

FIRST® Tech Challenge

Want to start your own FIRST® Tech Challenge program? Learn how to start one today to make STEAM fun for high-school students of all minds! Here's a step-by-step guide to help you establish a local chapter:

1. Find adult support for this program

- Find a teacher or trusted adult at your school or in your community to sponsor your team. You can let them know the level of interest you have in helping out with mentorship to ensure that they feel confident in student support when beginning the program.

2. Reach out to Eagle Robotics' FTC Chapter

- Reach out to the Eagle Robotics FTC chapter to express your interest in starting a chapter. We would love to set up a meeting to provide specific guidelines, support materials, and answer any questions you might have!
 - Instagram: @ftc_team_anomaly
 - Email: aspiringeagles101@gmail.com

3. Consider community interest

- Utilize social media, announcements, and posters to advertise your team to the rest of your school and find people interested in participating. Create an interest form to see how many students are interested, and post it on a bulletin board or on your school announcements. Attend school wide events and host tables/booths to inform students about the program.

4. What is FTC?

- Hold an interest meeting with students to inform them of how the FTC competition works and explain the different perspectives of the competition, as there are multiple types of roles students can take on the team. Try to focus on what students will get out of the program and not the intricacies, as they can sometimes get lost in the complexities of the FTC program.

5. Finalize team members

- Finalize how many students will be on each team you start and what committee each student will be on (If there are multiple teams, try to have balance between them)

6. Raise funds

- Talk to your school's board/administrators and/or local sponsors to find funding for your team. Also, consider applying for company grants or hosting fundraisers. Try and keep costs as low as possible for the students participating to lower barriers of entry and ensure that all teams are accessible.

7. Registration

- Create an account with FIRST, pay the registration fee (~\$275), and consider buying the FTC Starter Kit to create your team. Sometimes, if starting out with little to no experience, this can help put together a great rookie season.

8. Equipment and Tools

- Buy a REV Robotics Control System and Tetrax or Gobilda parts. Make sure you have computers with Android Studio and FTC SDK for coding. Plan where you will meet to build your robot.

9. Watch the kickoff video

- Watch the kickoff video together or with other teams at a kickoff event (Occurs in September). Right afterwards will probably be the most exciting day of brainstorming, where you'll work to organize your plans for the season.

10. Create your robot

- Plan, design, CAD and build your robot. Additionally, work on marketing materials such as the presentation and portfolio to ensure that at competition, your team can effectively communicate everything that you've done during the season!

11. Compete!

- Have fun! Please don't hesitate to contact us if there's anything else that we can help with or if you just want to talk to another team with an FTC program. We'd love to hear from you!