



**2012 Louisiana  
FIRST® Robotics Competition (FRC)  
FAQ SHEET**



<b>What is FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC)?</b>	For ages 14-18, grades 9-12, FRC has been labeled as "the Varsity Sport for the Mind." It is similar to FTC but is bigger, has more funding, and is just as fun. Students will gain valuable engineering and teamwork skills from this program. Teams can be as big as they want, as there is no maximum, and as always, Coopertition will play a key component in the FRC games. The arena for FRC games is bigger than that of FTC's, and each alliance is composed of three teams. Teams will get 6 weeks of time to build a competition-ready robot. After, which, teams will be not be allowed to work on that robot. It will be a stressful, exciting, and learning-filled build season no matter the team. A great program with great ideas, FRC will the experience of a lifetime
<b>Who runs FRC in Louisiana?</b>	LA FLL is run through Building Louisiana Science and Technology (BLaST), a 100% volunteer run not-for-profit organization dedicated to the ideal of building and bringing programs to enrich science and technology learning for the students of Louisiana.
<b>When will the Louisiana competition be held?</b>	The Bayou Regional Competition welcomes FRC teams mainly from Louisiana and Mississippi, though attendees can come from states as far as Massachusetts. Traditionally held in March, the Bayou Regional fills convention halls like the Alario Center of New Orleans and the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner. Competition weekend consists of a practice-day Thursday followed by qualifying matches and award ceremonies through Friday and Saturday. Dates TBA.
<b>How can I start a team?</b>	Excellent information can be found at <a href="http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/start-an-frc-team">http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/start-an-frc-team</a> .
<b>How many adults do I need for a team?</b>	For school-affiliated groups, one or more teachers are recommended for school-to-team communication. Though students should comprise the backbone of the FRC team, successful teams demand plenty of mechanically, electrically and financially savvy adult mentors. A 1:3 mentor-to-student ratio can be suggested, but teams are advised to explore their own fits for mentor/coach participation.
<b>How can I find a team for my child?</b>	FIRST's thoughtful link at <a href="http://www.usfirst.org/whatsgoingon">http://www.usfirst.org/whatsgoingon</a> filters for FRC in a given area. Another link at <a href="http://www.usfirst.org/regional-contacts">http://www.usfirst.org/regional-contacts</a> provides a list of regional FRC directors; advisably, contact the appropriate director for your area. If not, a Google search always yields surprisingly productive results.
<b>Who is eligible to participate?</b>	FRC team membership stands open to students in grades 9-12, ages 14-18. Individual teams, ranging from sizes of 6-100 members, may set specific criteria, such as for GPA. Students from public, charter, private, and homeschool are welcome, as are those affiliated with groups like the Girls Scouts or the Boys and Girls Club of America, for example.
<b>How much does it cost?</b>	Annual Team Registration and Kit of Parts - \$5,000 (required) Extra Regional Registration - \$4,000 Materials, Tools, Travel, Etc. - \$10,000 (estimated)
<b>IMPORTANT DATES</b>	<b>September 27<sup>th</sup></b> : Regional Registration Opens ( <a href="https://my.usfirst.org/frc/tims/site.lasso">https://my.usfirst.org/frc/tims/site.lasso</a> ) <b>January 5<sup>th</sup></b> : Kick-Off! (Challenge details are announced.) <b>February 19<sup>th</sup></b> : Stop Build Day (Robots must be bagged)
<b>What is the FRC theme this year?</b>	Each year, FIRST releases an exciting new game challenge, usually a twist on a popular sport. Students have six intense weeks, called the build session, to complete design and manufacturing of a team robot optimal to their resources and strategies. Though hints precede the unveiling of each new game, the official challenge for the 2012-2013 season has yet TBA.
<b>Where can I get more information?</b>	The official page of the FIRST Bayou Regional Competition: <a href="http://www.bayouregional.info/">http://www.bayouregional.info/</a> FIRST Robotics Team 1912 Combustion, <a href="mailto:combustion@team1912.com">combustion@team1912.com</a> and <a href="http://www.team1912.com">http://www.team1912.com</a> The official international FIRST link for all things FRC: <a href="http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc">http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc</a>