

Our Teams

- **WELCOME BACK to 106 re-registering veteran teams as of September 10th.**
- **Also, coaches of 66 additional CenterStage teams have responded that they will be re-registering for the coming season.**

10243 - Ramsey Ramblers - Ramsey - Bergen County	17009 - Steel Magnolias - Riverdale - Morris County	23694 - GEARHEADS - Ramsey - Bergen County
10343 - WR Positive Charge - Westfield - Union County	17036 - Robotech Anomaly - Marlton - Burlington County	23717 - High Voltage - Closter - Bergen County
10603 - WOOD-CHIPS - Ridgewood - Bergen County	17496 - The Knight Shift - Rockaway - Morris County	23743 - Hornet Hive - Holmdel - Monmouth County
11124 - Angelbots - Demarest - Bergen County	17497 - Knight Riders - Rockaway - Morris County	23786 - MakEMinds - Edison - Middlesex County
11166 - Big Red Robotics - Lawrence Township - Mercer County	17670 - Raider Robotics - Scotch Plains - Union County	23959 - Cyberlions1 - Watchung - Somerset County
11180 - Beaks n Bolts - Caldwell - Essex County	18061 - Simply Complex 18061 - Plainsboro - Middlesex County	24125 - The Walks - Atlantic City - Atlantic County
11241 - Blue Steel - Farmingdale - Monmouth County	18241 - Outer Galaxy - Marlton - Burlington County	24126 - The Vikes Atlantic City - Atlantic County
11248 - //Cougars - Chatham - Morris County	19477 - Bit by Bit - Tenafly - Bergen County	24346 - Sweet Resistance Bayonne - Hudson County
11456 - Blair Academy - Blairstown - Warren County	19735 - Hornet Silver - Holmdel - Monmouth County	24536 - MCA Eagles Edison - Middlesex County
11697 - TECH- tonic - East Brunswick - Middlesex County	19747 - DYNABYTES - Edison - Middlesex County	247 - Reboot - Sparta - Sussex County
11754 - EnergySmart FTC - Somerset - Somerset County	19772 - Rust in Piece - Plainsboro - Middlesex County	248 - Fatal Error Sparta - Sussex County
12116 - Redbots Parsippany - Morris County	19823 - JOLLY BLUE - Bloomfield - Essex County	3774 - Hive Voltage - Bayonne - Hudson County
12417 - Highland Park Owls - Highland Park - Middlesex County	19871 - Orange Tornadoes Orange - Essex County	3944 - Team Mercury - Hightstown - Mercer County
12441 - C.V.T.D. - Mullica Hill - Gloucester County	20204 - Charging Pioneers - Mullica Hill - Gloucester County	4328 - C'est la vie - Englewood - Bergen County
12488 - Raidiators - Princeton - Mercer County	20205 - R2CView - Mullica Hill - Gloucester County	4347 - NanoGurus - Morris Plains - Morris County
12806 - Roboken - Hoboken - Hudson County	20388 - Circuit Breakers - Newark - Essex County	4890 - AArchive - Bayonne - Hudson County
12968 - Bard RoboRaptors - Newark - Essex County	207 - Critical Mass - Englewood - Bergen County	5968 - WR That Hertz - Westfield - Union County
