FIRST LEGO LEAGUE CHALLENGE

2026-2027 BIOGLOW Team Information Packet

NORTHERN INDIANA SEMI-STATE TOURNAMENT @ PURDUE UNIVERSITY FORT WAYNE.

"Celebrating over 27 Years of Empowering Students Through Discovery, Innovation, Impact, Inclusion, Teamwork, and Fun!"

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE

Table of Contents

FIRST® LEGO® League Challenge Tournament 2
Tournament Date, Time, Location, and Contact 2
Schedule 2
Directions 2-3
Parking 3
Food 3
Dress 3
Team Size 3
Team Check-in 3-4
Pit Area 4
Practice Tables 5
Coaches' Meeting 5
Judging 5
Judging Session Flow Chart 6
Opening Ceremony 7
Spectators 7
Robot Game 7
Awards 8
Championship Advancement 8
What is *Gracious Professionalism*®? 8
Tournament Cancellation Policy 8
Competition Day Checklist 8
Important Quick Links 9

NORTHERN INDIANA SEMI-STATE TOURNAMENT

FIRST® LEGO® League Challenge

Tournament Date, Time, Location, and Contact

Date: December 12, 2026
Time: Doors will open at 7:00 AM
Location: Purdue University Fort Wayne Campus - Hillard Gates Sports Center Fieldhouse,
2101 E. Coliseum Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46805
Tournament Contact: Janet North, jcnorth@pfw.edu c:417.296.2594

General Schedule

Time	Activity
7:15 AM	Team Check-in & Pits Open
8:00 AM	Coach Meeting
	Practice Tables Open
8:30 AM	Opening Ceremony (Open to the public, all teams must be present)
9:00 AM	Judging Begins (All Judging is CLOSED to the public)
	Practice Rounds Begin
10:00 AM	Official Robot Rounds Begin (Open to the Public)
11:30 PM	Lunch Break – Practice tables closed
12:35 PM	Judging and Robot Games Resume
2:45 PM	Judging Sessions End / Deliberation Begin (Closed to the Public)
4:40 PM	Robot Game Ends
5:15 PM	Closing Ceremony (Open to the Public)
6:30 PM	Pits Closed

The Team Schedule will be available online on December 9, 2026.

Directions – Campus Map

Purdue University Fort Wayne is located at 2101 E. Coliseum Blvd. in Fort Wayne, Indiana. You may enter campus from 3 entrances: St. Joe Road, E. Coliseum Blvd., and Crescent Ave. Once on campus, please follow the signs to the Hillard Gates Sports Center.

- **From East US-30 -**Take I-469 North; Take the IN-37 Exit (25) towards Fort Wayne; Keep left at the fork on the ramp; Turn left onto IN-37/Maysville Road; Turn right onto Stellhorn Road; Stellhorn Road becomes Crescent Avenue; Take this road until you see the Purdue Fort Wayne Campus on your right-hand side; Turn right onto the Purdue University Fort Wayne Campus.

- **From West US-30 -** Take the IN-69 N ramp; Merge onto I-69 Northbound; Take the Coldwater Road exit (112A); Merge onto IN-327 South; IN-327 S becomes Coldwater Road; Turn left onto US-30/US-24 (East Coliseum Blvd.); Purdue Fort Wayne Campus will be on your left-hand side after you pass the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum and go over the bridge; Go to the second light past the bridge and turn left onto Crescent Avenue; Take Crescent Avenue North to the next light and turn left onto the Purdue University Fort Wayne Campus.

- **From North I-69** - Take the Coldwater Road exit (112A); Keep left at the fork in the ramp; Merge onto IN-327 South; IN-327 S becomes Coldwater Road; Turn left onto US-30/US-24 (East Coliseum Blvd.); Purdue Fort Wayne Campus will be on your left hand side after you pass the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum and go over the bridge; Go to the second light past the bridge and turn left onto Crescent Avenue; Take Crescent Avenue North to the next light and turn left onto the Purdue University Fort Wayne Campus.

