

# FIRST Tech Challenge New Jersey Welcome

[Welcome to FIRST Tech Challenge New Jersey \(2018/2019 Season\)!](#)

*I and with my wife Patricia, manage the FTC Program in NJ. (Our FTC NJ community was 183 teams last year.)*

*Thanks to our great volunteers and supportive teams, we make easing into the Program as smooth as possible. Below is description of the event offerings through which you can ready your coach, mentors and team members.*

*With the exception of the multi-day Robo-Camps, all are free. Naturally, advance-registration is required and space is finite. All of these events are optional, read the descriptions and decide on which ones and how many to partake.*

## Outreach Scrimmages

- Events called “Outreach Scrimmages” can be a great taste-test to see what it is like to be on a team and competing.
- Veteran teams come out to help new and prospective team members get a taste of being in an FTC competition.
- As the day begins, veteran teams explain the previous year’s Game and describe how they designed their tournament bot to play it.
- After the orientation to competition Games, our robotics platform, and FTC, the new folks are organized into teams-for-a-day.
- Each veteran team adopts one of these new teams and becomes their alliance partner for the afternoon’s competition.
- The new folks are loaned a training robot, which they can adapt to best play the day’s special Game. Veteran teams counsel and help.
- After lunch, it is a friendly scrimmage with new folks driving their training bot while veterans drive their tournament bots.



## Benefits of the Outreach Scrimmage

- [For Students](#) – It’s a chance to compete a bot and see what it would be like to be on robotics team. You can find out true interests
- [For Students’ Parents](#) – It’s a chance to see what FTC can offer, to gage their students’ engagement and to see how they can help.
- [For Caches/Mentors](#)– It is an opportunity to find out what’s involved in coaching a team by seeing firsthand and talking to veterans.

## Events Available

- June 23<sup>rd</sup> Central Outreach Scrimmage; West-Windsor / Plainsboro HS North, Plainsboro, NJ
- June 24<sup>th</sup> Northern Outreach Scrimmage; Millburn High School, Millburn, New Jersey
- June 30<sup>th</sup> Southern Outreach Scrimmage; David C Wood 4-H Center, 3210 NJ Route 50, Mays Landing, NJ

We highly recommend that new teams and prospects come to an Outreach June and learn the ropes face-to-face. Here are other opportunities ....

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## Robo-Camps

- These 4-day Camps provide the student or adult with a slower pace learning experience.
- Theory and robotics technology instruction is combined with the construction of a training bot.
- Day #1 is FTC overview and Mechanical focus, Day #2 is Electrical Focus and continued work on the training bot.
- Day #3 is dedicated to Programming and Day #4 is a chance to specialize (Mech or Prgrmg) and compete the bot.
- There is a small charge (\$100) for the 4-day camp to cover the basic costs.
- Aug 08 - 11 4-Day Robo-Camp North; Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, NJ
- Aug 22 - 25 4-Day Robo-Camp South; Moorestown Friends School, Moorestown, NJ

(Note – There is also a Girls-Only 2-Day Robo-Camp on July 21 – 22 at the Girl Scouts Program Activity Center, Farmingdale, NJ)

## Multi-Track Workshops

- These are one-day events where a coach distributes their attendees among ~eight robotics tracks.
- The full day 8am – 3:30 is spent in a track and the participant obtains very focused training on the topic of interest.
- Typical tracks are JAVA Programming, Block Programming, PTC CAD, Mechanical Design, Advanced Mechanical Design.
- There are also FTC specific tracks on Judged Awards, Engineering Notebook creation, and Mentoring/Volunteering.
- Veteran coaches and mentors teach the tracks. There is no charge. Track selection is made shortly after registration.
- 08/04/18 4th Annual NJ FTC Southern Workshops; Toms River Intermediate South, Beachwood, NJ
- 08/18/18 11th Annual NJ FTC Northern Workshops; NJIT; , University Heights, Newark NJ

### Kick Off and Game Reveal Celebration

- This year's "Rover Ruckus" will be revealed by FIRST at noon on September 8<sup>th</sup>
- Our NJ Teams are offered the opportunity to view the Reveal together in an auditorium and have a few of their questions answered.
- There will also be a physical field that can be viewed at the Kick Off location. You can see game pieces and talk about construction.
- The Kick Off events start ~9am. Since many teams invest the day to gather and travel to the site, we provide morning content.
- While no substitute for Workshop or Robo-Camps, FTC NJ does offer morning mini-workshops on many topics (9am – Noon).
  - 09/08/18 Kick-Off & Game Reveal (Northern NJ); Livingston High School, Livingston, NJ
  - 09/08/18 Kick-Off & Game Reveal (Southern NJ); Hightstown High School, Hightstown, NJ

### Practice Days

- Official Meets (through which teams earn advancement) begin in late October.
- Prior to Meets, Practice Days offer an opportunity to tinker in the morning, followed by a mini-scrimmage in the afternoon.
- This is a great chance for a new team to bring a non-working bot for some help from veteran teams and volunteers.
- It is also a nice way to get a first try at the new Game without the pressure of having it count toward advancement.
- There are typically some half-day mini-workshops offered in the morning, for those not tinkering. You can distribute your students.

09/29/18 Practice Day (Central NJ) @ Bridgewater Raritan Middle School, Bridgewater, NJ  
10/07/18 Practice Day (Northern NJ) @ The Dwight-Englewood School, Englewood, NJ  
10/20/18 Practice Day (South NJ) @ Makerfest; Hackensack Meridian Healthcare Arena, Toms River, NJ  
10/20/18 Practice Day (South NJ) @ Duel on the Delaware; Salem Community College, Carney's Pt, NJ

(Note – The South NJ Practice Days are unique. Makerfest focus on Scrimmaging while Duel on the Delaware focuses on Training.)

### A Bit About Our Season

- There are two paths through which teams can earn their way to the NJ State Championship in March, Qualifiers & League Tournaments.
  1. Each team gets a choice of a Saturday or Sunday Qualifier in their region of the state (North, Central, South)
  2. Each team is assured a slot in their league's end-of-season League Tournament in February.
    - Our NJ Teams are organized into six Leagues based on the county in which they are registered.
    - Unlike the Qualifiers, the League Tournaments involve the carrying in of Points earned during the season at Meets.
      - Teams register for events shortly after Kick Off. There are enough slots to assure each team of two opportunities.
      - Teams may register for more than two opportunities and may be offered a bonus slot if space exists.
      - The carried-in Points are from a team's best 10 Matches of the season, at official FTC NJ competitions.

*That is a quick overview of the Season.*

*Much more can be learned face/face at Outreaches, Workshops, Kick Off, Practice Days ...*

*Welcome aboard.*

*Questions are always welcome.*

*Vince & Pat Frascella  
FIRST Tech Challenge New Jersey*

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[www.NewJersey.FTC.com](http://www.NewJersey.FTC.com) is our Website (where you will find Event Registration buttons when available)

NJ FTC is on Facebook!