13048 - Absolute Zero Englewood - Bergen County	20719 - PVI Iron Eagles - Haddonfield - Camden County	6037 - W.A.G.S. (We Are Girl Scouts) Robotics - Cherry Hill - C
13115 - Brave Robotics Englishtown - Monmouth County	21630 - Argonauts Somerset - Somerset County	6069 - Pingry Robotics - Basking Ridge - Somerset County
13302 - MKA Robotics - Montclair - Essex County	21807 - INCINERATORS - Edison - Middlesex County	6101 - Energized Hazard - Rockaway - Morris County
13583 - Tripled Wire - Penns Grove - Salem County	21852 - I swear it worked last night - Princeton - Mercer County	6102 - E=MK2 - Rockaway - Morris County
13617 - Bectobots - East Rutherford - Bergen County	22261 - Hornet Blue - Holmdel - Monmouth County	6983 - CouGEARS - Cresskill - Bergen County
14450 - RoboRebels - Saddle River - Bergen County	22348 - REAPR - Robbinsville - Mercer County	7026 - JDroids - Wayne - Passaic County
14481 - Don't Blink - Princeton Junction - Mercer County	22504 - Blue Phoenix Robotics - South Orange - Essex County	7102 - WR Flux Capacitors - Westfield - Union County
14544 - Pingry Big Blue Robotics - Basking Ridge - Somerset County	22704 - Robo-Redwings Hoboken - Hudson County	7149 - ENFORCERS - Egg Harbor Township - Atlantic County
14819 - Cyber Sirens - Newark - Essex County	23095 - B2 - Judgement Day - Williamstown - Gloucester County	7414 - Deceptibots - Plainfield - Union County
15458 - Green Machine - Mullica Hill - Gloucester County	23258 - Technoverse - Princeton Junction - Mercer County	755 - Delbotics - Morristown - Morris County
15715 - Crusader Robotics - Oradell - Bergen County	23268 - Ultraviolet - Hackettstown - Warren County	8405 - Millburn Robotics - Millburn - Essex County
15887 - All-Knighters Hackensack - Bergen County	23314 - Galactic Pigeon - Glen Rock - Bergen County	8812 - CyberRaptors - Hillsborough - Somerset County
15891 - Knightmare Robotics Hackensack - Bergen County	23375 - Robo Raptors - Fair Lawn - Bergen County	8902 - Cosmic Goose - Glen Rock - Bergen County
16102 - The Short Circuits - Plainsboro - Middlesex County	23466 - The Howlers Edison - Middlesex County	9244 - Lenape Valley Robotics Stanhope - Sussex County
16367 - Krypton Warriors - Parsippany - Morris County	23490 - Beta Blink Princeton Junction - Mercer County	9533 - Bravenators - Williamstown - Gloucester County
16507 - West Side High School - Newark - Essex County	23545 - Ramsey Dusters Ramsey - Bergen County	9848 - GearView - Mullica Hill - Gloucester County
16557 - Honey K-Ohms - Bayonne - Hudson County	23575 - Probots 2022 FTC Edison - Middlesex County	9853 - Chatham Cougars - Chatham - Morris County
16740 - PVI Metal Mayhem - Haddonfield - Camden County	23650 - MillburnX - Millburn - Essex County	9889 - Cruise Control - Flanders - Morris County
16953 - FIRE - Livingston - Essex County		

