

# **Gateway FLL Robotics Team Information & Application**

**Due: Friday May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Thank you for your interest in Gateway's FIRST Lego League Team. Please review the information below before completing and submitting your application. **Applications are due to Ms. VanTuyl (B121) or Mr. Iversen (A215) by Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2025.**

**FIRST Lego League is not Lego club.** We use Legos for one aspect of the competition, but all team members are expected to participate fully in the non-Lego parts as well.

**The Three Parts:** There are three, equally weighted parts to FIRST Lego League and **all team members will be expected to participate fully in all parts.**

1. **The Innovation Project:** In the innovation project students propose a solution to a real-world problem relating to the season's theme. Team members must research the problem and solicit feedback from a real-world expert who works in a field related to the problem. Team members present their research, solution, and expert-feedback to a panel of judges at the competition.
2. **The Robot Game:** In the robot game team members design, build, and program a robot using a Lego robotics kit to complete a variety of challenges at competitions. Team members bring their robot to the competition for it to attempt these challenges in three rounds at the competition. This is the only part which involves Legos.
3. **Core Values:** At all times team members are expected to demonstrate *Gracious Professionalism and Coopertion* – the FIRST philosophies.
  - a. **Discovery:** *We explore new skills and ideas.*
  - b. **Innovation:** *We use creativity and persistence to solve problems.*
  - c. **Impact:** *We apply what we learn to improve our world.*
  - d. **Inclusion:** *We respect each other and embrace our differences.*
  - e. **Teamwork:** *We are stronger when we work together.*
  - f. **Fun:** *We enjoy and celebrate what we do!*

**Team Meetings:** At team meetings members will progress on all parts of the FIRST Lego League. Meetings will be on **Mondays & Wednesdays from 3:00 to 4:30 pm in room A 215 from September to December 2025.** Regular attendance is required. We will have a few meetings in June. **If you are planning on taking a vacation during this time or participating in any other fall or winter extracurricular activities, you must indicate so on your application.**

**Competitions:** The FLL Robotics Qualifying Competition will be one of the first two weekends in December. If we qualify, we may also participate in competitions in winter and spring of 2026.

**Fees:** There will be a \$25 fee to cover team t-shirts & snacks. If your family is in financial need and can't afford this fee, please contact Ms. Van Tuyl or Mr. Iversen for more information.

**Selection:** The team is open to incoming 8th and 7th grade students (current 6th and 7th grade students). We will be accepting **only 20 students** into our FLL Robotics Team this coming fall. All students interested in participating in Gateway's FLL team **must complete this application**. Submission **does not** guarantee that students will be able to participate. Spots on the team will be filled based on responses to the questions on the application and teacher recommendations. **Returning applicants will also be evaluated on their conduct and performance during the last FLL season.**

**If students are accepted to the team, they will receive an invitation to join through their student email account by May 23<sup>rd</sup>.** Students who have not been accepted will be put on a waiting list and are encouraged to apply again next spring.

## Student Application for Gateway FLL Robotics Team

Please read through the application carefully, fill out the necessary information, and submit your application using the directions at the end of this document. **Incomplete applications will not be accepted!**

### **Checklist:**

- Completed application packet
- Attached paper with answers to essay questions (handwritten or typed)
- **Two** recommendations from **current** teachers (submitted by the teacher)

### **Student Information:**

Student Name:

Student ID:

Grade in Fall 2025:

Student Email:

### **Team Agreements**

**Write your initials next to each statement below to show that you understand the conditions of acceptance. Please read each statement carefully before agreeing to it:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that attendance is required. If a conflict arises and I cannot attend a meeting, I will notify my coach and team as soon as possible. I understand that absence from multiple meetings and/or competitions may result in no longer being able to participate in Robotics Team.

\_\_\_\_\_ I realize that no FLL problem has only one solution, and that a successful team is one which cooperates by considering EVERYONE'S solution and ideas. I will respectfully give and take criticism of ideas and behaviors. I will not give or take criticism about people.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to cooperate on whatever solution the team chooses, even if it is not my first choice.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree that all solutions will be done completely by me and/or a member of my team.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree that my behavior at meetings and tournaments will be constructive and productive; I understand that if this does not occur, I may be asked to leave the meeting, and if it becomes a frequent problem, I may be asked to leave the team.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that deliberate breaking of team and/or district technology rules will result in my removal from Gateway's FIRST Lego League Robotics Team.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that the FLL program recognizes all teams that bring a solution to the tournaments are considered 'winners'; I agree to show other teams the utmost respect and gracious behavior.

