

# 2009 *FIRST* LEGO® LEAGUE UNITED STATES OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

## PARENT/FAMILY INFORMATION

### WELCOME TO THE *FIRST* LEGO® LEAGUE UNITED STATES OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP!

Welcome and Congratulations to you and your child's FLL team! We are thrilled to be able to host this first-time ever, national championship, and we thank you for being a part of this experience!

In order to give you and your child the best possible experience, this document will explain some of our policies and give you some information that will make your experience and your child's team experience ones you will remember for a long time.

**TEAM ONLY AREAS:** As you know, *FIRST* LEGO League is a child and team driven program. Through FLL, teams are empowered to decide on their own direction, their own solutions, and their own problem-solving strategies. Through FLL, children learn to become independent thinkers with advanced teamwork and critical thinking skills. Coaches are those indispensable guides and role models, but the kids are the ones who do the work. Because of this fundamental philosophy, we do have "Team Only" areas, where teams can focus on the competition with minimum adult interaction and influence. In this way, the team takes responsibility for their problem-solving and their successes. Our judges are able to see and visit with the kids, to hear and see what they have learned, and to communicate with them authentically. For this reason, our Pit Area, Competition Area, and Judging Areas are closed to the public. Up to two adult coaches may be with the team in these "Team Only" areas. We thank you in advance for your understanding and respect for this policy.

**JUDGING SESSIONS:** Your child's team will be judged in three areas (Climate Connections Research Project, Robot Design and Teamwork), during a 90 minute time slot on Friday, May 8. Your team will either be judged at the Wright State University Student Union or at the Ervin J. Nutter Center. (Schedules should be out the second week in April).

Parents and family members may not travel with the team into the Team Judging areas. You are free to be in the Wright State University Student Union; there is a food court in the Student Union, book store and lounge areas, if you would like to remain on-site

while the kids are in the building. At the Ervin J. Nutter Center, you may watch the practice rounds.

You also might want to travel to the National Museum of the United States Air Force for the day on Friday. The museum is free, and it will give you and your family something to do while the team is locked away in judging for that day.

**PIT AREA:** This area is open only to team members and two coaches. It is located behind the competition area on the main arena floor. Family members can look down into the pit area – so, if you would like to keep an eye on your child while he or she is in the pit area, you can see him or her from a comfortable seat in the arena.

**TEAM COMMUNICATIONS:** We recommend that you make arrangements with your team in advance for down times when you can all meet. For instance, you might all want to meet for lunch during a long break in the team's schedule. You also might want to spend some time watching parts of the robot competition together. If you prepare for these times in advance, it will make the day less confusing. Please be aware that parts of the Nutter Center are cell phone dead zones. Don't rely on the cell phone for your communications in this building. You can leave messages, if necessary, at the Pit Administration Desk.

**SPECIAL EVENT TICKET HOLDER:** If you are a family member of a team member and you have purchased a "Special Event Ticket," you will be able to enjoy more of the special team event activities, including the National Museum of the United States Air Force" evening event and deluxe boxed dinner on Thursday, May 7; team dinner at the WSU Student Union on Friday, May 8; and the pizza dinner on Saturday, May 9. This wrist band is non-transferable and it does **NOT** give the wearer access into "Team Only" competition areas.

**SHARED EVENTS:** If you do not have a "Special Event" pass, you can still enjoy much of the event, both with and without your FLL team member.

## **THURSDAY, MAY 7:**

### **2:00 PM to 4:00 PM: TEAM REGISTRATION AND PIT SET-UP:**

Feel free to come to team check-in and help with pit set-up from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. You are also welcome to join the coach meeting (starting at 3:00 PM), although we would ask that you allow the coaches to ask the questions, as this 45 minute period is the time for the competitors to clarify any final questions they may have about judging or the robot game. You can also roam the pit area, assist in team set-up of your teams' area (if invited by the kids 😊) . This is the only time, except for tear-down, when the pit area is open to family.

