FIRST® ALBERTA

2025-26 Season in Review

MORE THAN ROBOTS

A direct investment in Alberta's **youth, innovation ecosystem** and **STEM** talent pipeline.

FOR INSPIRATION & RECOGNITION OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

About *FIRST* and *FIRST* Alberta

FIRST® is an international not-for-profit organization founded in 1989. *FIRST* has a proven impact on STEM learning, interest and skill-building well beyond high school. Boosted by a global support system of volunteers, educators, and sponsors, teams design, build and and showcase their achievements during annual game challenges.

FIRST is the largest youth-serving organization dedicated to STEM education for Grades K-12. Founded upon the Core Values of **Gracious Professionalism**® and **Coopertition**®, *FIRST* celebrates the development of life-long skills alongside technical understanding. ***FIRST* is an inspiring sport where every kid can go pro.**

***FIRST* Alberta** is a registered charity established in 2013, the delivery partner for *FIRST* programs in Alberta, responsible for supporting school and community teams and running *FIRST* competitions across the province.



FIRST Alberta Mission

PURPOSE
FIRST exists to prepare the young people of today for the world of tomorrow.

MISSION
The mission of *FIRST* is to provide life-changing robotics programs that give young people the skills, confidence, and resilience to build a better world

***FIRST* Alberta** inspires young people to pursue further studies and careers in the field of science, technology, engineering, and math through robotics competitions.



