FIRST® Tech Challenge
New Team Grant Guidelines

Apply for a FREE Robotics Kit and get your students engaged and excited about STEM!

FIRST® Tech Challenge (for students in grades 7-12) is a project-based, STEM education program that gets your students excited about learning through robotics. Now is a great time to jump in and engage your students, while immersing them in the world of technology. Take advantage of a FREE Robotics Kit and Program Registration (valued at $2,000). *FIRST* Tech Challenge is fun and rewarding for both students and teachers alike. Using the latest Android technology, students will learn to design, build, and program a robot that operates via an Android device. *And, that's just the beginning!*

The mission of *FIRST*® is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting Mentor-based programs that build science, engineering, and technology skills, that encourage innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.

We have received a generous donation to help us get more young people involved in our life-changing programs – making **now** the perfect time to participate in real-life, relevant, hands-on STEM activities that are also designed to develop critical thinking, creative problem solving, collaboration, and teamwork.

The FREE Robotics Kit includes a *FIRST* Tech Challenge Competition Robot Kit and complimentary registration for the current (2015-16) and next (2016-17) seasons.

Join a vibrant community of over 400,000 participants and take advantage of tremendous support resources offered by *FIRST*. No prior experience with robotics is necessary.

Up to four grants will be awarded each week through April 15, 2016. The sooner you enter, the greater the chance you have to win!

FOR INSPIRATION & RECOGNITION OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
200 Bedford Street ▪ Manchester, New Hampshire 03101 ▪ 800.871.8326

firstinspires.org

Submission Criteria:

This grant is available to formal and informal educators who intend to start a *FIRST* Tech Challenge team that will serve students in grades 7-12 at a public or private school, or with a group of homeschool students, or with a community-based club, such as a local STEM or robotics club, Boys and Girls Club, 4-H Club, etc.

Additionally:
- The grant is intended for educators new to the *FIRST* Tech Challenge program. If not new to *FIRST* Tech Challenge, then you must not have participated in the last three years.
- Applicant must complete a short (up to 500 words) impact statement on why they want to start a team.
- Applicant must submit a photo of the applicant holding a sign that answers the question "How do you inspire students?" Please be sure that the sign is legible when used in social media and contains the hashtag #FIRSTInspires.
- Applicants agree to allow their name and photo to be used in *FIRST* marketing materials and social media posts.
- All applications will be considered, but special consideration will be given to those with greater need.
- Applicant must be 18 years old or older, and reside in the United States.

Grant Winner Requirements:

The donor's intent of the grant is to encourage more schools to participate and field a team in the *FIRST* Tech Challenge 2016-17 season. By applying for this grant, grant winners must:
- Register through our Team Information Management System (TIMS) within four weeks of being notified of winning the grant. In order to receive the robot kit, the applicant and one other adult must pass the *FIRST* Youth Protection Program screening process, which is part of the TIMS registration process, in accordance with standard *FIRST* guidelines.
- Intend to participate in the 2016-17 *FIRST* Tech Challenge competition season.
- Agree to do at least one of the following:
  - Visit a *FIRST* Tech Challenge event, or
  - Make contact with the local *FIRST* Tech Challenge Affiliate Partner, or
  - Connect with another *FIRST* Tech Challenge team in your area

- Applicants agree to allow their name and email address to be shared with the donor providing the grant funds.
- Applicants agree to allow their name and photo to be used in *FIRST* marketing materials and social media posts.

Winners are responsible for payment of all federal, state, and local income taxes, if applicable. All grant components, including the robot kit and 2016-17 program registration voucher, must be claimed and used by August 31, 2016, otherwise they will be forfeited.

Grant Award:

The grant value is approximately $2,013, which may vary slightly depending on shipping and local sales tax rates and includes:

- Registration for *FIRST* Tech Challenge current season and a voucher for 2016-17 season registration.
- *FIRST* Tech Challenge Robot Competition Kit based on the Pitsco TEXTRIX® kit-- everything a teacher needs to get a team started.
- Shipping and sales tax.

Application Process:

Complete this simple [application](#).
Winners will be notified by email. Winners will also be announced publicly on the *FIRST* website and through other *FIRST* media channels, including social media channels.

FOR INSPIRATION & RECOGNITION OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
200 Bedford Street ■ Manchester, New Hampshire 03101 ■ 800.871.8326

firstinspires.org