

**FIRST  
LEGO  
LEAGUE**

**CHALLENGE**

## Wards Creek Elementary Robotics Team | 2023-2024

Dear Warrior family,

*FIRST*® LEGO® League challenge introduces science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) to children ages 9 – 16 through fun, exciting hands-on learning. *FIRST*® LEGO® League participants gain real-world problem-solving experiences through a guided, global robotics program, helping today's students and teachers build a better future together.

We are currently accepting applications for our robotics team; space is limited to 10 members currently attending WCES in 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

This is a time intensive, team-centered activity stretched out over a competition season running from September to January. However, if our team moves on to regionals, it could extend into March; it often gets ramped up in the weeks before the competition. There may be homework assigned to the students and we expect them to take seriously their commitment to the robotics team. Please discuss with your child their interest in being part of the robotics team. If you would like to learn more about *FIRST*® LEGO® League challenge before making your decision, you may visit <https://www.firstinspires.org>

A parent/guardian must read through all the application with the student and ensure clear understanding of the commitment and expectations. There are three sections: student application, parent consent to apply, and classroom teacher recommendation. **It is the student's responsibility to verify that all sections have been thoroughly completed and teacher's recommendation is stapled to student's section before handing application back only directly to Mrs. Vergara by 9-6-23.** If selected to be part of the club, both parent/guardian and student must sign the team's agreement before first meeting.

Best,  
Ximena Vergara  
STEM leader/Robotics League Coach

### Application Timeline:

- Applications due to Mrs. Vergara by 9-6-23.

***Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.***

- Acceptance email to parents and team agreement send on 9-8-23.

### Team Meetings:

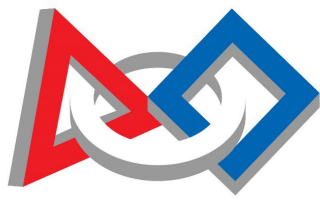
- Tuesday and Thursdays after school 3:30 p.m. – 5:20 p.m. (*Students must be picked up by 5:30 p.m.*)
- First meeting 9-12-23

Team meets in the STEM lab (room 270)

### Sponsor Contact:

Mrs. Vergara

[Ximena.vergarapaulhiac@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Ximena.vergarapaulhiac@stjohns.k12.fl.us)



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**To be considered for the WCES robotics team, students must:**

- Be enrolled in 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade at WCES.
- Be in good academic standing and maintain a “C” average in all subjects throughout the duration of the competition season. Failing grades will lead to suspension from the team.
- Adhere to the St. Johns County Schools' Code of Conduct and demonstrate good character. Misbehavior and/or disrespect to sponsor, volunteers, or other team members are grounds for dismissal from the team.
- Attend all meetings unless (excused) absent from school.
- **Thoroughly complete this application and return directly to Mrs. Vergara by 9-6-23.**
- **Staple the letter of recommendation from your classroom teacher verifying good academic and behavior standing to this page.**

**Student Section** (Please answer every question thoroughly and write neatly)

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Classroom Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

I am:

*(check all that apply)*

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friendly | <input type="checkbox"/> Quick thinker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Timid    | <input type="checkbox"/> Resilient     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creative | <input type="checkbox"/> Curious       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Polite   | <input type="checkbox"/> Methodical    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patient  | <input type="checkbox"/> Good at math  |

I like to:

*(check all that apply)*

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Build things | <input type="checkbox"/> Troubleshoot      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Draw         | <input type="checkbox"/> Make models       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research     | <input type="checkbox"/> Solve puzzles     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Code         | <input type="checkbox"/> Follow directions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help people  | <input type="checkbox"/> Work with others  |

**Please write a short answer to the following questions. If you need more room to write your responses, you may attach an extra piece of paper or write on the back of this application.**

1. Why would you like to be part of the robotics team? Why do you think S.T.E.A.M is important?



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2. Why would you make a good teammate?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Do you have any experience building LEGO® robots? What skills would you bring to our team?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Imagin that you have a great idea for our innovation project, but the rest of the team doesn't want to pursue it. What do you do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How can you use S.T.E.A.M skills in your future? How would you use them to help our school and community?

**STOP! Before returning your application do this quick check to make sure all tasks were completed:**

- ☐ I read all the information with a parent/guardian; I understand my commitment; they signed the parent consent to apply.
- ☐ I understand that space is limited.
- ☐ I answered all the questions in the application, including writing the paragraphs.
- ☐ I've stapled the letter of recommendation from my classroom teacher.
- ☐ It is not past 9-6-23; my application is not late.



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**Parent/Guardian Section** (please read carefully, print, and sign at the end)

I give my child \_\_\_\_\_ permission to participate in the selection process to be part of the WCES robotics team.

If selected, my child is committed to attend team meetings every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 5:20 p.m. unless meeting has been canceled by the sponsor or student has an excused absence from school that day. **I must make reliable transportation arrangements for my child, who must be picked up not later than 5:30 p.m. on the bus loop side of the school.**

This is a serious commitment; it's a time-intensive, team centered activity that might include some homework.

Successful academic progress takes precedence to team participation. My child must maintain a "C" average or above in all subjects to be active in the robotics team. Sponsor will routinely communicate with classroom teachers, students not making adequate academic progress will have to suspend team attendance in order to focus on their academics.

Robotics team members are expected to conduct themselves as leaders with character and display Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship.

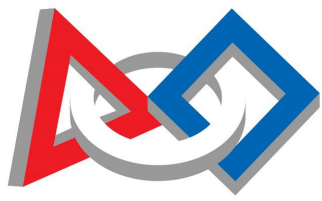
Misbehavior and/or disrespect toward sponsor, volunteers, and other club members will not be tolerated.

I Would like to volunteer with *FIRST*® LEGO® League ☐ Yes ☐ No

*You must be approved by the district first. Please fill out the school access form; a link to it can be found in the home page of the school's website (<https://stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply>).*

I have experience coaching First Lego League Robotic Teams or I have the following expertise in a S.T.E.A.M. field (please specify):

Parent/guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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Dear classroom teacher,

Your student \_\_\_\_\_, would like to join the WCES robotics team. As part of the selection process, I'm asking that they submit a letter of recommendation from you.

*Students have been advised of their responsibility to staple this page to their applications and personally return to Mrs. Vergara by the end of school on Wednesday, 9-6-23.*

Please give me your input below.

1. How would you rate this student's maturity compared to their peers?

Low            1                    2                    3                    4                    5                    High

*Comments:*

2. How would you relate this student's ability to take care of their responsibilities?

Low            1                    2                    3                    4                    5                    High

*Comments:*

3. How would you rate this student's dependability?

Low            1                    2                    3                    4                    5                    High

*Comments:*

4. How would you rate this student's ability to work with others?

Low            1                    2                    3                    4                    5                    High

*Comments:*

Teacher's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_