## **FRIDAY, MAY 8:**

### **9:00 AM to 3:30 PM: (ERVIN J. NUTTER CENTER) PRACTICE ROBOT ROUNDS:**

Enjoy the practice competition rounds. Each team will have two practice rounds on this day, and they will be scheduled for morning or afternoon practice. We also plan to have FRC and FTC robot demonstrations in the McLin Gyms 1 & 2, which will be open to the public. We will have other display areas around the concourse level, presented by Battelle and the Air Force Research Laboratories and the STEM School, which you are free to check out. Just inside the Gate 3 entrance, we have a “**Kids Zone**” area set up for younger siblings to play with LEGO elements. We will also show kid friendly, G-rated movies during the day. The Kids Zone location is perfect for the kids to do something during these long days, and parents can keep an eye on their little ones and still watch the competition.

We recommend that you take some time on this day to visit the National Museum of the United States Air Force, which is a very short 5 minute drive from the Wright State University. The museum is free, and this gives you and your family something to do, especially while your team is involved in judging.

**LUNCH:** On this day, lunch is very flexible for teams. We recommend that families plan in advance to meet with your team. You could enjoy a meal in either the Nutter Center, in the Student Union or at one of the many eating establishments located across Colonel Glenn Highway. See the “Restaurant” document located on the “Travel Info” page of the US Open website. Click on the title to access the document.

### **5:00 PM: OPENING CEREMONY (ERVIN J. NUTTER CENTER)**

Join us for the Opening Ceremony at this time. This hour-long ceremony officially opens the event. Feel free to sit with your team to enjoy the ceremony. Afterward, walk with the teams over to the Wright State University Student Union to enjoy the Engineering Extravaganza.

### **6:30 PM to 9:00 PM: ENGINEERING EXTRAVAGANZA (WSU STUDENT UNION)**

This event is sponsored by the Wright State University Engineering Department and run by the student engineering organizations at WSU. Not only will they have many things on display that they have engineered (robotic lawnmower, moon buggy, human powered vehicle, etc.), but they will have fun, hands-on activities that families can enjoy. The Wright-Patterson Air Force Base “Wizards of Wright” will also be on-hand with hands-on activities, too. A demonstration of a climate systems model will be available for teams to see, as well as hands-on experiences with a Van de Graaff generator, where parents will be invited to take pictures of the kids with electrified hair. There will

be energy and recycling demonstrations. The kids will be able to make their own compass out of magnets, just to name a few of the many planned activities. The team members will have the opportunity to visit with the university engineering students and Wright-Patterson AFB scientists and engineers. It should be an evening of “smart” fun for the entire family.

### **SATURDAY, MAY 9 (ERVIN J. NUTTER CENTER)**

#### **9:00 AM to 4:00 PM: FLL OFFICIAL ROBOT ROUNDS, ELIMINATION ROUND AND TEAM ALLIANCE ROUND**

Enjoy the robot competitions throughout the day. “Kids Zone,” robot demonstrations, Battelle and STEM School displays will still be open for you to enjoy. Concessions will be open in the arena all day.

**LUNCH:** There is a full hour of competition down-time for lunch. This is a great time for families to enjoy a meal with the team.

#### **4:00 PM TO 5:45 PM: END OF EVENT CELEBRATION (MCLIN GYM, NUTTER CENTER)**

Although the teams will enjoy a pizza dinner during this time, families can enjoy the music and the silliness in the McLin Gym during this time. The pits will also be open for clean-up and tear down. Families may help the team to pack up all of their things. Bleachers are available in the McLin Gym for those who would rather sit and watch the kids dance during this celebration.

#### **6:00 PM: CLOSING CEREMONY (NUTTER CENTER)**

Families may find a seat with the team for the Closing Ceremony.

We would like to thank all of the families for supporting your teams throughout the FLL season and for this event. Parents – you should be very proud of the incredible people your children are becoming, and thank you for sharing them with the rest of the United States Open Championship teams for this experience.

#### **A FINAL NOTE ABOUT GRACIOUS BEHAVIOR**

In FLL we embrace the value of “gracious professionalism.” Please be gracious observers of this FLL experience. Poor behavior on the part of family members can impact a team negatively with the judges.

**HAVE FUN!**