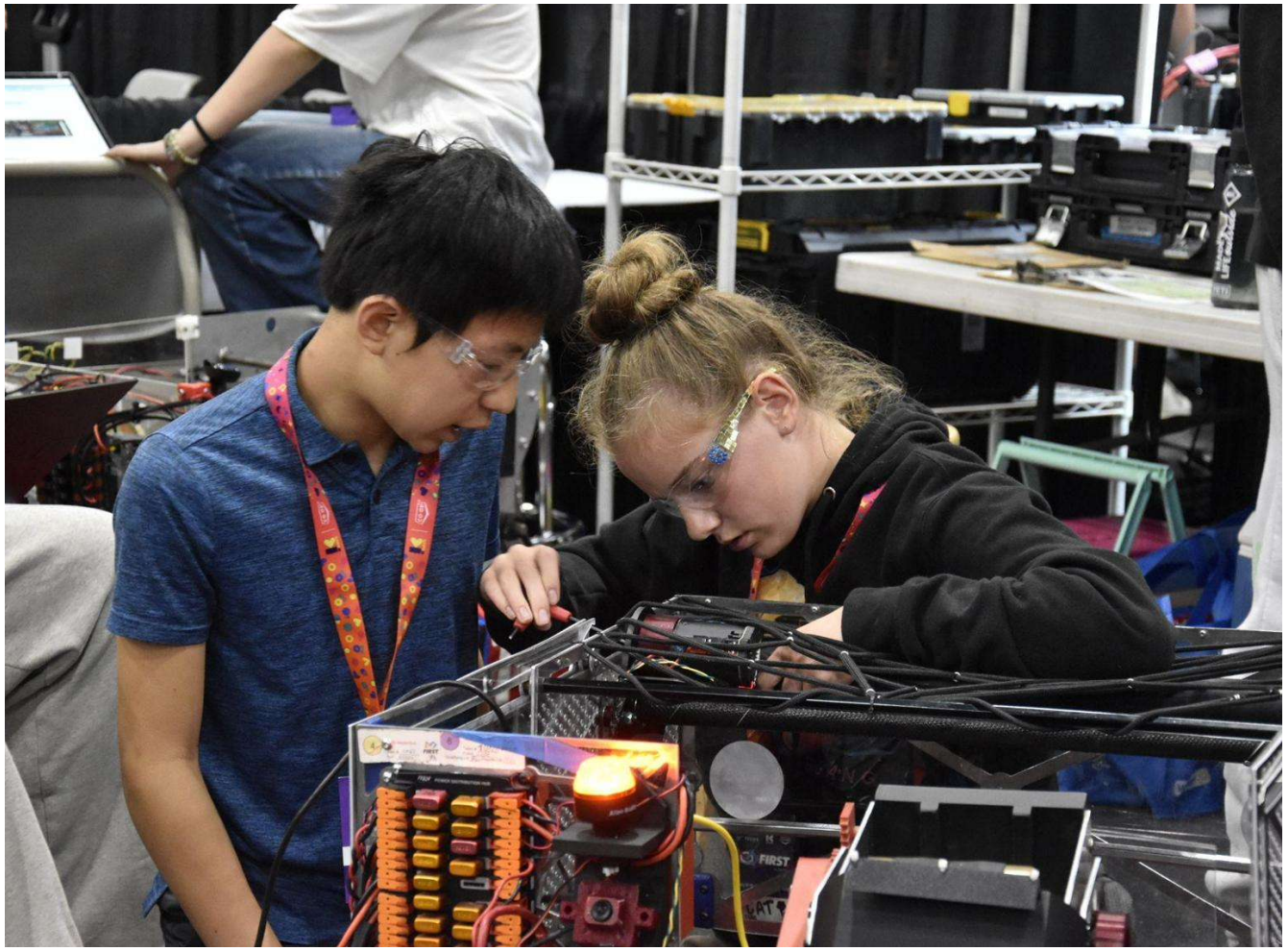
FIRST Ethos

Gracious Professionalism®

It is a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. With Gracious Professionalism, fierce competition and mutual gain are not separate notions.

Coopertition®

We believe that collaboratively supporting excellence for all teams raises the level of learning by blending cooperation and competition. We call this “coopertition.”



