From I-70E to Union Station

- Head east on I-70 E
- Take exit 248C toward St Louis Ave
- Merge onto N 11th St
- Turn right onto St Louis Ave

- Turn left onto N Florissant Ave
- Turn right onto N Market St (Destination on Left)

From I-70W to Union Station

- Head west on I-70 W
- Take exit 249 on the left toward Tucker Blvd/Downtown/St Louis
- Turn right onto Cass Ave
- Turn right at the 1st cross street onto N 13th St
- Slight left onto Mullanphy St
- Continue onto N Florissant Ave
- Turn left onto N Market St (Destination on Left)

Dress Appropriately and Safely:

Be aware of apparel and hair safety issues while working on your robot. Sandals, open-toed shoes, and Crocs are not allowed in the Pit. Wear relaxed, fun and appropriate clothing; remember, you represent your Team and FIRST. Body paint in lieu of clothes is not appropriate. Bathing suits and other revealing clothes are also not appropriate.

Driver's Meeting:

A Mandatory Drivers Meeting will be held on Wednesday at 1:30pm on the Competition Fields in the Grand Ballroom. Qualification Matches will begin at 1:45pm on Wednesday in the Grand Ballroom.

Elimination and Final Rounds:

Prior to the Championship, refer to the [Game Manual Part I Section 5](#) for information on Alliance Selection, elimination and final rounds, tournament rules, and the Championship match ladder.

Event App

Enhance your FIRST Championship experience while in St. Louis with our 2016 [Event App](#). The App includes interactive maps, personalized schedules, activities, team information, and more.

FIRST Ceremonies and National Anthems:

Teams are expected to attend the Opening, Awards, and Closing Ceremonies to show appreciation for Speakers, Sponsors and Teams. These events enhance the meaning of FIRST. Please graciously observe the playing of all anthems by standing

and remaining silent. Show respect for all countries in attendance.

FIRST Championship App:

Enhance your *FIRST* Championship experience. App includes interactive maps, personalized schedules, activities, team info, and more! Search App Store or Google Play for *FIRST* Championship, or point browser to:

<http://www.firstchampionship.org/event-app>

FIRST Championship Conferences:

The *FIRST* Championship Conference will be held on Wednesday, April 27-Friday, April 29. It is free of charge and open to all. The conference has been expanded to include:

- Sessions and Workshops. Sessions will be the traditional 50 minutes. Workshops will provide an opportunity to dig a little deeper into a topic and will be 110 minutes in length.
- Sessions and Workshops will be held at BOTH the America's Center and Union Station to be more convenient for competing teams.
- Topics have been expanded to include areas of interest for all four FIRST Programs and will include Program Updates, Technical Resources, Mentor/Coach Resources, Education, Diversity and Inclusion, and Scholarship and Alumni.
- Sessions and Workshops will be conducted by Sponsors, Coaches/Teams, Experts, and FIRST Staff. We look forward to seeing you there and learning with you.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.firstchampionship.org>.

FIRST Finale:

This year's finale is a multi-sensory experience for all ages! The excitement kicks off immediately following the *FIRST* Championship Closing Ceremony with Stikyrd, a rhythmically-charged show of driving percussion. Next up, the action moves to the arena floor for an inspiring, high-flying performance of twists, jumps and flips by the Jesse White Tumblers. Back on stage, we welcome another feast for the senses - Eclipse. This acrobatic and dance-based performance group blends stunning motion graphics, impeccable music and intricate body movements to transport the audience to a place where technology and live performers come together in one unique art form. And finally, the night concludes with the invigorating energy of critically acclaimed club DJ, Andy Caldwell. Back by popular demand, Caldwell caps off the night at the helm of this "after hours" dance party suitable for all ages. All together, these incredible performances add up to a night to remember and the perfect way for teams to celebrate their successes this season!

The event is free with attendee badge and will follow Closing Ceremony at the from 6:30 P.M. to 10 P.M. There will be food for sale at the Edward Jones Dome. No tickets sold at the door.

