

# FIRST Tech Challenge

## 2016-17 Info Sheet



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

### ***What is the FIRST Tech Challenge program?***

The *FIRST Tech Challenge* program (also known as *FTC*) provides teams of girls the opportunity to participate in the *FIRST Tech Challenge* (FTC) robotics competition. Organized by *FIRST* (*For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology*), FTC is designed for those who want to compete head-to-head, using a sports model. Teams of up to 10 students are responsible for designing, building, and programming their robots to compete in an alliance format against other teams. The robot kit is reusable from year-to-year and is programmed using a variety of languages. Teams, including coaches, mentors and volunteers, are required to develop strategy and build robots based on sound engineering principles. Awards are given for the competition as well as for community outreach, design, and other real-world accomplishments. Learn more about FTC at [www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/FTC](http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/FTC).



### ***Who can participate?***

Older Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts (12 to 18 years of age as of January 1, 2016) are eligible for the program. 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?***

Each team and their mentors will determine meeting dates and times. Approximately 8 hours per week is recommended, and more frequent meetings may be necessary just prior to competitions. The FTC season runs from early September through March. Tournaments are one-day events, generally scheduled on Saturdays starting in December. Travel to other cities or states may be required to attend competitions.

### ***What will it cost?***

New Team? There is a \$450 team program fee for new teams. Or \$50 per girl to join a veteran team. Returning team? There is a \$250 team program fee for teams that participated in the 2015-2016 FTC season.

### ***What's the benefit of participating on an FTC Girl Scout team?***

GSGLA will provide support for you and your team throughout the season. In addition, we will provide your team with a robotics kit and pay your team's FIRST registration fee and one qualifying, one regional and the Championship tournament fee (total value over \$1,500).

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### **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
- assist team in finding mentors, if needed
- register the team with *FIRST* and pay *FIRST* registration fee (\$275)
- provide FTC Competition kit and FTC Resource kit (\$950)
- purchase team t-shirts and other gear (optional)
- pay registration fee for one qualifying FTC Tournament (up to \$250)
- pay registration fee for one regional FTC Tournament (up to \$250)
- pay registration fee for any Championship FTC Tournament (up to \$500)
- potential stipend available if team qualifies for post-season competition (i.e., FTC World Championship)

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 field
- provide/find a practice location and a secure storage space for robotics kit and field
- pay registration fees for additional tournaments (optional)
- pay for team transportation costs
- provide snacks and beverages for practices and tournaments (optional)

### **How do I join FTC?**

Be Part of a New FTC Team: GSGLA will support one new FTC team for the 2016-17 season. Veteran FTC team Rock N' Roll Robots will be available to advise the new team.

Join a Veteran Girl Scout FTC Team: Rock N' Roll Robots – a veteran Girl Scout FTC team that has been competing for 8 years – is accepting new members for the 2016-17 season. The team includes Girl Scouts from across greater LA and meets in the San Gabriel Valley with their mentors who are robotics engineers from NASA/JPL. Learn more at the team's website, [www.rocknrollrobots25.com](http://www.rocknrollrobots25.com).



To apply, submit a **FIRST Tech Challenge Team Registration** or **Individual Registration** form by **August 15, 2016**. Both forms can be found at [www.girlscoutsLA.org/pages/events/FIRSTTechChallenge](http://www.girlscoutsLA.org/pages/events/FIRSTTechChallenge). Maximum of 10 members per team; we recommend at least 6. Troops/groups and individual girls are invited to apply.

### **Want to get started sooner?**

See what FTC level robotics is all about this summer at the Rockin' Robots Summer Workshop!!! Visit [www.rocknrollrobots25.com](http://www.rocknrollrobots25.com) for more information. Camp runs from August 5-August 7, 2016.

### **Need more information?**

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