STEM Programs for All









Pre K- Grade 1



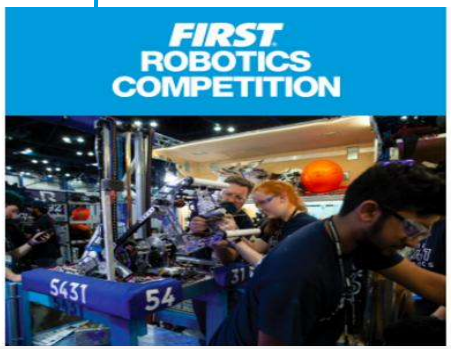
Grade 1-4



Grade 4-8



Grade 7-12

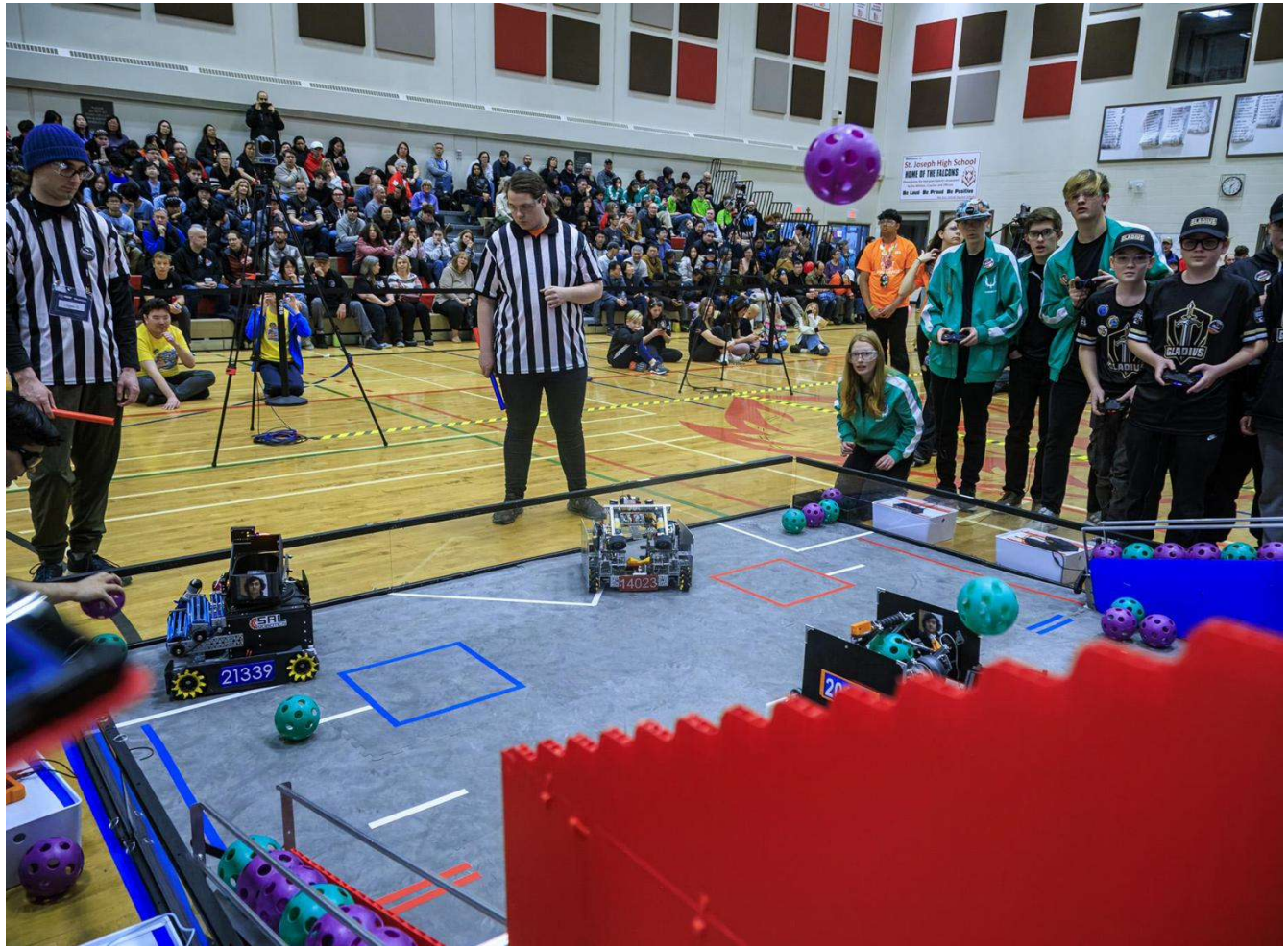


Grade 9-12

FIRST is committed to fostering, cultivating and preserving a culture of equity, diversity, and inclusion. *FIRST* embraces and encourages differences in race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, income, language, learning difference, or any other characteristics that make our adult-force and students unique.

FIRST Alberta Province Wide Impact

- Over **2,145 students** participated in *FIRST* programs across Alberta
- **191** *FIRST* Alberta Teams (school and community)
- **10-20%** annual team growth over last 4 years
- **35 events** hosted by *FIRST* Alberta including the **international** *FIRST* Tech Challenge **Canadian Rockies Premier Event @ KDays**
- **> 30%** participation from girls
- **200+ volunteers** supported *FIRST* Alberta events
- **215+ coaches & mentors** supporting Alberta school and community teams



FIRST ALBERTA

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE EXPLORE

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE CHALLENGE

450 students participated in *FIRST* LEGO League this season!

74 Alberta teams registered for UNEARTHED℠

18 Explore Teams **56 Challenge Teams**

10 events hosted across the province

2 Festivals, 5 Meetups, 2 Qualifiers, 1 Provincial Championship

UNEARTHED™















FIRST ALBERTA

FIRST TECH CHALLENGE

1163 students competed in *FIRST* Tech Challenge this season!

110 teams in Alberta registered to compete in **DECODE℠**

25 events hosted by *FIRST* Alberta including 4 Qualifying Tournaments and Provincial Championship in Red Deer Feb 28 - Mar 1, 2026.

