



Intel Oregon *FIRST* LEGO League 2009 Qualifying Tournament

Sunday, Dec 13, 2009

Hillsboro High School
3285 SE Rood Bridge Rd, Hillsboro, OR 97123

November 19, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The FIRST LEGO League (FLL) and the Oregon Robotics Tournament and Outreach Program (ORTOP) are pleased to invite you to the Intel Oregon FIRST LEGO League 2009 Qualifying Tournament, to be held at Hillsboro High School in Hillsboro on Sunday, December 13. For the past 8 to 12 weeks, your youngster has been a member of an engineering team designing, building and programming a LEGO robot to meet the Smart Move Challenge. We hope you will be there to cheer on your youngster's team. The purpose of this letter is to let you know what to expect at the tournament.

What is a Qualifying Tournament?

This is the ninth year for Oregon's FLL program.. This year we have 314 teams participating. Our success has created the need for seventeen small tournaments prior to the Championship tournaments. We call these "Qualifying Tournaments". About 35% of teams from each qualifying tournament will advance to one of the Intel Oregon *FIRST* LEGO League 2009 Championship Tournaments being held on January 16th and 17th, 2010 at Liberty High School in Hillsboro, Oregon.

Who can come to the event?

Our tournament is free and open to anyone who would like to watch. Please invite friends, family, teachers and your team's school principal. Guests are welcome at the Opening and Award Ceremonies. They can also observe the robot competition rounds and observe the Project Judging. Guests are not allowed in the Pit Area, Robot Design Judging or Teamwork Judging. All child guests must be supervised. The tournament day is long – 7-hours; check with the coach to get your team's competition times. The viewing areas around the competition tables can be crowded. Please give kids and parents of the competing teams priority.

How do I get there? Where do I park?

See tournament website <http://www.hilhi.ortop.org> – Tournament Location. Park in front of the school.

When and where will my youngster's team compete?

Your youngster's team will compete in the Robot Performance Competition in the Commons building. In this competition, their robot negotiates the Smart Move Challenge Field -- the same competition table you may have seen at team practice sessions. The team coach will receive a detailed competition schedule about a week before the tournament.

You can also observe the team Project Judging. Check with your team coach on time and location.

Registration for coaches and team members is at 9 am. Competition begins at 10 am and continues until about 3:00 pm. The awards ceremony is at about 3:30 pm and we adjourn at about 4:00 pm.

How long is a Robot Performance round?

Each team will have three Robot Performance rounds on the tables. Each round is 2 ½ minutes.

How does the judging process work?

In addition to the Robot Performance Competition, each team will have three 9-minute interviews with panels of judges. These interviews will allow the judges to ask questions about the project, teamwork and technical aspects of preparing for the tournament. Due to space limitations and to allow the teams to do their best, guests will not be permitted into Robot Design and Teamwork Judging. Parents and team guests will be allowed into the Project Judging. Check with your team coach on time and location. Coaches, mentors and guests are not allowed to make any comments during the judging session.

Can I take pictures of the competition?

Photographing is permitted within the areas accessible to guests as long as you don't disturb the competition. Please do not use flash within the Project Judging session. The Practice Tables are a good place for photography.

Can I stay with my youngster's team?

No. The teams will be using the Pit Area as a preparation and practice area. The Pit Area will be limited to team members, coaches, mentors, assistant coaches, and tournament staff. It will be accessible only to those wearing team ID tags. ID tags are only issued to pre-registered coaches and mentors.

Where can guests eat lunch?

Food may be eaten in the Commons spectator area. Some food will be available for purchase. We encourage team members to bring sack lunches or to have parents bring in lunch. A map of fast-food restaurants in the local area is posted on the tournament webpage.

Do I need to be there all day?

No. It's a long day – about 7 hours. Competition will start at 10:00 am. The award ceremony begins at about 3:30 pm. Check the schedule to find out when your youngster's team is competing and then come and go as you please. While parents are free to come and go, we expect teams and coaches to remain at the tournament for the entire day.

How can I help?

We need volunteers to manage the logistics on tournament day to ensure the tournament runs smoothly and is a success for your team. We require each team to provide one tournament volunteer. Jobs include team registration, help desk, timekeeper, practice table monitors, pit runners, etc. Please let your team coach know if you can help out, or contact Walt Mayberry (wmayberry@gmail.com), volunteer coordinator.

FLL CONSENT FORM: Please Sign and Return to Coach

Attached to this letter is the FLL Consent Form. *FIRST* LEGO League requires that this form be signed in order for you child to attend a *FIRST* LEGO League tournament. Please read, fill in the blanks, sign it and return in to your child's coach in advance of the tournament. The coach is required to present this form at the tournament registration desk. If a form is not turned in for your child, he or she cannot participate in the tournament.

Final Thoughts

If you have a young guest with you, make sure he or she stays with you at all times. Look out for teams carrying their robots to and from competition areas. Please be polite and cheer for all of the teams participating. More than a competition, this is a fun, educational, learning experience.

Your youngster's team should have *FIRST* LEGO League Core Values. Ask your child to tell you about his/her involvement on the team and how the team plans to exhibit FLL Core Values at the tournament.

The Hillsboro High tournament website with additional information including driving directions can be found at: <http://www.hilhi.ortop.org>

We look forward to seeing you at the tournament. Please route any questions through your team's coach.

Sincerely,



Walt Mayberry, Tournament Director

Intel Oregon *FIRST* LEGO League 2009 Qualifying Tournament at Hillsboro High School

Attachments: FLL 2009-2010 Consent Form to be signed and returned to the team coach