Hello Indiana FIRST LEGO League Coaches*

This message is being sent to the first coach listed in your team dashboard/profile as the main contact.

(*If you are an administrator, please pass on to the coach. First coaches please share it with your second coach who will not be included in the email updates due to the high volume of email addresses that result when sent to both coaches which often cause many school system spam filters to reject emails.)

Welcome to the Indiana FIRST LEGO League Regional season of Hydro Dynamics!

IN Team News Updates are IMPORTANT! Please read as they contain important Indiana news you will need to know for attending a qualifying tournament.

In this update:

1. Indiana Registration: Current Team Count
2. Information about FIRST LEGO League Global Team Standards (we follow them at all Indiana tournaments)
3. Information about Indiana qualifying tournament: application versus straight registration
4. When and on what website do you apply to attend an Indiana Qualifying Tournament
5. The tournament process: where to find detailed directions

6. IMPORTANT: UPDATE ON THE PROJECT CHALLENGE…NEWS FROM FIRST LEGO LEAGUE!

1. Indiana Registration: Current Team Count

The current team count in Indiana is 246. This number will most likely be close to 300 before the end of the month.

2. Information about Indiana Global Team Standards.
All teams who wish to compete at a tournament in Indiana are eligible to attend one of the 13 qualifiers in the state.

The following are FIRST LEGO League Global Standards for teams to participate at a tournament...

A team is required to compete in all aspects of the tournament; i.e. all three judging sessions: project, robot design, and Core Values AND the robot game. New coaches please refer to the Coach Manual for explanations of these individual parts of a tournament competition.
There may be no more than 10 official team members engaged in competition at the tournament. (note: Other students may attend as observers or older students who are team alumni may be mentors but whether all of them can be at the pit table is determined by the individual tournament director).

All team members listed on the FIRST team profile who plan to attend the competition must attend every judging session and all three robot game matches as a unit. (explanation: the substitution of different “alternate” members in and out of different judging sessions is not allowed at the competition unless you are substituting an alternate team member for someone who is unable to compete at the entire competition due to a conflict or illness).

All team members must be within the age limits of 9-14 (members must be 14 by January of the competition season).

2. Information about Indiana qualifying tournament: application to attend

Tournament Choice: Coaches can apply to attend a tournament by ranking their preferences for events, however the final tournament assignment is not confirmed until a week after the conclusion of the application process. While our goal is to give teams their first choice tournament, this is not always possible. Sometimes it is even difficult to give a team their second choice. In the case where a team cannot be given one of their three choices, they will be contacted for other options.

Factors impacting where your team is assigned: Applications are date/time stamped automatically so first come, first served is one factor. Other factors are also considered. One is the volume of teams in a specific area that need to attend their local tournament if at all possible. The second may be the need to confirm teams into specific events that are hosted/coordinated/ and may be funded by an organization associated with those teams.

Where are tournaments listed? Indiana tournaments are listed on the FIRST Inspires website under events (you can sort by USA, Indiana, and then Events). Note that all FIRST events are listed so pay attention to whether it is a FIRST LEGO League event.)

Indiana tournaments are also listed on the Northern Indiana Championship website hosted by IPFW (Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne).

On this website shown below, look under location of Qualifying Tournaments (there have been changes from last year). You can see the location of the two Championship Tournaments under the Championship section of the home page.

Website: www.etcs.ipfw.edu/fll

4. When and where do you apply to attend a tournament? Note: this is an application process not a straight registration for a single event.

ALERT: DO NOT GO TO YOUR FIRST LEGO LEAGUE DASHBOARD ON THE FIRST INSPIRES WEBSITE TO APPLY FOR AN INDIANA TOURNAMENT!

Where to apply: Indiana Championship Website: www.etcs.ipfw.edu/fll

When to apply: Tuesday (NOT MONDAY), October 10 beginning at 8:00 AM (EDT) through October 13, closing at 12:00 (noon) PM (EDT)

HINT: Don’t wait. Apply early!
5) Where to find directions explaining the TOURNAMENT PROCESS: The directions are on the Northern Indiana Championship website under Qualifying Tournament Application Process. Please read them before the application week so that your application submission will go smoothly.

Website: www.etcs.ipfw.edu/fll

6) Important news from FIRST on the challenge...a clarification

1. Challenge Update 4 – Floods Clarification of Water Disposal - The problem your team investigates must be a part of the human water cycle. For the HYDRO DYNAMICS™ Project, this means “the ways people find, transport, use, and dispose of water in order to meet a specific need or desire.” Since this definition explains the path that water takes when utilized by humans, water “disposal” here refers to “wastewater,” or water that has already been used by humans in homes, industries, and businesses. **Water disposal does NOT refer to the removal of floodwaters.**

Therefore, controlling the structural damage or immediate threats to human life caused by natural floods would NOT be appropriate topics for the Project. In order for natural flooding to be a suitable topic, it must be clearly linked to the human water cycle, and a human use of water. An example of this type of linkage might be flood contamination of a water source that will be used by humans. **Questions? Email fllprojects@firstinspires.org**

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Thanks everyone and High Fives to all of you for coaching!!

Carol Dostal
Indiana FIRST LEGO League Affiliate Partner
dostalc@ipfw.edu
Office: (260) 481-6905

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