



May 2019 *FIRST* LEGO League Western Canada Newsletter

Hello *FIRST* LEGO League Coaches!

Congratulations to all of you on a spectacular INTO ORBIT Season! As most of you may know registration for next year has already begun for CITY SHAPER. While supplies are not shipped out until the end of July, we highly recommend that you register sooner than later as it will help ensure your team a competitive spot at one of our Championships.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank our FIRST LEGO League Program Director Ania Ossowska for her years of hard work, outreach and event planning. This will be Ania's last year with us as she supports the transition of this very significant role to our new FLL Director. Ania has been a FIRST volunteer for 12 years and has brought much growth to FIRST LEGO League here in Alberta. We wish her much happiness and success in all her future endeavors.

Which brings me to our next note of business, I would like to formally introduce you to your new FIRST LEGO League Program Director, Neva Maynard! Neva has over 6 years as a FIRST LEGO League volunteer, and has judged in a lead role capacity both in Alberta and at several World Festivals. We very much look forward to the value and insight Neva will be able to bring to our organization!



2020 FLL Championships

FIRST Robotics Society (FRS) has made the decision to continue with 2 Championships, one in Edmonton and the other in Calgary due to geographic logistics.

The Edmonton Championship will offer the 2020 Houston ticket for the top team. This event is planned for February 1st at NAIT.

The Calgary Championship will offer the 2020 LEGOLAND ticket for the top team. This event is planned for February 22nd at SAIT, but the venue and date is still to be formally confirmed.

We will not be adding qualifiers this season, but if there are any coaches who are interested in hosting a Scrimmage (table game play and opt-in for judging feedback) in your school/community, please let us know and we can assist in that planning.



Changes to the FIRST LEGO League Program

- The new Team Meeting Guide will mirror the structure of the Jr. level with 12 sessions of guided curriculum. This is to help make the program more “turn-key” especially for teachers and new coaches. Printed copies of this Team Meeting Guide and Engineering Notebooks for up to 10 students will be shipped with your team registration.
- **Registration will NOT include a Challenge Kit like it did last year.** These will be shipped through Spectrum Nasco Educational supplies. You can purchase as little as 1 or as many as teams you have registered. For example: if you registered 4 teams, and you only need 1 Challenge Kit, you have that flexibility! On the same note, if you want 5, you will only be able to order 4.
- The Season Pass option is being replaced with what is called a Classroom Pack, and is essentially the same thing. Please note that the purchase of the Classroom Pack will NOT allow your teams the option to participate in our official Tournaments. Please contact Neva to help decide what would be the most beneficial option for your teams.
- Teams now have the option to compete using the LEGO Education EV3 or the new SPIKE Prime. SPIKE Prime was designed to bridge the gap between the building and coding of the WeDo 2.0 and EV3. The EV3 is more advanced, so if you’ve already invested heavily in that kit, and your students are doing well with it, you may not find any added value to the SPIKE Prime. If your team struggles with the EV3, the SPIKE Prime may be an option worth considering.

SAVE THE DATE: Meet your Spectrum Robotics Representative

Mark your Calendars for **Wednesday June 5th, 4-7pm**. All FLL coaches and teachers will have the opportunity to come see a sneak peak at the new SPIKE Prime before its release in August! You will also have an opportunity to meet our Spectrum Nasco Robotics Representative Robert Pizzicarola. He is a wealth of information and he will have other Robotics, Science & Math learning tools on hand for you to see as well!! This will be open house style so no need to be there right at 4pm. This is free and open to all. Join us at the Carriage House Inn, on MacLeod Trail South, Calgary, for this fantastic opportunity! Keep an eye on your inbox for more details.



Coaches Professional Development Pilot Program

In an effort to provide more support to coaches, FRS will be running a pilot program this August where we will be providing a two day training for coaches. More details to come!

Ongoing Volunteer Support Roles Available

We are currently recruiting for our year-round FLL Program Support Team. Training and support is available for all roles. Click [here](#) for a link to our website where we have a list of Volunteer roles available. Please feel free to share this page to anyone you know who may be interested!

Additionally if you would like to provide support for FIRST LEGO League Jr., FIRST Tech Challenge or FIRST Robotics Competition, we have plenty of opportunities in these leagues as well.

Stay tuned for upcoming Volunteer opportunities for our Event Planning Committees!

Calling All Community Teams!

Year after year we turn away students due to the lack of community teams available. If your team is open to students joining from other schools and communities, please let Neva know so we can connect those students' parents with you! Additionally, we would be happy to share a link on our website to yours!

Upcoming PR Events

Sunday June 2nd is the Lilac Festival Parade. If you and your team would like to walk in the parade with a scaled down model of your EV3 please email Nick@frcwest.com

Saturday June 8th is the School Maker Faire at the Central Calgary Public Library. We would love to have one team there to showcase FIRST LEGO League. If you are interested please email kim@frcwest.com



FLL: Share & Learn

Are you on Facebook? There is a wonderful group of coaches from around the world that share, trouble-shoot and collaborate on everything FLL! We highly recommend!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FLLShareandLearn/>

Thank you all so much for your time and effort towards inspiring students to be leaders and innovators, and building these amazing young minds with knowledge and confidence for all things STEM. We look forward to welcoming you back for CITY SHAPER and can't wait to see what your students come up with!

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberley Werezak".

Kimberley Werezak

Assistant Regional Director

FIRST Robotics Society