HOW TO START A ROBOTICS TEAM

IN MY LIBRARY

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Introduction

The public libraries and its librarians hold a different role in society now than in the past. Rapid changing technology and higher expectation from the public are revolutionizing this institution. Today's libraries are evolving and embracing new technology and are looked at as more of a facilitator of the social aspect of society and information as a whole. There is a demand for more than just "arts/literature" in the library.

To help facilitate this evolution for libraries while creating a positive information experience for the community, THEORY6 – *FIRST* Team 1241 introduced their Central Library of Mississauga to the Robotics Program there by bringing Science, Technology, Engineering and Math programs starting at a very early age for children.

To help you bring such programs to your library, please follow the steps in this Guide.

We hope you will find this resource useful.

FIRST® Robotics Canada thanks *FIRST* team 1241 (from Rick Hansen Secondary School) for their partnership in creating this document and supporting materials.

Step 1: Download this Guide

Download this guide and use it as a reference. This guide will help you better plan and understand the process for developing a robotics program at your community library.

Step 2: Contact *FIRST*

Before you begin, please contact *FIRST* Canada to get connected to a "*FIRST* Partner" that will help you plan this initiative. They will help connect you to a *FIRST* Partner (FRC or FLL Team, hereafter referred to as *FIRST* Partner) that will help you run the program. *FIRST* Canada will provide a link and pdf version of the registration process.

# Step 3: Recommended Requirements

Listed below is a list of recommended requirements:
- Library Space and Resources (projector, flip charts etc.)
- Library Staff (1+) (optional)
- Adult Mentor (*FIRST* Robotics Competition/*FIRST* LEGO League /Parent/Library Staff/Industry/Alumni Mentor)
- Processes & Templates that will help you plan the event (Registration, Certification, Code of conduct, Media Permission)
- LEGO and/or other robotics kits

Step 4: Pre-Session Planning

Set up a meeting with your *FIRST* Partner to start planning the initiative

- Understand your space and available resources: e.g. Meeting rooms/space, # of students per session, projector, flip charts, registration process, etc.
- Who will be responsible for resources/supplies and where will you store them. Some FRC/FLL Teams may be able to provide supply material (LEGO and/or other robotics kits) to run the workshops. If you do not have any source, please contact *FIRST* Robotics to seek help.
- Review the "code of conduct" guideline and "media permission forms" that will be required by ALL participants involved in the library robotics session (including volunteers, student mentors, and library personnel). (Refer to A001, A002, A003)
- You will need to work with your core planning team and understand the roles and responsibilities (refer to the recommended Library "Roles and Responsibilities" document)
  - *FIRST* Partner
  - Adult Mentor
  - Library Contact
  - Students/Mentors/Adults that will deliver the program
  - Program Fit – decide on best fit for your library community: 4wk, 6wk, 10 wk session(s) and the annual frequency or rotation of sessions
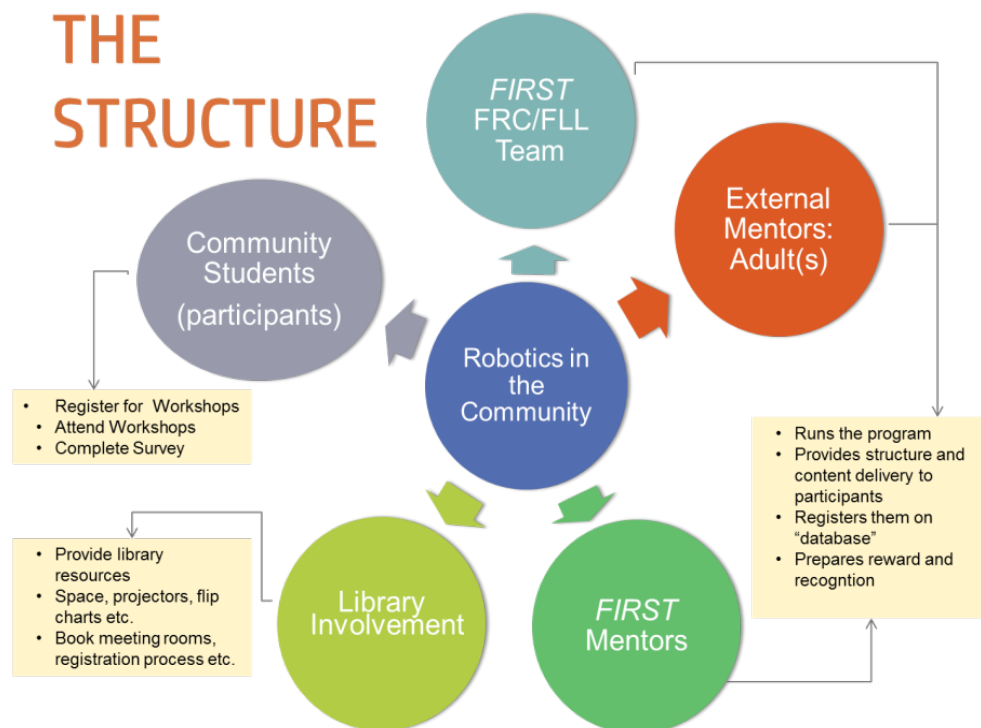
- Plan for events that will promote this initiative (community newspaper adverts, library newsletter, promotion within library [bulletin board, calendar, website, and social media], robotics table to showcase the upcoming workshops, Badge/Certificate ceremony, etc.)
- Discuss the reward and recognition program – we offer the Badge/Certification program and it is recommended that all participants be entered into the *FIRST* Robotics Canada Library Program Database for tracking purposes through the various levels of the program
- See Badge Certification Addendum