4 teams qualified to compete at ***FIRST* World Championship**

12 teams qualified for *FIRST* Tech Challenge **Premier Events**

DECODE
PRESENTED BY RTX












FIRST ALBERTA

FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION

175 students competed in *FIRST* Robotics Competition this season!

7 Alberta teams registered to compete in this year's challenge, **REBUILT℠**

3 Alberta teams qualified to attend ***FIRST* World Championships**

1 Alberta team was awarded ***FIRST* Impact Finalist at World Championships** (top 6 in the world out of 3,600 teams)

1 *FIRST* Robotics Competition Off-Season event hosted @ KDays (20 teams participated)

REBUILT™

PRESENTED BY HAAS Gene Haas Foundation



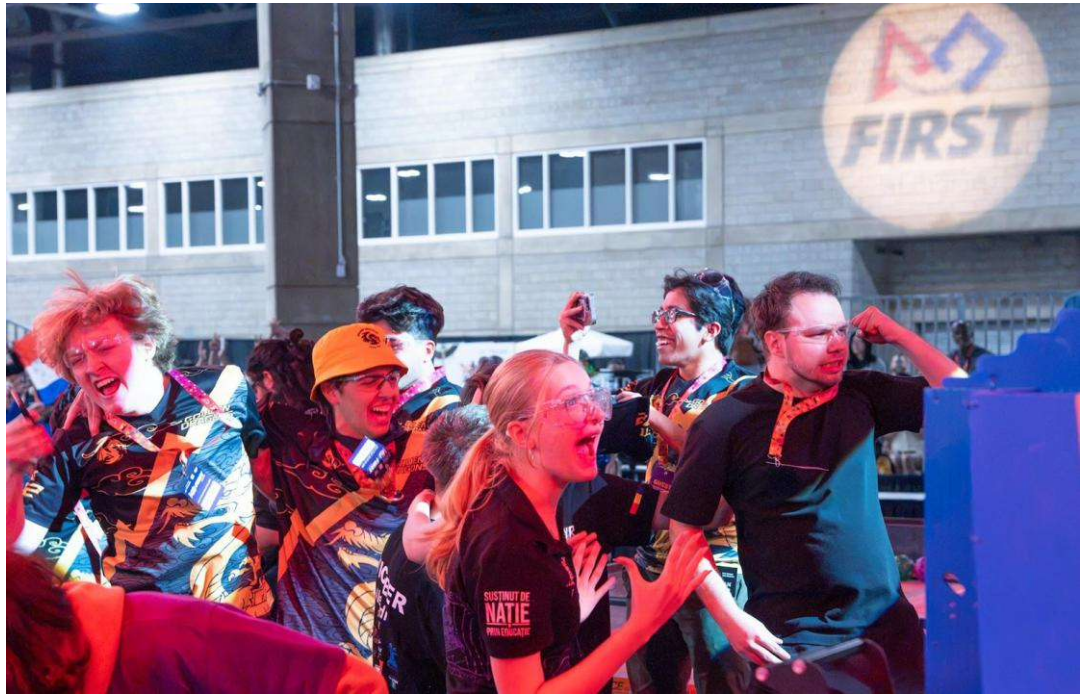






World Class Teams

A record 8 *FIRST* Alberta teams qualified to compete at the **World Championship** in Houston Texas, April 29-May 2, 2026



FIRST Lego League

- **Team 74036: 3A Robotics** (Calgary)
  ↳ **Finalist: Robot Design Award**

FIRST Tech Challenge

- **Team 10015: Hyperdroids** (ATAA, Calgary)
- **Team 22029: ASAP Robotics** (Raymond)
- **Team 26089: Gladius** (RiverCity Robotics, Edmonton)
- **Team 31663: RSR Cuttlefish** (Renert School, Calgary)

FIRST Robotics Competition

- **Team 4421: Forge Robotics** (ATAA, Calgary)
- **Team 9277: Sparkans** (STEM Innovation Academy, Calgary)
  ↳ **Finalist: *FIRST* Impact Award**
- **Team 9449: Yellowjackets** (Alberta Robotics Association, Calgary)

FIRST Tech Challenge
Canadian Rockies Premier Event @ KDays

The **largest international** *FIRST* Tech Challenge event ever **hosted in Alberta**.

