

Varsity *FIRST*[®] LEGO[®] League Team



In September 2013, the **Varsity Robotics Team** will be launched to create an opportunity for students to compete in the *FIRST*[®] LEGO[®] League competition (<http://firstlegoleague.org>) We are looking for motivated and team-oriented students interested in taking their Robotics skills to the next level. FLL teams compete on three fronts:

1. **Robot Game** – design, build and program a robot to autonomously complete a series of missions around this year’s theme: “Nature’s Fury” (<http://www.firstlegoleague.org/challenge/2013naturesfury>)
2. **Project** – identify a problem, research/develop an innovative solution, and create an entertaining presentation of your work
3. **Core Values** – demonstrate teamwork and the other FLL Core Values (<http://www.firstlegoleague.org/mission/corevalues>)



The club will meet after school on a schedule determined by the team coach.

The club will run as long as a team is in contention; January for the Regional Qualifier (in Tacoma), February for the State Semi-finals and State Championships, April for World Championships.

Here are some things to keep in mind if you are considering applying to be on the Varsity Robotics Team for your middle school:

- FLL’s Core Values (<http://firstlegoleague.org/mission/corevalues>) stress teamwork, so you must be committed to work with others to find compromise and be able to give and receive positive/constructive feedback as your team develops their solutions – you must be a **team player**
- Your ability to work hard as part of team to complete whatever task needs to be addressed is essential – you must be **flexible**
- Regular attendance at the club is vital – you must be **reliable**
- Some work outside of club hours will be required (research, preparation, competitions) – you must be **committed**
- This is a varsity team, so you will be expected to bring some skills to the team in at least one of the competition areas– you must be **experienced**
- Students do all the work at FLL, so you will be expected to multi-task and take on responsibilities outside of your comfort zone – you must be willing to **grow**
- You will be representing your school at the club and competitions, so your behavior must be exemplary at all times – you must be **mature**



If this sounds like a challenge you are prepared to take on, please work with your parent/guardian and teachers to complete this application by Friday, September 13, 2013, and return it to your school office.

An electronic version of this application is also available under the NEWS column on <http://stempals.org/>.

If you have any questions, please contact your school’s FLL Teacher-Coach or Mr. Steele at rsteale@osd.wednet.edu .

Application

Varsity First Lego League Team, 2013 – 2014

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ School and grade _____

Thank you for your interest in the First Lego League 2013-2014 edition. Selection will be based on your presentation of the following topics and two recommendations you will gather from your teachers.

The **Required Response** listed below must be completed by all applicants.

Additionally, choose at least two of the **Selected Response** topics below and respond to those also.

Give as much detail as possible (you may present these as the body paragraphs in a five-paragraph essay).

Required Response:

The FLL team will work on three fronts; The Robot Game, Core Values, and the Project. Explain how your experience in these areas would enable you to contribute to the team, and which would be your area of strongest contribution.

Selected Responses: (respond to at least two of the topics below)

Describe a time you were part of a team. Use details to explain how the event began, how you were part of it and include whether or not you felt it was a positive experience.

Do you consider yourself a punctual person? Give examples of how in your life you work to be on time.

Are you willing to work outside of class, after school and /or weekends to make sure the team is successful? Explain if there is time in your busy life to dedicate extra time to this event.

Give examples of times you have needed to multi-task while working on one or more events or projects.

Give examples of times you have taken on responsibilities to work on things outside your comfort zone. Detail the circumstances and how the experiences turned out.

Where do you see yourself in a group? Are you a leader or more of a worker bee? Explain.

Explain what you feel to be the most important attributes of a good team member.

What kind of student would your teacher(s) say you are?

Application Submission Checklist

- ___ This Application Page
- ___ Written Responses
- ___ Parent Permission Page
- ___ 2 Teacher Recommendations (teachers will submit separately)

Parent Information

Varsity First Lego League Team, 2013 – 2014

Special words for Parents...