- **From South I-69 -** Take the Coldwater Road exit (112A); Merge onto IN-327 South; IN-327 S becomes Coldwater Road; Turn left onto US-30/US-24 (East Coliseum Blvd.); Purdue Fort Wayne Campus will be on your left-hand side after you pass the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum and go over the bridge; Go to the second light past the bridge and turn left onto Crescent Avenue; Take Crescent Avenue North to the next light and turn left onto the Purdue University Fort Wayne Campus.

Parking – Campus Map

Parking is available in lots PL12, PL13, and PL15, as well as the parking garage P2. All of these parking areas are open to the public on Saturdays and do not require a permit.

Food

- Each team will be provided 2 free pizzas of your choice between cheese, sausage, or pepperoni. Additional pizzas may be purchased for $10 each and must be pre-ordered by December 4th. Please have a cash or check payment for the additional pizzas ready during check-in. **(Please use the survey link under quick links on the last page)**
- The concession stand will be available from 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM and is located within the Hilliard Gates Sports Center. Coffee, soda, water, and other items will be available.
- Several restaurant options also surround the PFW campus.
- Teams may bring in food and drinks in coolers; however, space is limited in the pit area.

Dress

Dress for all teams is casual. We encourage your team to adopt a fun and unique team identity that helps others understand your team, your engineering experience, or your Innovation Project. Remember to ***HAVE FUN!***

Team Size

A competitive team consists of a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of ten (10) students. Team members must be between the minimum and maximum age or grade allowed in their region.

Team Check-in will run from 7:15 AM to 8:15 AM

Coaches must submit the following for their teams to the team check-in volunteers:

- **Team Roster:** Download your team roster from the Team Registration System, print a copy, and bring it to team check-in. A ***FIRST® Consent and Release Form*** is required for every team member, coach, and mentor who will be with the team during the competition.
- **PFW Minors Media and Consent Forms:** Purdue University Fort Wayne policy requires that all parents/guardians of team members sign the PFW Minors Media and Consent form. This form may be completed online before December 10th, or use the printable form to be turned in during check-in.

ONLINE PFW Media & Consent Form OR **PRINTABLE PFW Media & Consent Form**

Your team will receive the following at Team Check-In:

- **Team Badges:** One badge will be provided for each registered team member and two coaches. Your team will only receive two coach badges, even if your team works with more than two coaches and mentors. Your team will need to decide which two adults will be spending the day with the students. ***NOTE: At least one adult coach is required to supervise the team at all times during the tournament.***
- **Schedule of Events and Program:** Your team will be provided with information about the tournament day, including a competition schedule.
- **T-shirts:** Each registered team member and the coaches will receive a free tournament t-shirt. **(Please use the survey link under quick links on the last page)**
- **Opening and Closing Ceremonies:** Please be sure to have all of your team present and sitting together before 8:30 for the opening ceremony and for the closing award ceremony held in the Gates Athletic Center.

Pit Area

The Pit is where your team will spend most of the time. This is where you will work on your robot and programming. This is also the area where you can enjoy downtime with your team, get to know other teams, see their robots, and find out about their Innovation Projects. Your team will have access to:

- One standard-sized table and 2 chairs
- Electricity – Bring an extension cord and a power strip, as your access point will consist of a single outlet/plug. A power strip will allow you to charge your robot and your laptop at the same time.
- 1 garbage bag. As a courtesy to teams around you and the venue, we ask that you please keep your area tidy. Your team is responsible for cleaning up your pit area by the conclusion of the tournament. Garbage bags may be left at the tables to be collected.

We recommend that you bring the following for your team to have in the Pit Area:

- Teams may bring their own practice mat to use in the pit area. Space is limited, and teams should be mindful of other teams' space in the pit area.
- A bin or large bags to store personal belongings, like coats, under your table
- Your robot and all your robot supplies (attachments and additional building pieces)
- Your laptop computer and power cord
- An extension cord and power strip
- A box or small bin to carry your robot and attachments to and from the competition area. You must unload all your equipment onto the table at official matches.
- Games (there will be long periods of downtime – bring some small games that the team can play when things are slow)

Some Pit Area Rules for you to keep in mind:

- Coaches should refrain from handling the robot, attachments, or the computer.
- ***NOTE: If your team encounters technical difficulty, let someone at the tournament know so that the officials at the event understand why a coach might need to handle a robot or work on the computer.***

PLEASE NOTE:

Per the Purdue Safety and Security Policy, WIFI cannot be provided by Purdue University Fort Wayne for open events.