FIRST[®] Innovation Faire:

Be sure to visit FIRST's Sponsors at the Innovation Faire, which is located at the Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel (Formerly the Renaissance Grand Hotel). The Innovation Faire is open during the following times:

Wednesday, 11:00 am- 5:00 pm

Thursday, 10:00 am- 5:30 pm

Friday, 10:00 am- 4:00 pm

Saturday, 8:00 am- 12:00 pm

FIRST[®] LEGO[®] League and FIRST[®] LEGO[®] League Jr.:

FIRST LEGO League Pits will reside in Hall 1 of the America's Center closest to the Washington Street entrance. The Team Welcome will be on Wednesday evening at Union Station and the Awards Ceremonies will be on Saturday morning in the America's Ballroom, second level in the America's Center.

The FIRST LEGO League Jr. World Festival Expo will take place on Friday and Saturday in the Regency Ballroom at Union Station. Their Awards Ceremony will be held on Saturday afternoon in the Ferrara Theater. Please refer to the Spectator Schedule for additional details:

<http://www.firstinspires.org/community/first-championship>

FIRST[®] Night at the Ballpark

Discounted tickets at \$20.00 (+ service fee) each which includes the price of admission, as well as a hot dog and soda coupon to all FIRST Championship attendees. [Read more and order tickets.](#) For ticket orders of 20 or more, call the Ticket Office direct at 314-345-9000 and tell them you are purchasing tickets for the FIRST Championship event.

Come early—all FIRST ticketholders will have a chance to participate in a pre-game field parade, and will be able to watch the on-field recognition ceremony, including an Honorary First Pitch to a Cardinals player! The Cardinals are also offering a 10% discount at the main Team Store on Level One between Gates 3 & 4 at Busch Stadium. You may stop in the store between Wednesday and Sunday during Championship week—show your FIRST badge to take advantage of this great offer.

FIRST[®] Robotics Competition:

The FIRST Robotics Competition Pits will reside in the America's Center and their Teams check in at 3:00 pm on Wednesday. FIRST Tech Challenge Teams are welcome to stop by the Pits and Matches to check out the action.

Game Rules:

Prior to arriving in St. Louis, review the FIRST Res-QSM Game rules both in the Game Manual Part I and Part II, as well as the updates posted to the Game Forum. Teams are responsible for knowing and following all the rules and guidelines as outlined. You can access those documents here:

<http://www.firstinspires.org/resource-library/ftc/first-res-q-game-and-season-materials>

Incident Reporting:

Report injuries and illness to the Pit Administration area when they occur so a FIRST staff member can meet with the injured/ill party and document the incident or problem. This is an extremely important part of the event and we appreciate the cooperation of those involved. If anyone witnesses the accident, their input will be helpful also and may be useful in preventing future problems.

Inspection:

Remember that robot inspections start at 8:00 am on Wednesday and qualifying matches begin at 1:45 pm on Wednesday. All inspections will take place on the competition fields in the Grand Ballroom.

Appointment times are non-negotiable! The Inspectors often spot problems and provide suggestions for correction. Your robot must pass inspection to compete, but it doesn't have to be completely ready in order to request a preliminary inspection. Be sure that your robot meets the guidelines as outlined in the Game Manual Part I and Part II, as well as stipulations posted to the [Game Forum](#) (see *GAME RULES* for more information and a link to the documents).

Teams will have one Inspection appointment time. During your appointment, your team's robot will move through a Hardware Inspection and Field Inspection. Be sure to be prepared when arriving to your Inspection appointment.

Judging:

Team Judging starts at 8:00 am on Wednesday. Your scheduled meeting times are posted on your Team Registration packet. Arrive early to your appointment and bring your Engineering Notebook with Control Award Content Sheet (see below) and your Robot. **Please note that there will be no power available in Judging**

Rooms. Teams should review the judging process and criteria in the Game Manuals prior to their Judging appointment.

