



## FIRST LEGO LEAGUE (FLL) & JR. FLL NE OHIO

*"To transform our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of becoming science and technology leaders." - Dean Kamen*

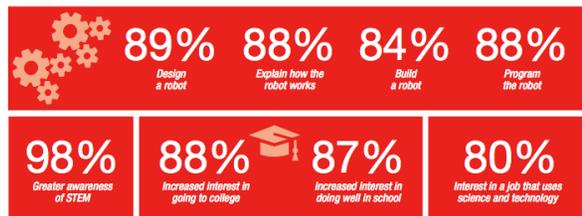
### What is FIRST?

FIRST: For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, is an organization that was founded in 1989 by Dean Kamen to "inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology." The program is centered on robotic programs for grades K-12 that motivate and inspire children in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. While students compete, they build self-confidence, knowledge and life skills all through creatively engaging sciences.

### FIRST® LEGO® League IMPACT

The majority of FIRST LEGO League participants participate in key STEM activities on the team and experience gains in a number of outcomes such as:

#### STEM AWARENESS, SKILLS, INTENT



#### 21ST CENTURY WORK-LIFE SKILLS



#### LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Source: Evaluation of the FIRST® LEGO® League Senior Solutions season (2012-2013); Center for Youth and Communities, The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University

### What is FLL?

FLL is a program that is open to children ages 9-14. FLL challenges participants to real-world engineering experiences by building LEGO-based robots to complete tasks on thematic playing surfaces, as well as researching and presenting on an innovative solution to a current real-world issue. FLL teams are composed of 10 children collaborating with adult coaches and mentors to "discover exciting career possibilities, and through the process, learn to make positive contributions to society."

**FLL & Jr. FLL programs impact over 300,000 children in over 80 countries in the 2016/2017 season.**



***"As our public schools continue their teaching emphasis on the common core, FLL provides a distinctly uncommon opportunity for our kids to explore STEM learning."***

- John Keyerleber, Beachwood Middle School parent and FLL coach

### So why is FLL so important?

Research has shown that children lose interest in math and sciences during the ages of 9-14. "If students are not excited or informed about STEM disciplines in middle school, they will make class/activity choices that often preclude them from a future in a STEM field." - Boys' & Girls' Clubs of America, 2014

## 9<sup>th</sup> annual Northeast Ohio FLL District Tournament & Jr. FLL Exposition



On December 14, 2019, The University of Akron & Urban STEM Center will host the 9th annual NE Ohio FLL district tournament & Jr. FLL exposition. Including volunteers, team mentors and referees, the total number of people will approach 750, including an anticipated 250+ elementary and middle school students.

### Judges/Referee Training & FLL Tournament Tune-Up

On November 2, 2019, The University of Akron & Urban STEM Center will host judges/referee training for over 50 community members to prepare for the upcoming season. Afterwards there is an FLL Tournament Tune-Up for 25 teams to practice both their robot challenge, project and core values presentations with the newly trained judges and referees. This is an opportunity for teams to network and learn new techniques.

*“FLL helps develop a better person as well as one who is more skilled.”*  
- Lou Spilker, Solon Middle School parent

### The Challenge

This year’s challenge is focused on.... **ARCHITECTURE!** [It's your turn to shape our growing FIRST City for the better! Learn about the CITY SHAPER<sup>SM</sup> Innovation Project, Robot Game, and FIRST Core Values.](#) Students will solve real-world problems about architectural design. For a preview of this year’s challenge, visit our website for the most up to date information.  
<http://www.uakron.edu/education/fll/>

## FIRST LEGO League and The University of Akron

The FLL competition, through the collaboration of the Colleges of Engineering, Education, Arts & Science, and Urban STEM Center at The University of Akron, proves to be a thread in the “tapestry” of the University’s identity. This community outreach effort provides an opportunity for elementary & middle school students in our region to experience science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in an innovative program that is both academic and entertaining while bringing together community members to support and celebrate their achievements.



*“Watching the excitement in a child’s eyes as they exhibited their strengths as an FLL team while demonstrating their technical knowledge and capabilities during robot design judging sessions was the most impressive outcome.”*

- Heidi Cressman, University of Akron District Tournament Judge

### Sponsorship Request

FIRST programs are voluntary and depend on the support of local businesses, foundations, and community members. The approximate cost of the events on an annual basis amounts to \$10,000. If you would like to donate your time or money to these important events it would be a life-changing gift.

Thank you and I look forward to your support.

*Karen Plaster*

University of Akron FLL District Tournament Director

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