

The FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Program

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2011 Food Factor Challenge

“Keeping Food Safe”

Can FIRST® LEGO® League teams improve the quality of food by finding ways to prevent food contamination?

In the 2011 Food Factor Challenge, 10-14 year olds will explore the topic of food safety and examine the possible points of contamination our food encounters – from

exposure to insects and creatures, to unsterile processing and transportation, to unsanitary preparation and storage – then find ways to prevent or combat these contaminants. In the Food Factor Challenge, teams will build, test, and program an autonomous robot using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® NXT to solve a set of Food Safety missions as well as research, develop, and share their innovative food safety solutions. Throughout their experience, teams will operate under FLL’s signature set of Core Values.



We will register and participate in two qualifying tournaments. Many tournaments are held outside of the Tampa Bay area and it is possible that one of the tournaments will require an overnight stay. If we qualify, we will also attend a regional tournament. If we do well at the regional tournament, we will proceed to the state tournament in Melbourne. This would also require an overnight stay. In the past, all tournaments except the state tournament have been on Saturdays. We expect this to be true again this year.

Specific dates have not yet been released for any tournaments. In general, the tournament season breaks out as follows:

November to January: Qualifying Season

January: Regional Tournament

February: State Tournament

As part of FLL, there will be opportunities to volunteer to participate at events and for the team members to volunteer service hours related to their research project. In the past, two tournaments required teams provide volunteers to staff their event. Additionally, we believe philanthropic activities greatly enhance team members’ experience. The team and parents will be encouraged to find an opportunity to volunteer in the community.

Teams who gain the most are characterized by strong family commitments to their children’s activities. Parents will be encouraged to help the team by organizing the t-shirt design and ordering, coordinating extra practice facilities outside of our regular meeting schedule, fundraising, and in other ways.

Learn more at <http://www.firstlegoleague.org/> .