- 48 teams
- 10 countries represented
- 500+ participants
- 100+ volunteers

- Generously supported by **TELUS**, **Explore Edmonton** and the **Government of Alberta Community Initiatives Project Grant**

- Press and Media Coverage
  - CBC Edmonton - Click Here
  - CTV Edmonton - Click Here



presented by TELUS

EXPLORE EDMONTON

Alberta Government

KDays: One of the Top-Rated Premier Events

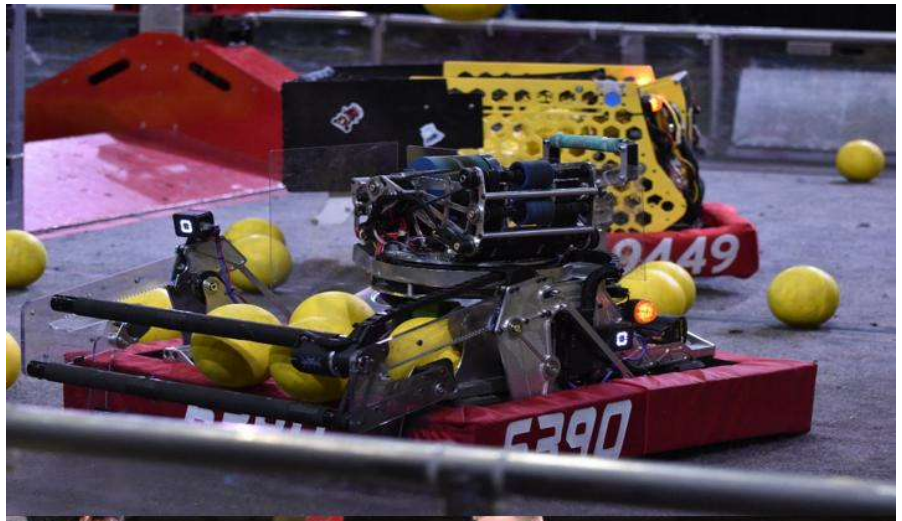
- **#2 out of 12 for overall satisfaction** — 91.3% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied.
- **#1 for "very satisfied" participants** — 60.9%, the highest rating of any event surveyed.
- **Nearly 98% would recommend KDays** — ranking 3rd overall for recommendations.
- **#1 for pits and practice fields** — 97.7% satisfaction with pit areas and 92.0% with the practice field.
- **Outstanding volunteers** — 92.6% satisfaction with volunteer staffing, ranking 3rd overall.
- **Strong value for teams** — 85% considered the event fee good value, ranking 3rd overall and 15.6 percentage points above the peer average.



The *FIRST* Tech Challenge Canadian Rockies Premier Event @ KDays will be back for the 2026-2027 Season on July 23-25, 2027!

FIRST Robotics Competition
Canadian Rockies Regional to return to Calgary

- *FIRST* Alberta is excited to host the Canadian Rockies Regional March 31-April 3, 2027
- Hosted at the STEM Innovation Academy in NW Calgary
- 32 team international high school competition: one-third Alberta teams, one-third other Canadian teams, one-third international teams
- Students develop advanced engineering skills designing industrial size robots and workplace skills in communications, project management, fundraising and teamwork.
- Highest level of *FIRST* competition, increasing opportunities for Alberta students to compete in an advanced international competition here in Alberta.