IMPORTANT! To be considered for the Control Award, teams must submit a Content Sheet describing the observable actions of the control software. Judges will use this sheet when observing robots on the competition field to evaluate how well they perform. Read more here:
<http://firsttechchallenge.blogspot.com/2015/02/whats-with-control-award.html>

Live Streaming:

FIRST Tech Challenge matches will be available through live stream on large screens in the Pits and on the web. Link TBA

NASA will be live streaming portions of the FIRST Robotics Competition. Link TBA

Lost and Found:

Bring found items to the Pit Administration area. If you lose something, obtain a "Lost Item" form from Pit Administration staff, fill it out, and turn it in. Each building keeps lost articles at its information desk. Check there also. After the event, items go to the security office at the venue for 30 days. If you cannot locate your lost item before the event is over, email ftcteams@firstinspires.org about two weeks after Championship with a detailed description of the lost item.

Mascots:

Keep safety in mind. Make sure that mascot and Team costumes are safe for the wearer as to vision and movement and are comfortable and cool enough to prevent fainting and dehydration. Mascots are not allowed on the playing field.

Mentor/Coach Breakfast:

The Mentor/Coach Breakfast will be taking place on **Friday at 7:00 am** in the America's Ballroom on the 2nd level of the America's Center. Program includes guest speakers and great networking potential. This is a cross-program event for all FIRST Mentors and Coaches.

Non-Engineering Mentor Organization (NEMO):

Friday, 10:00 am –12:00 pm. Feel free to drop in any time.

Where: Room 255, America's Center, 701 Convention Plaza, St. Louis

What: NEMO is celebrating its 12th anniversary this year! NEMO, as a community of practice, now has more than 800 members. This will be an opportunity to meet and greet your fellow Non-Engineering Mentors (NEMs). We will hear from NEMO members in different parts of the country who have hosted NEMO meetings - and suggestions from them on what works. This meeting will also be an informal opportunity to hear about resources and best practices.

Who: This meeting is open to all current members of NEMO and any adult who would like to join.

About NEMO: Non-Engineering Mentor Organization is a support group and information exchange for those adult mentors who help teams as part of the all *FIRST* programs. NEMO has a central clearinghouse for information that will benefit all teams. NEMs help with all the behind-the-scenes glue that hold the teams together including mentor recruitment and retention, travel, hotels, meals, parent involvement, fundraising, business plans, public relations, community service, team building and *FIRST* logistics.

Joining NEMO: visit <http://www.firstnemo.org> to find out how to join NEMO and join the private online forum. There are no dues to join, just a community of supportive people. Visit the "Resources" page to see all the papers written by NEMO members. There is no need to be a member of NEMO in order to attend our meetings.

Non-Medical Incident Reporting:

Report incidents relating to safety or Gracious Professionalism® to the Pit Admin area.

Olympic Campus:

This year, the ***FIRST*® Championship** events are spread out Olympic-style in downtown St. Louis. While teams will spend a lot of time in the venue their competition takes place in, be sure to get out and see what the other venues have to offer whenever you can. A brief overview of each location's main events include:

- **America's Center and Edward Jones Dome** – *FIRST* LEGO League and *FIRST* Robotics Competition Pits and Competition fields, Championship Conferences, Championship Opening and Closing Ceremonies and Finale
- **Magnolia Hotel** – *FIRST* LEGO League Global Innovation Awards
- **Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel (Formerly the Renaissance Hotel)**– *FIRST* Innovation Faire, Scholarship Row, and Alumni Alley
- **Union Station**- *FIRST* LEGO League Junior and *FIRST* Tech Challenge Pits and Competition fields

Pit Announcements:

In an effort to keep announcements to a minimum, we will group together announcements to be made at 20 past and 40 past the hour. Announcements are to be limited to spare part or programming assistance requests by Teams only. Birthday announcements, trivia, games, Team shout-outs, etc are not allowed.