Practice Tables

Remember to be gracious professionals when using a Practice Table.

- Teams will have one (1) pre-scheduled practice robot run held at the practice tables.
- A Practice Table sign-up sheet will be in the practice tables area. Teams may sign up for two (2) 5-minute nonconsecutive time slots. We ask that an adult fill in the team number on the sign-up sheet.
- Be mindful of your time and other teams' needs. Please be courteous and allow a team facing a crisis to use your practice time.
- Reset the Practice Table for the next team.
- Make sure you check that you do not take a mission model from the Practice Table
- Offer help to teams that may need it!

Coaches Meeting

The Coaches' Meeting will be held at **the end of the hallway past the restrooms at 8:00 AM (Please see map).** At least one team coach should attend this meeting. Make sure that another coach or mentor is assisting the team to set up their pit area during this time. At this meeting, your team's coach will have the opportunity to:

- Meet the Tournament Director
- Meet the Head Referee & Judge Advisors
- Understand the flow pattern through the competition area
- Ask judging-related questions
- Ask Robot Game questions
- Ask any other tournament-related questions

Judging

Team judging begins promptly at 9:00 AM. Each team will be judged within a single judging session. Your team will spend ten (30) minutes with your assigned judging pod.

- Only team members and two (2) coaches will be allowed into the judging rooms. Team coaches are permitted to observe the judging session, but must remain in designated areas.
- Coaches should be silent observers of the judging process and refrain from influencing the session in any way. Judges may ask the coach(es) to leave the room if this is violated. Remember, this is about the students.
- No one from the team should stand behind the judges.
- If you choose to use a PowerPoint presentation, please be prepared to show it to the judges on a laptop, iPad, or other device, as AV equipment will **NOT** be available for the teams in the judging rooms.
- The judging schedule is tight. Please be on time for your judging session.
- Photos and recordings during the judging sessions will not be permitted.

All cell phones (team members & coaches) must be turned off during the judging sessions.

Please make sure to review the rubrics with your team before coming to the event. The following outline is what you can expect in the judging session:

Judging Session Flowchart

Teams should demonstrate ***FIRST*® Core Values** in everything they do. Judges will be excited to see how teams used **teamwork**, **discovery**, **inclusion**, **innovation**, **impact**, and **fun** throughout their Innovation Project and Robot Design work.

Judging is a time to celebrate a team's accomplishments, but it is normal to feel nervous. Judges will do their best to encourage teams during the session. Teams should not leave anything in the judging room when they leave.

TEAM ENTERS



Team Welcome

Introductory conversation takes place as the team sets up any materials they have brought.

2 minutes



Innovation Project

Presentation

5 minutes



Innovation Project

Question and Answer

5 minutes



Robot Design

Explanation

5 minutes



Robot Design

Question and Answer

5 minutes



Final Share & Feedback

Teams may choose to share final thoughts with judges. Judges may ask clarifying questions, then will provide verbal feedback to the team.

Up to 8 minutes

TEAM LEAVES



Judges discuss the team and complete the rubrics together.

15 minutes



Judges hand in the rubrics once they are complete, before next team enters.

Opening Ceremony

Please join us at **8:30 AM** for the Opening Ceremony! The ceremony will begin with a Parade of Teams – bring your team banners or signs (if you have them) and your team spirit! **Please have your team line up at 8:20 AM.** After this ceremony, you will be ready to tackle the day!

Spectators

The Robot Game is free and open to the public, starting at 10:00 AM. The Judging Portion of the event is closed to the public. Thank you for respecting this policy. Please remember to respect the team-only areas – the competition floor area (the area where teams queue and compete) and the judging area.

