

FIRST LEGO League

2016-17 Info Sheet



Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles will sponsor up to **20** robotics teams for participation in the 2016-17 *FIRST LEGO League* program. Get your applications in early – space is limited and teams will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

What is the FIRST LEGO League program?

GSGLA's *FIRST LEGO League* program provides teams of girls the opportunity to participate in the *FIRST LEGO League* (FLL) robotics competition. Organized by *FIRST* (*For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology*), FLL is a global program created to get kids excited about science and technology. FLL utilizes theme-based challenges to engage kids in research, problem solving, and engineering. The program emphasizes contributions of others, friendly sportsmanship, learning, and community involvement. The Girl Scouts of the USA has formed a partnership with *FIRST* with the goals of encouraging more girls into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) careers and gender equity in our global society.

Each FLL challenge involves two areas: the robotics areas focuses on a team's ability to design, build and program a robot that accomplish specific missions; and, the research project area focuses on a team's ability to research a real-life problem and create a unique solution for it. More information about FLL is available at www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/FLL. This year's challenge is ANIMAL ALLIES.

Who can participate?

Junior, Cadette and first year Senior Girl Scouts (9 to 14 years of age as of January 1, 2016) are eligible. Troops, individual Girl Scouts, and friends not currently Girl Scouts are encouraged to apply (girls must register as Girl Scouts to participate).

What is the time commitment?

FIRST LEGO League is a time intensive, yet **very rewarding program!** The FLL season runs from the beginning of September through December. Each team determines their own practice schedule and chooses which competitions to attend. A typical team will meet at least once a week for three months, with more frequent meetings just prior to competitions.

Who is in charge of the team?

Each team needs **TWO coaches** to organize the team and coordinate team logistics. The coaches are usually a team parent or Troop leader, however, they can be any adult 18 years or older who is organized and good at delegating. They will need to go through FIRST's Youth Protection Program (YPP) online before their team can participate in the season. There is **no fee** for this.

It is suggested that each team also have at least one **mentor** to help support the girls through the engineering, robotics, and research aspects of the challenge. A mentor should be enthusiastic about robotics and engineering. A familiarity with FLL and/or expertise in robotics and engineering is a bonus, not a necessity.

Other team parents should expect to help as needed throughout the season. A team runs most smoothly with lots of parental support.

Clinics for new coaches and mentors are offered each summer.

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What will it cost?

New team? There is a \$375 team program fee for new teams.

Returning team? There is a \$200 team program fee for teams that participated in the 2015-16 FLL season.

What are GSGLA's responsibilities? What are each team's responsibilities?

For each team, the council will:

- provide on-going support and resources throughout season
- register the team with *FIRST* and pay *FIRST* registration fee (~\$225)
- provide a LEGO EV3 Robotics set, software, and field set up kit (~\$650)
- provide t-shirts for all girls and 2 adults (coaches and/or mentors)
- pay registration fee for one FLL Qualifying Tournament (up to \$100)
- pay registration fee for Regional Championship Tournament if team qualifies (up to \$100)
- potential stipend available if team qualifies for post-season competition (i.e., *FIRST* World Festival, FLL US Open)

Each Robotics Team will:

- fulfill all mentorship and outreach requirements
- provide a laptop computer to program the robot
- purchase supplies for and build a practice table (used tables may be available for loan)
- provide/find a practice location and a secure storage space for robotics kit and table
- purchase additional t-shirts (optional)
- pay registration fees for additional tournaments (optional)
- pay for team transportation costs

How to apply?

As a troop or group: The team's coach should complete and submit a **FIRST LEGO League Team Registration** form by **June 24, 2016 (registration opens May 2, 2016)**. Each team must include at least 3, but no more than 10, girls; we recommend a minimum of 6.

As an individual: The interested girl should complete and submit the **FIRST LEGO League Individual Registration** form by **June 6, 2016**. Individual registrants will be assigned to a team based on availability of space. Submission of an individual application does not guarantee placement on a team.

Both forms can be found at www.girlscoutsLA.org/pages/events/FIRSTLEGOLeague. Remember, space is limited and spots in the program will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

Not sure if robotics is for you?

Try your hand at robotics during *the FLL Intro for Coaches* held in June. More information about specific workshop times and locations available at www.la-fll.org.

Need more information?

Please contact the STEAM Program Manager for GSGLA at (626) 677-2308 or GSGLArobotics@gmail.com.