With your child as part of the Varsity FLL (<http://www.firstlegoleague.org/>) team, your role of support to the team is critical. There may be times that inconvenience and conflict arise with respect to meeting team needs. You are asked to be patient, supportive and encouraging as these situations arise. Throughout the FLL season, we strive to stress the FLL Core Values:

- We are a team.
- We do the work to find solutions with guidance from our coaches and mentors.
- We know our coaches and mentors don't have all the answers; we learn together.
- We honor the spirit of friendly competition.
- What we discover is more important than what we win.
- We share our experiences with others.
- We display Gracious Professionalism™ and Coopertition™ in everything we do.
- We have FUN!

In addition to being the team's number one cheerleaders, you will have the opportunity to:

- √ Assist during club meetings
- √ Host the team on evenings or weekends as they work to meet deadlines
- √ Assist with transportation as needed
- √ Work to gain sponsorships for the team
- √ Stay informed with the team's progress and offer suggestions you feel may assist them
- √ Assist with mock judging of presentations
- √ Be the parent liaison between the coach/team and the other parents
- √ And..... just be there when the needs arise

Parent involvement is so important that it should be thought of as “the team that helps the team.”

Please feel free to help your child understand the details of the application, particularly the Required and Selected Responses.

Be sure to review and complete the Parent Permission form as part of the application.

If you have any questions, please contact your school's FLL Teacher-Coach or Randy Steele at rsteele@osd.wednet.edu.

Parent Permission

As the parent of _____ I understand the commitment to the FLL Program to which I and my child are applying.

I realize that it is multi-day per week program, at least through January and possibly longer. Other than illness or a family emergency, I will be sure my child is there each day.

I am aware that the program will take place at our middle a school. I will be responsible for my child's transportation home, and agree to pick him/her up on time.

I will provide my child with a snack each day.

As outlined in the application, I will work with the program and my child to instill the FLL Core Values

I assure that my child will be available for competitions that take place during the competition season.

I (Please Print) _____ voluntarily give my permission for my child, (Please Print) _____ to participate in the FLL Varsity Robotics Program, to begin in September of 2013. I have read the application packet and understand and agree with the information, goals set forward, and the responsibilities regarding both me and my child.

Note: the level of parental support will determine the number of students on the team

I am available to volunteer with the team in the following capacity:

___ Assist on a regular basis during after-school team meetings

___ Assist occasionally during after-school team meetings

___ Host team meetings outside regular after-school meeting times

___ Assist with transportation as needed

___ Other (please specify): _____

Parent Signature _____ Cell Phone _____

e-mail _____

Please have your child include this with his/her application

Teacher Recommendation

Varsity First Lego League (FLL) Team, 2013 – 2014

Dear _____

I, _____, am currently seeking the opportunity to join other students from our school as a member of a team that will compete in the 2013-2014, First Lego League (FLL) Robotics Competition.

One of the requirements for application is gathering recommendations from current and past teachers. I ask that you complete one of those recommendations.

Upon completion of your recommendation, please forward to the office or your school's FLL Teacher-Coach.

Sincerely,

(student signature)

-1 2 3 4 5 + **Hard worker:** Enjoys getting it done, and done well!

-1 2 3 4 5 + **Flexible:** Can handle interruptions and adjustments when working on a task.

-1 2 3 4 5 + **Reliable:** Fulfills and is punctual in the execution of assigned and volunteer tasks and is punctual in attendance.

-1 2 3 4 5 + **Curious and interested** when given new ideas and tasks.

-1 2 3 4 5 + **Demonstrates maturity:** willing to stick with a task to completion and demonstrates exemplary behavior.

-1 2 3 4 5 + **Works well with others:** Demonstrates the ability to be a leader, as well as assume the role of accepting the leadership of another in the class or group

Comments (optional)

(teacher signature)

Teacher Recommendation

Varsity First Lego League (FLL) Team, 2013 – 2014

Dear _____

I, _____, am currently seeking the opportunity to join other students from our school as a member of a team that will compete in the 2013-2014, First Lego League (FLL) Robotics Competition. (See back of this page for description of this exciting program).

One of the requirements for application is gathering recommendations from current and past teachers. I ask that you complete one of those recommendations.

Upon completion of your recommendation, please forward to the office or your school's FLL Teacher-Coach.

Sincerely,

(student signature)

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(teacher signature)