Robot Game

Your team is responsible for knowing and understanding the *FIRST* LEGO League Challenge Robot Game. All the game documents can be found on the ***FIRST* LEGO League website**.

You are required to know the following for the robot competition: Field Setup, Rules, Missions, and Robot Game Updates.

Coaches: Two coaches will be permitted to join the team on the competition floor, but you must stay behind the line with the team and refrain from actively directing the team during the game. Please do not touch or handle the robot or attachments during this time. Consider yourselves spectators with the best spot in the house to watch the game.

Each team will have one (1) official time slot on the practice tables and two (2) time slots to practice on the practice tables. Your team will participate three (3) times at the Tournament Tables. Your Robot Performance score is the highest score your team achieves out of the three official rounds.

NOTE: Remote controls are not allowed anywhere at this tournament (This includes Smartphone applications that enable you to control your robot remotely). Bluetooth may not be used. Your team could be disqualified if you are found remotely controlling your robot anywhere during the competition or if your Bluetooth is enabled in the competition area!

Make sure you are ready to compete at least ten (10) minutes before your scheduled robot round. Remember to respect the referees and the other teams – and ***HAVE FUN!***

Awards

Descriptions of *FIRST* LEGO League Challenge awards can be found **here**. The following awards will be presented at this tournament:

- Champion's Award Winner and 3 Finalists
- Core Values Award Winner and 3 Finalists
- Innovation Project Award Winner and 3 Finalists
- Robot Design Award Winner and 3 Finalists
- Robot Performance Award Winner and 2nd, 3rd 4th Places
- Engineering Excellence Award
- Breakthrough Award
- Rising All-Star Award
- Motivate Award
- Peer Award
- Coach/Mentor Award

Championship Advancement

18 teams from this tournament will be invited to advance to the Indiana *FIRST* LEGO League Challenge State Championship held in January 2027, @ the University of Indianapolis based on the Champion's rank.

What is *Gracious Professionalism*®?

Gracious Professionalism® is part of the ethos of *FIRST*®. The idea and phrase are found throughout *FIRST,* but no one has been a stronger champion than *FIRST* Executive Advisory Board Co-Chair & Distinguished Advisor, Dr. Woodie Flowers. "*Gracious Professionalism* is a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. With *Gracious Professionalism*, fierce competition, and mutual gain are not separate notions. Gracious Professionals learn and compete like crazy but treat one another with respect and kindness in the process."

We expect all team members, volunteers, coaches, and families to behave as Gracious Professionals.

Tournament Cancellation Policy

Although we never want to see an outreach event canceled or delayed, we take the safety of our teams and their families very seriously. The Purdue University Fort Wayne Semi-State Tournament is to be canceled or delayed due to causes and conditions beyond the tournament organizers' control, including, but not limited to, inclement weather, acts of nature, government restrictions, and/or any other cause beyond the tournament organizers' control. Please refer to local news and radio for current county advisories. If the event must be canceled, it will not be rescheduled, and advancement to the Indiana *FIRST* LEGO League Championship will be determined by a lottery of teams registered for this event. An email and text message will be sent out to the coaches.

Competition Day Checklist

	Team Roster
	Robot, attachments, extra parts
	Fresh batteries/spare batteries/rechargeable battery charger
	Computer and battery (if available), and power cord
	USB download cable *(Bluetooth use is NOT permitted at the tournament)*
	Extension cord and power strip
	A box/tote to carry the robot to the competition field (carts are not permitted in this area)
	Bin to hold personal and team items (coats, games, etc.) to fit under the pit table
	Project judging materials, props, and displays
	Graphics demonstrating programming strategy for robot design judging
	Team games or activities for downtimes (optional)
	Team banner or poster to carry for ceremonies or for pit space (optional)
	Team giveaways (optional)

IMPORTANT QUICK LINKS:

- **PFW Online Minor Media Waiver and Consent Form BEFORE December 9, 2026**
- **PFW printable Minor Media Waiver and Consent Form: Turn in during check-in**
- **PFW Pizza & T-Shirt Survey Please complete BY December 4, 2026**
- **PFW FLL Northern Indiana Semi-State Tournament website**