Step 5: What can you offer at your library

The "Community Robotics Pathway" can be seen below.
It is recommended that you start with the 'beginner and/or advanced program and can either split these groups by age and/or by previous knowledge.

Upon completion of the beginner/advanced session, an info session needs to be held regarding students that might be interested in joining a "competitive team": Jr. FLL/FLL (depending on age). You will need to work with your *FIRST* Partner to plan for these info sessions.
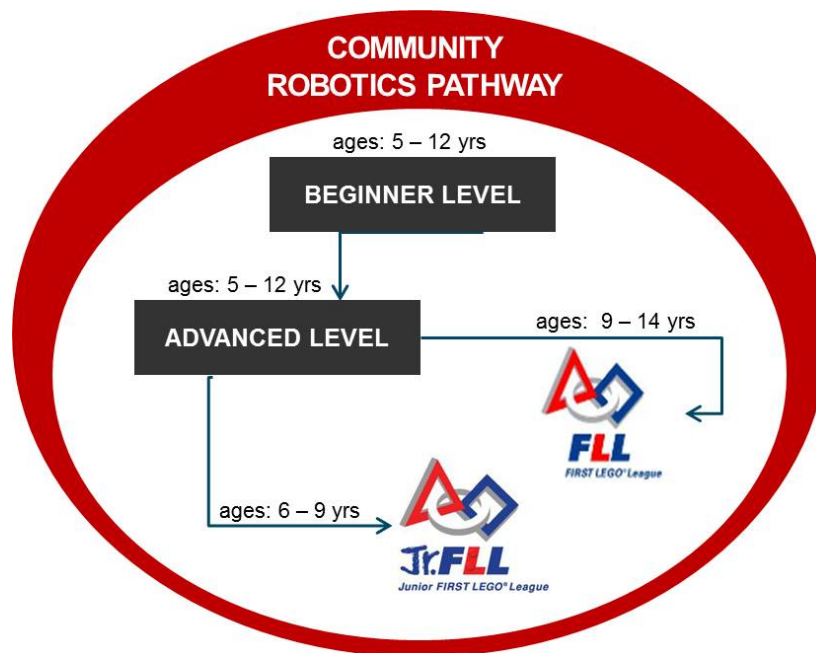
Visit the *FIRST* LEGO League Jr. for more details
Visit *FIRST* LEGO League for more details

Step 6: Upon Completion

- Remember to reward and recognize all participants at the last session by handing out Badges and/or Certificates during the graduation ceremony
- A reminder to manually enter any paper copies of the participant information into the *FIRST* Robotics Canada Library Program Database (see link above).
- Work with your *FIRST* Partner to plan an info session for *FIRST* Lego League, *FIRST* LEGO League Jr. and/or next beginner/advanced library workshops
- Provide participants with Feedback Survey.