- **We also welcome to our 11 registered Rookie Teams! That brings our Registered + Planning-to-Register count = 183, so far!**
 - We hope to see our Rookies at Season Start-Up Events and Oct Practice Days to help get everyone up-to-speed.

25649 - Cyber Huskies - Dumont - Bergen County	26014 - Ninjabotics - Edison - Middlesex County
25703 - Team Nuclear - Edison - Middlesex County	26224 - Inox - Edison - Middlesex County
25710 - ALPINE ROBOTICS - Edison - Middlesex	26444 - GearShifters - Morris Plains - Morris County
25733 - County Prep Exponents - Jersey City - Hudson County	26459 - Third Power - Ringwood - Passaic County
25849 - Beluga Bots - Princeton Junction - Mercer County	26910 - Mud Head Car - Princeton - Mercer County
25907 - BetterBots7 - Edison - Middlesex County	

- Note: There are currently 8 potential teams that have initiated registration. Their initial information is shown below.

25802 - Town of Passaic - Passaic County	26341 - Town of Lake Hiawatha - Morris County
26035 - Town of Columbus - Burlington County	26952 - Town of Riverside - Burlington County
26103 - Town of Jersey City - Hudson County	27007 - Town of Clayton - Gloucester County
26294 - Town of Ridgewood - Bergen County	27032 - Town of Rockaway - Morris County

- Note: The Team PIN MAP is being periodically refreshed for this season. Here's the link: <https://www.newjerseyftc.com/team-map.html>
- Accessing the PIN MAP, you can see where the veteran and rookie FTCNJ teams are geographically located. To be updated periodically.

New Team Recruitment

- Please keep FTCNJ and community informed of your efforts. It may mean extra support for you and inspiration for others.
- Remember that FTCNJ is always standing by to provide more information and follow-up to your leads.
- We are happy to credit you and your team as your lead develops into a new participating FTCNJ team. Let's work together!

Our Leagues & Confirmed Competitions

Conference / League Assignments:

- FTCNJ completed its annual review of these assignments in order to maintain some size balance within the units.
- No changes in League assignments from the CenterStage season. Teams compete in the same League Meet areas as last year.
- The few teams that were affected by the Conference re-assignments have been advised. The structure is shown below.

North East Edge League

- North East Conference: Hudson, Union, North Essex (Caldwell, Montclair, Nutley)
- South Essex Conference: Bloomfield, Livingston, Maplewood, Millburn, Newark, South Orange, East Orange, West Orange)

Northern League

- Far North Conference: Warren, Sussex, Passaic, ... West Bergen (Fair Lawn, Glen Rock, Ramsey, Ridgewood, Saddle River, Twp of Washington)
- East Bergen Conference: (Cliffside Park, Closter, Cresskill, Demarest, East Rutherford, Emerson, Englewood, Hackensack, Lodi, Oradell, Paramus, Park Ridge, Rutherford, Tenafly, Wood Ridge)

Upper Central League

- Central Conference: Hunterdon, Middlesex, ... Lower Somerset (Hillsborough, Somerset)
- Morris & Upper Somerset County Conference: Morris (All), ... Upper Somerset (Basking Ridge, Watchung)

Southern League

- Upper South Conference: Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean
- Deep South Conference: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Gloucester, Cumberland, Salem

Competition Venue Confirmations:

- As most know, our practice is to reprise events at our successful and generous hosts, whenever possible. Hopefully, avoiding frequent host changes (and event timing) help teams' planning year-to-year. Consistency.
- Page 2 of the Executive Summary, which accompanies this newsletter, shows all of the confirmed venues/dates (black text), those newly confirmed (blue text) and those planned/pending (red text). **There are 32 of 33 Sites Confirmed!**

League Tournaments ← All Sites set

Period #1 League Meets (Halloween Weekend, early-November, Thanksgiving Weekend) ← All Sites NOW set

- 11/02/24 **Saturday Meet (Southern League); Holmdel High School, 36 Crawfords Corner Rd, Holmdel, NJ** ← New confirmation since previous newsletter.

Period #2 League Meets (late-November, December) ← All Sites set

Period #3 League Meets (January w/ Special Features ... Saturday Practice Judging; Sunday Practice Elimination Matches) ← only 1 Site Pending

- 01/11/25 **Saturday Meet (Northeast Edge League); Columbia High School, 17 Parker Ave., Maplewood, NJ** ← New confirmation since previous newsletter.

Season Event Fee

- FTCNJ teams are not charged individual per-event fees for Meets, Tournaments, Workshops, Rather, there is a single \$100 Season Event Fee to support FTCNJ material and equipment costs, etc. A "per-event fee" throughout the season is avoided thanks to our generous sponsors, event hosts, and volunteers. A \$100 invoice is sent to each FTCNJ team as they officially register with FIRST for the coming season.
- **IMPORTANT – For questions regarding the Season Fee, please contact newjerseyftc@aol.com directly, not vfrascella@aol.com**
- **Reminder: While the \$100 is sent to FTCNJ to cover the cost of our season's events (and avoid a per-event fee), the \$295 Team Registration fee is paid to FIRST. That is two different payment destinations. Confusing them can cause delays achieving payment.**

