



FIRST® in Florida

Inspiring Florida's Youth to Excellence in Science & Technology!

FIRSTFL.org

State of Florida Funding for FIRST Robotics Competition Teams - 2017

The State of Florida has allocated statewide funding for Florida *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams in the 2017 Budget. *FIRST* Robotics Competition is a robust high school level STEM challenge that runs from January to March, with a six week engineering build experience followed by a Regional competition that puts student built robots and teams' 21st Century skills to the test in an exciting game based format. Participating high school students have access to over \$30 million in scholarships and internship opportunities, as well.



Each Florida *FIRST* Robotics Competition team will receive \$2,000 in their *FIRST* account to cover Registration Fees. New *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams are also eligible for Rookie Team funding in the amount of \$4000 for the first year, with decreasing amounts of funding in the 2nd and 3rd year. Rookie team grants are available through **November 3, 2016 at FIRSTInspires.org/robotics/frc/grants .**

Between the Rookie Team grant and the Florida State Funding , **all new Florida *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams receive 100% funding** that covers full registration costs. To learn more about *FIRST* Robotics Competition and to register a team, visit FIRSTInspires.org/robotics/frc .

In order to receive the Florida State Funding, after you register your team, we ask that you please send two (2) thank you notes:

1. To Representative George Moraitis
2. To Senator Christopher L. Smith

In an envelope addressed to:
Greg King
320 SW 10th St. #103
Gainesville, FL 32601

Funds will be applied when thank you cards are received. Make sure your card is addressed to Representative George Moraitis and to Senator Christopher Smith, but the *outside envelope* is addressed to *Greg King*. This is to ensure that legislators are thanked and recognized in a timely fashion for this outstanding funding opportunity, and to help encourage continued funding of *FIRST* programs statewide in the future.

Have a great 2017 Season, and please let me know if you have questions or would like more information about any aspect of *FIRST* STEM Education programs.

Chuck Kennedy
FIRST ® Regional Director
North Florida
CKennedy@FIRSTInspires.org

Sandra Contreras
FIRST ® Regional Director
South Florida
SContreras@FIRSTInspires.org

Terri Willingham
FIRST ® Regional Director
Central Florida
TWillingham@FIRSTInspires.org



FIRST[®] in Florida

Inspiring Florida's Youth to Excellence in Science & Technology!

About FIRST

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was founded in 1989 by inventor Dean Kamen to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. Based in Manchester, NH, this top rated education not-for-profit organization designs accessible, innovative, standards aligned programs that motivate young people to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math, while gaining self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills.

FIRST[®] K-12 STEM education programs use robot challenges to build science and technology skills and interests, in a character driven program that also inspires self-confidence, leadership, and life skills. In Florida, FIRST serves over 10,000 students statewide.

With support from a comprehensive network of Fortune 500 corporations, educational and professional institutions, foundations, and individuals, **FIRST provides more than \$30 million in college scholarships.**

Programs include FIRST[®] Robotics Competition for students in Grades 9-12; FIRST[®] Tech Challenge for Grades 7-12; FIRST[®] LEGO[®]League for Grades 4-8; and FIRST[®] LEGO[®]League Jr. for Grades K-4

With Florida in vital need of skilled science and technology workers, but with less 10% of college degrees and certificates awarded in Florida in 2011-12 being STEM related, FIRST Sport for the Mind helps build academic and workforce readiness in proven ways:

- 89.6% of FIRST Alumni are either majoring in a STEM field in college or is working in a STEM profession.
- 91% of FIRST students are more interested in going to college and 41% wants to major in engineering.
- 90% of FIRST Robotics Competition students plan on taking more challenging Math or Science courses the following year, and
- 88% are more interested in doing well in school.

Additionally, companies and organizations such as Boeing, FedEx, Google, the CIA, US military, NASA, and many others all recognize the value of the skills provided by FIRST programs and actively recruit FIRST alumni for internships and jobs.

For more information about FIRST LEGO League elementary and middle school programs in Hillsborough County, contact Desh Bagley, Affiliate Partner at Hillsborough Community College, at suncoastfll@gmail.com and visit suncoastfll.org. For more information about FIRST Tech Challenge middle and high school programs, visit FTC.flfirst.org. To learn more about all our programs, standards alignment and funding availability please visit FIRSTFL.org.

STEM MAJOR CITED BY FIRST PARTICIPANTS



21ST CENTURY WORK-LIFE SKILLS GAINED BY FIRST PARTICIPANTS



SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT INCREASES FOR FIRST PARTICIPANTS