FIRST Alberta in the NEWS

Interest and awareness of *FIRST* Alberta continues to grow, with increased media interest and coverage in our 2025-2026 season

- **_FIRST_ Tech Challenge Canadian Rockies @ KDays, July 24-26, 2026**
  - CBC Edmonton - Click Here
  - CTV Edmonton - Click Here

- **_FIRST_ Alberta Teams in the NEWS**
  - Team 10015 Hyperdroids heading to world event in Houston - Click Here
  - Three FIRST Alberta FRC Teams headed to World Championships - Click Here
  - Team 9277 Sparkans recognized for community impact - Click Here
  - Team 6188 STING Robotics - Click Here

- **River City Robotics Recognized in the House of Commons**
  - Team 26089 Gladius, River City Robotics - Click Here

FIRST ALBERTA

Thank You to our supporters





EXPLORE EDMONTON

presented by

























FIRST®
ALBERTA

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FOR INSPIRATION & RECOGNITION OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

FIRST® ALBERTA

FIRST Program Impact

MORE THAN ROBOTS

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FIRST Student Impact

Research Highlights

FIRST prepares students for a STEM future

Gains in Workforce Skills

FIRST participants show significant gains in workforce skills such as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving.

"*FIRST* has given me life skills and tools to work well with others and be a team player and always do my personal best with *Gracious Professionalism*.® These are skills I will use in my daily life and beyond!"



FIRST Alumni

By their fourth year of college, *FIRST* alumni are more likely to be majoring in STEM fields than comparison group peers.



DECLARE A MAJOR IN STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH)

FIRST ALUMNI: 81%

COMPARISON GROUP: 64%

DECLARE A MAJOR IN ENGINEERING OR COMPUTER SCIENCE

FIRST ALUMNI: 59%

COMPARISON GROUP: 24%

FIRST Student Impact

Women in *FIRST*

Young women in *FIRST* have significant gains in all STEM areas including STEM interest, career interest, activity, knowledge, and identity compared to young women in the comparison group.

DECLARE A MAJOR IN ENGINEERING OR COMPUTER SCIENCE

FEMALE *FIRST* ALUMNI

48%

FEMALE COMPARISON GROUP

16%

MORE LIKELY TO TAKE COURSES IN ENGINEERING OR COMPUTER SCIENCE

3.5x Computer Science

2.5x Engineering



"x" = times as likely

Benefits of *FIRST*

FIRST students are two times more likely to show an increase in STEM-related attitudes and interests than comparison group students.

Positive impacts are evident for all *FIRST* students regardless of race, gender, income, or community type.



FIRST STUDENTS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE LIKELY TO SHOW GAINS IN STEM OUTCOMES THAN COMPARISON STUDENTS

2x

- STEM Interest
- STEM Career Interest
- STEM Knowledge
- STEM Activity
- STEM Identity

FIRST is Building a Future Ready Workforce

ESSENTIAL SKILLS STUDENTS BUILD WITH *FIRST*

1. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
2. Collaboration
3. Adaptability
4. Innovative Thinking
5. Entrepreneurship
6. Communication
7. Accessing and Analyzing Information
8. Curiosity and Imagination

GAINS IN SKILLS

Communication
90% of students reported gains



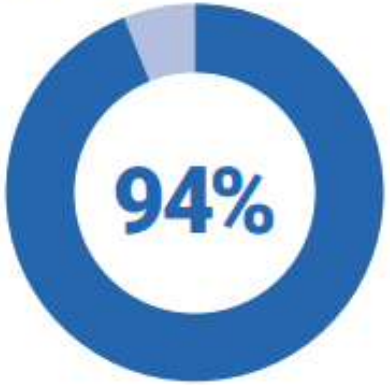
Conflict resolution
93% of students reported gains



Time Management
95% of students reported gains



Problem-solving
94% of students reported gains





Investing in Alberta's **youth innovation ecosystem** and **STEM** talent pipeline.