Coaches Caucus ← coming off of hiatus Sept 13th

- This Zoom Meeting for Coaches usually takes place on the 1st Friday of the month.
- This month, due to the Sept 7th Kick Off/Game Reveal, the Coaches Caucus will be on Sept 13th (rather than Friday, Sept 6th). This will allow folks involved with the Sept 7th Kick Off to focus on it; the Sept 13th Coaches Zoom we can catch folks up ...who were not at the Kick Off Event.
- Here's the Registration link for Coaches [8pm on 09/13/24]: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvdeCvrz0qHtwE_JrBvYge46N-T9d5tT2j

Captains Caucus ← Accomplished 08/23/24

- Student leaders gather and share best practices and ideas each month. This Zoom Meeting takes place on the 3rd Friday of the month.
- Topics, to be addressed in "Breakout Group" sessions are presented in the Registration Questions. Registrants identify topics of most interest and Breakout Groups are set up accordingly.
- If you are a coach, with Student Leads who are not attending or aware of this monthly Zoom, you should let them know about it.
- August's Captains Caucus was held Friday (Aug 23rd). Thanks again to Breakout Leaders: Karas, Michelle, Ritvik, Ava, Nicholas and David for the solid Report-Out's from our Groups. Informative notes and recording from the Report-Out session were sent to registrants and their coaches.
- Student team leaders always enjoy their time interfacing with fellow team leaders and sharing knowledge.
- The next Captains Caucus is 8pm on Sept 20th.

STEM Girls & Other Community Happenings

Overview

The STEM Girls Initiative of FTCNJ is relaunching for the upcoming season. For those unfamiliar with STEM Girls, the three core activities are ...

1. Guest Speaker Nights – Each month two Female Role Models are interviewed by STEM Girls via Zoom to discuss their career journey.
2. Topic Exploration – Each month, a selected topic with particular relevance to girls in STEM/robotics is examined in a fun informative Zoom.
3. Camaraderie Gatherings – Numerous events include gathering at events to network, share experiences, & discuss items of mutual interest.

First STEM Girls Zoom of the New Season ←Accomplished 09/05

- People currently on the 2024/2025 Comm List, and those who were on it last season received an invitation to the 09/05 Zoom.
- The introduced the STEM Girls Program to the new folks, answered questions, and discussed the Kick Off events. Big thanks to Mahima, Nidhi, Anvitha, and Nishi for their role on the Zoom. The four girls each took a topic and briefed the ~20 participants on the call.

STEM Girls Table at the Sept 7th Kick-Off Events

We want to thank Mahima B, Anvitha K, Amritha K, and Alum Rafia S for serving as our NJSG Ambassadors at the Kick-Off events! Both events had NJSG tables setup, and our ambassadors made many new contacts, and we have already had several new girls opt-in :).

Future Events

There are three Season Start-Up Events (9/21, 9/22, 10/5), discussed earlier in this newsletter. If any STEM Girls plan to attend one of these, and want to be an ambassador there please let us know. We need help to raise the awareness of the STEM Girls.

“NJSG CONNECT” Newsletter

Beginning this Thursday, a weekly newsletter will be sent to all who have opted-in to the STEM Girls Program this year. It will include interesting articles about the history of women involved with technology. The newsletter will also announce coming events and opportunities ... and provide more detail about accomplishment than can fit into Tuesday Newsday. If interested, be sure to opt-in soon.

