Hello Coaches and Teams

This message is meant to answer questions about the 1) Core Value Poster and 2) provide information on the Global Innovation Nomination for Indiana
It is being sent to the first coach as the primary coach on the team application. Please share with your co-coach.

1) Core Values Poster Questions/Answers:

Q. Is a Core Values poster required at an Indiana Qualifying event for the Core Values (CV) judging?
Yes! All teams should bring a poster designed to help them explain their CV experience to the CV judges. This is a Visual Aid. Some tournaments might combine this with a Q & A session with judges. Other tournaments will combine the poster explanation with a spontaneous activity (like a build activity) that you cannot plan for but the judges will observe and then a shorter Q & A session. This will help them evaluate how your team functions. Using a CV activity is up to the individual tournament.

Q. Will we be evaluated on the size, layout, and composition of the poster?
No, there is no specific line of evaluation on the CV rubric that all judges will use at ANY FIRST LEGO League tournament; however, this is a visual aid designed to aid your team in their discussion with judges about the CV experience: what they know, have learned, experienced as a team while working on the robot design/programming and project experience. As such, anything brought in the judging session does leave an impression and becomes part of the overall view of your team. Judges may comment on it (positive or otherwise) in their comments. It can be very helpful to your team if done well. Obviously a neatly organized poster will be better than one that is not legible, is sloppy, or is not clear. The poster can add to the credibility of the team's explanation; but does not replace it. For this reason if a team forgets their poster, they should still be able to continue with the CV judging and just explain the ideas that were on the poster. In terms of creativity, again that might help the team but is not necessary to the usefulness of the poster.

Q. If we don’t do the format shown in the Challenge guide, what can we do?
In general, and if not otherwise stated by your tournament director, we allow any kind of poster. It doesn’t have to be tri-fold. It can be a plain standard size poster and the team can even use both sides. We recommend a tri-fold only because you can stand it up in the pit for display if they want to do that. We also don’t prescribe how it should be organized. You may use the format described in the challenge but we allow for creativity in the composition and placement of things on your poster board including text and titles. A team may feel it is more necessary to explain one aspect of CV in depth more than another because their team finds it hard to explain it in words (i.e. a picture is worth a thousand words); this is your choice. Again, we view the poster as a visual aid. Visual aids are used to support the interaction/conversation between the team and the judges. In a sense it “jump starts” the conversation.

Q Should we drop out of a tournament because we have not had time to do the CV poster?
NO!! Please compete anyway; do a good job of explaining the CV concepts and talking to judges. They may comment on the missing poster and may even rank your team a bit lower for not having something other teams have but PLEASE do not drop out of an event if that is missing!

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2) Global Innovation Nomination: a totally optional award but a really great experience if you participate!
This award nomination is SEPARATE from the normal tournament competition and is optional.

Each tournament will nominate one team to be their tournament’s GIA nomination. The judges in the project category make this decision and it is based on a team’s project solution. The judges will focus on these things when selecting the GIA nomination: a clearly defined problem; the degree to which the team's solution makes life better by improving existing options, developing a new application of existing ideas, or solving the problem in a completely new way; the chosen solution is evaluated for being possible and the team shares how they would implement the solution, in fact maybe they have made a prototype or planned out how to actually make their solution happen in the “real world”.

When a team is selected, it is an honor. But the coaches and the team must decide; should we continue and apply to be one of the two Indiana Regional GIA nominated teams to FIRST LEGO League or not? If the answer from your team is “no”, it is okay! Nothing further is required and it has no bearing at all on any other aspect of team competition.

If the team nominated has an answer of “yes”, coaches should read a letter sent to them with an online Indiana GIA application link. The team will complete the online form and wait to hear if they are an Indiana finalist. A special group of judges will review the project applications and select 4 finalists who will be invited the Northern Championship to display their project and attend a special round of judging just for GIA finalists. If the team is already attending from a qualifying tournament, that is fine. If they did not advance to championship, they can still attend the championship for the special GIA display and judging; NOT for the usual tournament competition. If selected as one of the 2 Indiana GIA nominees at the championship event, the team will then proceed to continue to submit their idea for the GIA award as directed by FIRST LEGO League on the national level; more details will be shared if your team is selected.

Please chat with your team in advance about this nomination to decide if you would like to participate in this optional extra competition IF SELECTED by your qualifying tournament judges. It does require some more work later on after the qualifier and may involve additional travel and expenses.

For those of you attending a qualifier this weekend, we send our best wishes for a fun filled day and wish you the best of luck! Thanks to the tournament directors and all their volunteers for providing you with this experience!

High Fives to coaches, and to your teams and all volunteers for your participation!

Carol Dostal
Indiana Affiliate Partner: FIRST LEGO League