Pits:

HOURS: FIRST Tech Challenge Pits open for Team Registration at 6:00am on Wednesday. Thursday and Friday the Pits open at 7:00am. Pits close at varying times each day. **TEAMS MUST VACATE THE PITS ON TIME.**

IMPORTANT! Please plan to arrive in the Pit when the doors open at 7:00am on Thursday and Friday. Teams who will be participating during the first 6 matches in the morning will be asked to be in queue and at the playing field well in advance of the 8:00am start.

Pit Closing: Teams must be cleared from the Pit area by Saturday at 4pm. Work crews with heavy equipment will be removing and packing all the Pit resources, making it unsafe for Teams to be in the area. For teams advancing to the semi-final and final rounds, Pits should be cleared **before** you attend the Closing Ceremonies. There will be no opportunity to return to the pit afterward.

Pit EMERGENCY Phone Number:

Information coming soon!

Pit Safety and Age Stipulation:

EMTs leave the premises at Pit closing time. For Team members' safety, please be respectful of the Pit closing time each day. Children aged twelve (12) and under must have an adult, aged eighteen (18) or older, with them at all times.

Pit Stations:

Each Team is allocated a **9' x 9' Pit space**. Extending beyond your Pit space is not allowed and you must set up your Pit within your Pit area (using the aisles is not allowed). Each Pit will have access to one outlet in a dual outlet box. Teams should remember to be gracious in their positioning and usage of the dual outlet box. Aisles must be clear for robot movement, safety, and queuing reasons, so we suggest that Team members watch the matches and cheer on the Teams instead of overflowing the pit stations into the aisles. One table is provided, but no chairs. There is a ten foot (10) height limit. Structures, signage, or banners cannot be higher than ten feet above the floor. Do not build any structure that supports people or stores items above the work area/pit space. If the height exceeds ten feet, you will be asked to take it down. No advance placement requests are

available. Positioning is numerical by division. No requests for displays, additional tables, Pit locations, division assignments, meeting rooms, or additional space will be considered.

Practice Fields:

Practice fields are available on a first come, first served basis. Teams must sign up for a time with the Practice Field attendant. Wi-fi and power will not be provided at the practice fields. Teams should plan accordingly.

Pre-Order Lunches:

Box lunch order forms are available here: <http://www.firstchampionship.org/a-z-for-teams-first-tech-challenge>. Boxed Lunches must be pre-ordered no later than **4/25/2016**.

Wristbands and preordered meals will be available in the FIRST Café. There are vegetarian and gluten free options available.

Queuing:

Teams are responsible for knowing their match times and will have to queue up a half hour prior to their matches without the help of an announcer. For Qualification matches, *FIRST* will make every effort to keep close to the published schedules. Keep close watch of the pit display for any moment-to-moment changes. If your Team is one of the first six matches of the day, queue early enough to be on the field before the Opening Ceremony.

IMPORTANT! Please plan to arrive in the pit when the doors open at 7:00am. Teams who will be participating during the first six matches in the morning will be asked to be in queue and be at the playing field well in advance of the 8:00am start. When Queuers come to collect you, be gracious and don't delay. Not arriving on time for your match will result in match forfeiture.

Safety:

FIRST works closely with local officials to secure the safety of all event participants. We encourage team leaders to help keep everyone safe by asking their teams to adhere to a buddy system when moving about downtown St. Louis and at the Union Station. Please do not venture out into the city on your own. Look to your hotel personnel, and the info booth located outside of the Pits for assistance in locating a destination in the city. If you are commuting in via the subway or bus transportation system, allow yourself extra time to get to the event. Provide your team with key contact information for your designated Team Leader(s) or Safety Captain: personal contact cell phone numbers, hotel and room number(s). Provide a cell phone number and your team's hotel name at event registration. Provide pre-determined meeting points in case anyone gets lost, and have a daily

meeting with your team to emphasize the importance of all-around safety while at the event.