**I will / will not** be available to attend the first FLL competition during the first two weekends of December. (circle one)

To help us make our decision regarding student selections for our team, please complete the following questions. Answers need to be written or typed on a separate piece of paper. Attach your answers to this application. Do not write your answers on this page. Questions MUST be answered by the student applying.

1. Please describe your experience and knowledge in Lego Mindstorms NXT/EV3 or Spike Prime
2. Please describe your experiences and skills that would be of relevance to the FLL Robotics team, e.g., design experience, skill with tools, programming experience, graphic art experience, research, presentation, etc.
3. Please describe what attracts you to the FLL Robotics program and what you would hope to achieve as a member of a competitive team.
4. What does teamwork mean to you?
5. Give an example of a time in your life where you have used the skill of problem solving to overcome challenges or to accomplish a goal.
6. Give an example of a project you have completed individually or with a team.
7. There are many roles and responsibilities that need to be filled by the members of the team in order to have a successful season. Read through the list of possible team roles and responsibilities listed below and then summarize how you think you would be able to excel in one or two of these roles.

**Team Roles and Responsibilities:**

- **Researching** – Gather information about the Challenge theme, related real-world problems and existing solutions. Invite professionals to share their knowledge with the team.
- **Presenting** – Design a creative presentation to show the judges your team's work on the Project.
- **Strategy Analysis** – Analyze the robot playing field and formulate various methods for accomplishing the missions. Lead the effort to establish a consensus on the final strategic plan and think about risks and rewards of different strategies.
- **Building** – Make decisions about building and work to form consensus on the mechanical design of the robot among team members.
- **Programming** – Make decisions about programming and form consensus on programming for the robot.

Please sign below to indicate that your answers are complete and your own writing.

**Student Signature:**

**Date:**

## **Parent / Guardian Information and Agreements**

Please have a parent or guardian complete this next section.

### **Parent Contact Information:**

Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

### **Secondary contact:**

Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

### **Parents, please write your initials next to each statement to show that you understand and agree to the following:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I have reviewed my student's application and understand all the requirements and expectations of Robotics Team.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that FLL is a substantial effort that requires hard work and dedication. This may include work at home.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree, in the proper spirit of FLL, not to interfere with the team's or my student's solutions; all creations, inventions, and ideas, must come from the team members.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will do my best to get ensure my student attends all team meetings, arrive for pick up on time, and will let the coaches know in advance if my student must miss a meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_ I acknowledge that the first FLL competition will occurring during one of the first two weekends of December and will make sure that my student can attend this competition.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that team members whose behavior is disruptive may be dismissed from a team meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that team members who are repeatedly disruptive, absent, or not participating constructively may be removed from the team.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that team members who engage in deliberate breaking of team and/or district technology rules will result in no longer being able to participate in Robotics Team.

**I will discuss the agreements listed in this application with my student to ensure that they understand the requirements and expectations of the FLL Robotics Team.**

**Parent / Guardian Signature:**

### **Optional**

Would you be willing to volunteer during the competition season? **Yes / No** (*circle one*)

Volunteer opportunities may include coaching, supervision during meetings, supervision during competition, competition, judging at competitions, donating snacks etc.



# First Lego League Teacher Recommendation #1

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Teachers:

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this recommendation! Please rate this student in the following categories, with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest. If you have any concerns about this student's ability to participate in a competitive robotics team, please let us know. Answers will be kept confidential.

When completed, please return this form to Ms. Van Tuyl or Mr. Iversen by May 17th, 2025.

Dependability	1	2	3	4	5
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Class Participation	1	2	3	4	5
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Leadership	1	2	3	4	5
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Attitude	1	2	3	4	5
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Cooperation	1	2	3	4	5
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## Comments:

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Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## First Lego League Teacher Recommendation #2

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

### Teachers:

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this recommendation! Please rate this student in the following categories, with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest. If you have any concerns about this student's ability to participate in a competitive robotics team, please let us know. Answers will be kept confidential.

When completed, please return this form to Ms. Van Tuyl or Mr. Iversen by May 17th, 2025.

Dependability	1	2	3	4	5
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Class Participation	1	2	3	4	5
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Leadership	1	2	3	4	5
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Attitude	1	2	3	4	5
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Cooperation	1	2	3	4	5
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Comments:

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Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_