Introduction to FIRST® LEGO® League Challenge

Friendly competition is at the heart of FIRST® LEGO® League Challenge, as teams of up to 10 children engage in research, problem-solving, coding, and engineering as they build and code a LEGO® robot that navigates the missions of the robot game. Teams also participate in an innovation project to identify and solve a relevant real-world problem.

FIRST LEGO League Challenge is one of three divisions by age group of the FIRST LEGO League program. This program inspires young people to experiment and grow their confidence, critical thinking, and design skills through hands-on learning. FIRST LEGO League was created through an alliance between FIRST® and LEGO® Education.

FIRST® DIVE℠ presented by Qualcomm and SUBMERGED℠

Welcome to the FIRST® DIVE℠ presented by Qualcomm season. This year’s FIRST LEGO League challenge is called SUBMERGED℠.

This season, children will learn about how and why people explore the oceans. Our discoveries beneath the ocean surface teach us how this complex ecosystem supports a healthy future for the plants and animals that live there.

During each session, teams will experience the engineering design process. There is no set order for this process, and they may go through each step several times in a single session. This means that during a session, children will be exploring the theme and ideas, creating solutions, testing them, iterating and changing them, and then sharing what they’ve learned with others.

More than 80% of the ocean remains unexplored, offering curious minds deep opportunities to dive into expeditions.

Program Outcomes
The team will:
• Use and apply the FIRST Core Values and engineering design process to develop robot and innovation project solutions.
• Identify and research a problem related to the season theme and then design and create a possible solution.
• Identify a mission strategy and design, create, and code a robot to complete missions.
• Test, iterate, and improve their robot design and innovation project.
• Communicate their robot design and innovation project and demonstrate their robot in the robot game.
Overview

How to Use This Guide

The sessions provide a guided experience for the FIRST® LEGO® League Challenge. The sessions are designed to be flexible so that teams of varying experiences can use the materials.

Your role is to facilitate and guide the team during the sessions as they complete each task. The tips within this guide are just suggestions. Review the Sessions at a Glance page to determine what your team should work on during each meeting. Remember to do whatever is best for you and your implementation.

FIRST® Core Values

The FIRST® Core Values are the cornerstones of the program. Gracious Professionalism® is a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. The team’s Core Values and Gracious Professionalism are evaluated during robot game matches and during the judging session at the tournament. The team demonstrates Coopetition® by showing that learning is more important than winning and that they can help others even as they compete.

We are stronger when we work together.
We respect each other and embrace our differences.
We apply what we learn to improve our world.
We enjoy and celebrate what we do!
We explore new skills and ideas.
We use creativity and persistence to solve problems.
What Does the Team Need?

LEGO® Education SPIKE™ Prime Set

Note: Other LEGO® Education sets such as MINDSTORMS® and Robot Inventor are also allowed.

Electronic Devices

Each team will need two compatible devices such as a laptop, tablet, or computer. Prior to starting Session 1, you need to download the appropriate software (LEGO® Education SPIKE™ or other compatible software) on to the device.

SUBMERGED℠ Challenge Set

This challenge set comes in a box that contains the mission models, challenge mat, and some miscellaneous pieces. The team should build the models very carefully using the building instructions. The miscellaneous items include 3M™ Dual Lock™ Reclosable Fasteners, coach pins, and season tiles for the team members.

Challenge Mat and Table

Set up a table with the challenge mat in your classroom or meeting space. Even if you cannot build the whole table, building just the four walls will be useful. It is also possible to use the mat on the floor.
Each session starts with an Introduction and ends with a Share activity. Details for these activities are provided in the session pages that follow. Tips and notes are provided in this guide to assist you in facilitating each team meeting. It may take 2 hours to complete the tasks in a session. If needed, split sessions into two separate meetings.