STEM Girls Communications Sign-Up

- If you are a female team member, coach, or mentor, ...you are cordially invited to connect with this important group.
- The link, below, can be used to join the STEM Girls Communication List. No strings attached.
- You will receive STEM Girls information, unless/until you opt out.
- If you'd like more info, if you have any interest at all, we strongly encourage our female FTCNJ members to use the link below to connect!
 - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfca5j11yjtAW6QJmRzbbwKyrSOrt8a5Tty9SojZkwYLLvCw/viewform>

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY - New Jersey Advocacy Conference

SASA staff member, Megan Volkening, is reaching out to all New Jersey FIRST teams and let them all know about a fantastic outreach opportunity put on by the Student Association for STEM Advocacy (SASA). SASA is a nonprofit organization that partners with FIRST to teach robotics students how to advocate for STEM education funding within their local, state, and federal governments.

On behalf of SASA, Megan would like to extend an invitation to the 2024 New Jersey Advocacy Conference (NJAC)! They need teams like yours to advocate on behalf of all New Jersey robotics teams!

The conference is a day-long event. Attendees will first hear from a series of robotics and advocacy experts on the structure of our state government, the New Jersey education system, advocacy 101, and how to hold an effective meeting with an elected official. Attendees will then practice their skills on the Hill in Trenton, advocating to their respective state representatives, senators, and staff about the importance of STEM programs and their value in education. Students, mentors and parents are all welcome to attend, and lunch and materials will be provided.

The conference will be held on Wednesday, October 2nd at the Patriots Theater at the War Memorial. More information and registration can be found on the website, mysasa.org/events/. Registration closes September 24th. Don't miss out! If you have any questions, you can email SASA staff member, Megan Volkening, by emailing megan@mysasa.org

Looking for 6 More Teams for “RoboCon NJ 2024”

- FTCNJ has been invited to participate once again at this huge Outreach at the Bridgewater Commons Mall.
- Similar to the past, we will be looking for ~10 teams to represent FTC on Saturday (Sept 28th) and ~10 others to represent on Sunday (Sept 29th).
- A fairly large area is allocated to FTC and various activity areas are staffed by our supporting teams. Activities include:
 - Information Tables ...explaining FIRST and FTC to our visitors
 - Hardware Display Tables ...showing CenterStage or Into-the-Deep robots, assemblies and parts
 - Robot Demo Fields ... teams demonstrating their robots individually or robots play against each other
 - U-Drive Area ...FTC team members helping young mall goers to experience driving “jersey bots” on obstacles course, race track, ...
- If interested, coaches may fill out the sign-up form at this link:
 - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWHfj8_Gijf2m13XzM-hNQDKTpAxqMI2FTN-TeV8GuSa-NeQ/viewform
- Update: Per our host ... There will be an Admissions Representative from WPI at RoboCon on Saturday from 11-4.
 - Anyone interested in encouraged to take advantage. It is not limited to competing teams. The rep will have a table on the lower level.

Referee Corner

Been studying the "Competition Manual"? You should be. There are quite a few changes for the season ahead. Given that, and the interest of keeping team well-informed throughout the season, this additional page is being added to Tuesday newsletters. Here are some tips from our Head Refs...

Competition Manual

- Please invest the time to read the entire FIRST® Tech Challenge Competition Manual released on 09-Sep-2024 that replaces the preview version of the manual (V0) released back in July. Ten chapters that had the placeholder text "This section will be updated ..." are now updated.
- Also, there are updates to content already published back in July, 2024.
- You can refer to Team Update 00 published via <https://ftc-resources.firstinspires.org/file/ftc/game/tu-00> for a summary of the major content changes.

Rule G404

- This week, we highlight Rule G404 with the headline (in bold orange text) "No AUTO opponent interference".
- During AUTO, ROBOTS may not:

- A. contact an opposing ALLIANCE'S ROBOT which is completely within the opposing ALLIANCE'S half of the FIELD.
- B. contact a pre-set SAMPLE on the opposing ALLIANCE'S half of the FIELD.

As shown in Figure 9-4 in the Competition Manual, FIELD columns A, B, C indicate the BLUE side of the FIELD during AUTO, and columns D, E, F indicate the RED side of the FIELD during AUTO.

Violation: MAJOR FOUL for each occurrence.