Event Safety:

For safety reasons, individuals entering the event are subject to search by security personnel. Be mindful of the nearest exits while in the Union Station so you and your team members know where to go/how to exit in case of an emergency. Review safety procedures and cautions with your team prior to traveling to the event, and designate an emergency meeting spot. Make sure that team members know how to reach one another in the event of an emergency.

Teams are encouraged to have a safety plan ready in the event of emergencies. Note all the nearest exits from the pit and competition areas and determine a meeting place outside the building. In the event of an emergency, teams should listen to the announcements and instructions given in the field and pit areas for specific instructions.

Safety Glasses:

Teams must bring ANSI-approved, UL-listed or CSA rated safety glasses for **every** Team member and guest. Every person in the Pit and competition areas must wear them. Rose, blue, and amber tints are OK, but reflective lenses are not. The eyes of the wearer must be clearly visible to others. To qualify as safety glasses, regular corrective vision glasses must be polycarbonate/plastic material with attached safety side shields. You must wear safety goggles over all other corrective glasses.

Schedule and Team Lists:

Print and bring the latest Championship Schedule. Also print enough division Team lists to help with your Team's scouting efforts. Both documents can be found here: <http://www.firstinspires.org/community/first-championship>.

Scholarship Row:

Thursday, April 28th – Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel (Formerly the Renaissance Grand Hotel)
10:00 am- 5:30 pm

Friday, April 29th – Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel (Formerly the Renaissance Grand Hotel)
10:00 am – 4:30 pm

Saturday, April 25th – Edward Jones Dome Concourse
8:00 am – 12:00 pm

All team members - especially sophomores, juniors, seniors and parents: Visit the 2016 FIRST Championship Scholarship Row. Stop by to meet representatives from many of the colleges, universities, and corporations that offer scholarships for FIRST participants. It's a great way to start planning for college and find out about FIRST Scholarship opportunities

Scoring Disputes:

If a Team needs clarification on a ruling or score, within two matches of the disputed match, a student from that Team should address the Head Referee by standing in the Question Box and waiting to be addressed. The student representative should be prepared to cite the rule in question to the Referee. Head Referees will only discuss calls, scores, penalties, or match outcomes with students. **The Head Referee's ruling is final, and there is no recourse.** There is no review of tape or digital media. Refer to rule <T2> in the [Game Manual Part I](#)

Security:








Be sure to keep valuable items with you. Neither FIRST nor Union Station guarantees security of personal items. We strongly recommend that you do not leave behind valuable items in your pits at any time, such as; personal computers, cell phones, cameras, etc. You can report any lost items to Pit Administration (see *Lost and Found*).

All Teams should plan on having a lockable compartment in their Pit stations where they can store valuable items during the event. Unfortunately, items such as cameras and laptops are stolen each year. Remember, the Pit is open to the public. Please take proper security measures to protect any valuable items as FIRST cannot be held responsible for lost or stolen items at the event.

Site Restrictions:

Please read the following restrictions and adhere to them in order to promote an orderly, safe, pleasant, and exciting competition. As a group, we all should honor agreements with the venue and help promote the spirit of good partnership.

Please:

-  **Use of Hoverboards** is not permitted at any FIRST event
-  **Use of Drones** is not permitted at any FIRST event
-  **Do not use noisy devices**, such as whistles or air horns.
-  **Do not save seats.** It is not fair to other Teams or to the public guests we hope to interest as Team sponsors or volunteers.
-  **Do not ship robots directly to the site.**
-  **Do not try to arrange for Internet access** on the site or use hot-spots, or other personal phone lines for internet access.
-  **Do not sell any products.** This includes food, hats, shirts, or any promotional products.