**Sessions at a Glance**

**Session 1 – Get Started**
- SUBMERGED Theme and Innovation Project Exploration
- Build the Mission Models

**Session 2 – Training Camp 1**
- Tutorial Activities (optional)
- Training Camp 1: Driving Around
- Explore Careers

**Session 3 – Training Camp 2**
- Training Camp 2: Playing with Objects
- Explore Project Sparks

**Session 4 – Training Camp 3**
- Training Camp 3: Reacting to Lines
- Brainstorm Project Problem

**Session 5 – Investigate Ideas**
- Guided Mission
- Identify Project Problem

**Session 6 – Identify Solutions**
- Pseudocode and Mission Strategy
- Identify Project Solutions

**Session 7 – Create Solutions**
- Develop Robot Design
- Develop Project Solution

**Session 8 – Continue Creating**
- Practice Solving Robot Game Missions
- Share and Test Project Solution

**Session 9 – Solution Planning**
- Iterate and Improve Robot Solution
- Iterate and Improve Project Solution

**Session 10 – Iterate Solutions**
- Iterate and Improve Robot Solution
- Plan Project Presentation

**Session 11 – Presentation Planning**
- Plan Robot Design Explanation
- Practice Project Presentation

**Session 12 – Communicate Solutions**
- Practice Robot Game Matches
- Practice Full Presentations
Session 1 Get Started

Outcomes

The team will:

- Explore the SUBMERGED℠ season theme and get to know each other.
- Make connections from the mission models to the Challenge story and Project Sparks.

1. Have the team watch the season videos on the FIRST® LEGO® League YouTube channel and read pages 3-11 in their Engineering Notebooks.

2. Provide the digital model building instructions to the team.

3. The team can work together or as individuals to build the models. Be sure to inspect and test the models to ensure they function correctly.

4. Encourage the team to investigate the mat and the mission models to inspire them. The team should record ideas for possible innovation projects that they could choose.

5. Encourage and support discussion about the Challenge story and Project Sparks and how they relate to the mission models.

Introduction

- Watch the season videos and read pages 3-11 to learn how FIRST® LEGO® League Challenge works and about the SUBMERGED℠ robot game and innovation project.
- Get to know your team members and select your team name.

Tasks

- Dive in to the season theme by building the robot game mission models.
- Place each model where it belongs on the mat. Refer to the field setup section of the Robot Game Rulebook.
- Explore how the models work and how they might connect to the Project Sparks on page 7.

Share

- Get together at the mat.
- Show how the mission models connect to the SUBMERGED℠ theme.
- Discuss the reflection questions.
- Clean up your space.

Reflection Questions

- Which mission models look the most interesting to you?
- How do the models relate to the Challenge story or Project Sparks?
- What resources will you use to learn more about the season theme?

Season Videos

The Robot Game Rulebook is a great resource to use throughout the season.

Every session has an Introduction prompt and space to document the team’s responses.

Open space is provided in each session for the team to collaboratively capture their thoughts, ideas, diagrams, and notes.

Some sessions will have helpful tips for the team.

Record your ideas during each team meeting!
Understanding Judging

Judging Session Flowchart

Teams should demonstrate Core Values in everything they do. The judges are excited to see how they show teamwork, discovery, inclusion, innovation, impact, and fun as they present their Innovation Project and Robot Design work. This is the team’s time to shine, so try to settle their nerves and encourage them. Please make sure they don’t leave anything in the judging room, including any documentation, when they leave.

**TEAM ENTERS**

**Team Welcome**
Introductory conversation takes place as the team sets up any materials they have brought.
2 minutes

**Innovation Project**
Live Presentation
5 minutes

**Innovation Project**
Question and Answer
5 minutes

**Robot Design**
Explanation
5 minutes

**Robot Design**
Question and Answer
5 minutes

**Core Values**
Question and Answer
3 minutes

**Feedback**
Judges provide verbal feedback to the team.
5 minutes

**TEAM LEAVES**

Judges discuss the team and complete the rubrics together.
10 minutes

Judges submit the rubrics once they are complete, before next team enters.

If there is too much information for the team to cover in detail, visual aids can be very useful references. Make sure the team practices how they will use them in the judging session, keeping in mind the time limits for sharing their innovation project and robot design work.