- ❌ **Do not bring any type of gas tanks, including helium**
- ❌ **Do not bring live bands** to play in the audience. This dilutes the presentation on the playing field and is too loud and confusing for the audience.
- ❌ **Do not play loud music in the Pit** because it interferes with important announcements. If a Team receives more than two warnings, the power to the Team's Pit Station will be shut off and/or the music confiscated.
- ❌ **Do not use excessively loud cheering devices** such as whistles, air horns, or anything that may cause hearing damage, or interfere with other participants' event experience.
- ❌ **Do not run in the venue.**
- ❌ **Open-toed shoes or Crocs are not allowed in Pit spaces.**
- ❌ **Do not form "tunnels"** during the Awards Ceremony or at any time since this can cause discomfort to those traveling through them. It also creates safety issues.
- ✅ **DO bring your Gracious Professionalism!** Please remember that there are thousands of other students, mentors, and event attendees that are all just as anxious as you and your Team. The event experience is an overall experience, not just a robot competition. Take the time to recognize what a great opportunity this is for you and for the future of our society as a whole. Praise others and offer assistance when you can. The *FIRST* community is a better community with you in it engaging in Gracious Professionalism and Coopertition®!

Shuttles:

To move between *FIRST* Championship venues, shuttle service will be available and running throughout the week from Wednesday morning through Saturday evening. You can view the routes between venues on the *FIRST* Championship campus map available here: <http://championship.locallink.rocks/championship-schedule#block-block-60>

Shipping:

Union Station and *FIRST* Tech Challenge are not able to accept shipment of robots or materials from teams. Teams must bring their robot and all needed supplies, as well as their Pit display to Union Station on Wednesday 4/27 and remove everything by 4:00 PM on Saturday 4/30.

Student Ambassadors – Union Station:

Student Ambassadors are students from *FIRST* teams who are trained to represent *FIRST* at Union Station during the Championship. Student Ambassadors share their knowledge and excitement of the *FIRST* progression of programs with VIP's and the general public. Students may indicate their interest in acting as a Student

Ambassador when they register in Experient. Ambassadors will give tours of all Program competition areas and pits around Union Station. **Interested students should come to the training that will be held in Union Station's Grand Ballroom.**
Time TBD

Team Registration and Check-In:

New this year: Early Bird Check-In

To help alleviate delays and long lines on Wednesday morning, we are opening the Pit for early check-in on Tuesday, 4/26, at

Wednesday 6:00 AM at the Union Station Registration desk

Team Main or Alternate Contacts are the only individuals able to register their Team. Please form a single line by division. You will be asked to provide a cell phone number and hotel name in case we need to reach you in an emergency. Upon registration, Teams will receive a registration packet containing (at a minimum):

Team badges (1 per person)

Division Pit Map (1)

Division Team List (1)

Driver Badges (3)

World Championship Schedule (1) including Judging and Inspection appointments

Team Media Pass (1) with Guidelines

YPP Brochure (3)

FIRST Championship Program Guide, Team List, Schedule

FIRST Pass (15)

Team Button Swap:

Information forthcoming.

Transportation:

MetroLink and MetroBus provide easy access to the neighborhoods, attractions, and shopping districts throughout the bi-state region. The newly expanded MetroLink light rail, which has been called one of the best mass transit systems in the country, provides access to many area attractions. Beginning at Lambert St. Louis International Airport, MetroLink stretches 48 miles through Missouri and Illinois and includes stops at 37 stations. Trains usually run every seven (7) minutes during peak hours, and every 10 minutes throughout the rest of the day, and every 15 minutes or so on weeknights. MetroBus serves the many municipalities in St. Louis County, and visitors can access a special MetroBus route that connects downtown to a variety of popular attractions. Complete information on fares, stations and timetables can be found at www.metrostlouis.org.

Metro Map:

http://www.metrostlouis.org/Libraries/System_Map_PDFs/Map_DownTown_STL_083010.pdf

Updates and Changes:

Refer to the white boards in the Pit Admin area for new/updated information and listen for announcements

Wireless Networks:

Due to the wireless nature of *FIRST* control systems, wireless availability will be evaluated during the course of the event. Teams will not be allowed to set up their own wireless networks at the Championship. **This is rule T7 as outlined in the [Game Manual Part I](#).** While we certainly appreciate the positive potential Team-created wireless networks could represent, there is a chance such wireless networks could interfere with planned activities during the event.