

# ROBOTICON

## TAMPA BAY



## Team Guide to ROBOTICON 2021

October 1-23, 2021

In Person and

Online on ROBOTICON [YouTube](#) and [Twitch](#)

Greetings ROBOTICON 2021 Teams!

We're so glad you're joining us for the continuing adventure of ROBOTICON in the time of COVID-19. Our hybrid event will run October 1 through October 23, with programming most weekends and some online content on weekdays. Opening Ceremonies will be hosted on AMRoC Fab Lab's First Friday at the Fab Lab livestream and Closing Ceremonies will be hosted live October 23, at 6pm, and livestreamed. This guide covers everything happening in between!

This Guide to ROBOTICON 2021 includes:

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## Goals, Hopes and Expectations

Our goal is that teams participating in ROBOTICON this year have a safe, fun and instructive experience during their game day(s) that gives a nice approximation of a live competition experience.

Our hope is that you and your students, participating in person and watching online, will enjoy yourselves, learn something new, and find inspiration and joy in what continue to be challenging times. We also hope things go smoothly, but because there are a lot of moving parts to our month-long event, and we've all had plenty of time now to experience the foibles of online meetings, classes and conferences, the expectation should be that, at some point, things will not go as expected. Connections will drop, cameras will fail, time schedules will be off, links will break.

While we'll do our best to make these rare occurrences, we trust you'll be patient and understanding and keep your Gracious Professionalism front and center when they do happen. On our end, we will do our best to make sure every team gets their time in the spotlight, and every chance to run robots and participate however they can.

Please encourage family and friends to follow along on the ROBOTICON [YouTube](#) and [Twitch](#) channels, check out team and sponsor features on the [ROBOTICON website](#) and cheer teams on social media with #ROBOTICON2021 and #ROBOTICONLive .

## GENERAL PARTICIPATION INFORMATION - IMPORTANT

→ **ROBOTICON Code of Conduct:** RD Management and University Mall, as well as community partners located in and around AMRoC Fab Lab at University Mall have all been amazingly accommodating, kind and supportive of ROBOTICON 2021, so we ask that you thank them by conducting yourselves with **\*\* class and professionalism at all times. \*\***

→ **What's the Point?** The goal of ROBOTICON is to provide fun and educational robot game play for students, and to inform the business community and the general public about great STEAM education and career resources and opportunities. The more professionally and maturely teams conduct themselves, the greater the chances of gaining new mentors, sponsors, community, and academic support in Tampa Bay and beyond.

→ **How to Make the Most of It** - All students, coaches, mentors, teachers, parents and all attendant team associates are encouraged to have fun and expected to exhibit Gracious Professionalism while doing so throughout their time at ROBOTICON 2021. There will be media in attendance, as well as special guests from Tampa Bay and central Florida businesses and schools. Be sure to have plenty of information about your team handy, too, to share with them.

### **FIRST Robotics Competition Teams: Please remember**

- This is an **Off-Season Event** with (really) unofficial games
- It **is intended primarily for fun, team building and educational purposes**
- Everyone producing the event is volunteering their time.

- Please thank them with your patience and understanding during game play and throughout the weekend
- Keep the right perspective about the intention of the event – which is to improve your season readiness and success.

### **For ALL Teams**

#### **Safety:**

- Masks are REQUIRED in AMRoC Fab Lab, and in our classroom space. Masks are highly recommended when in the mall, at the team expo area when interacting with guests and when visiting event partner and sponsor booths.
- Please dress appropriately in competition spaces: Closed toed shoes required in AMRoC
- **For FTC & FRC Safety glasses are required while in working with tools and running robots on the fields.**
- All usual common-sense competition guidance applies.
- No running or horseplay anywhere in AMRoC or in the Mall.

## TRAVEL, LODGING & DINING

**LOCATION:** AMRoC Fab Lab is easily accessible from I-275 and I-75:

Address: 2149 University Square Mall, Tampa , FL 33612 -

Driving Directions: <https://goo.gl/maps/Af8cY5jrwuam1oqD8>

**HOTELS:** If you're coming from outside of Tampa Bay for ROBOTICON, you can find lodging specials for the event here: [Travel & Lodging | ROBOTICON](#) along with driving directions to AMRoC Fab Lab

**PARKING:** University Mall parking is free and abundant, but **please let us know if your group will need to park a school bus or any oversized vehicles** so we can advise mall security. We recommend parking at the west end of the mall, where most activity will be taking place (see attached map)

**DINING:** There's food everywhere around the Mall, and up in the Mall food court.

## LOAD IN/LOAD OUT

As per University Mall preferences, **all teams must load in through [AMRoC Fab Lab](#), and must check out through the Fab Lab at the end of the day** A map of the mall with AMRoC highlighted and the back load in/load out area will be included in your Team Guide to ROBOTICON tomorrow..

**Team members and team supervisors/coaches will all receive a *wrist band*** at the time of check in that will admit them to the Fab Lab, the classroom space, and give them access to special tours and opportunities during their time at ROBOTICON.

## TEAMS EVENT SCHEDULE

There are four different youth robotics programs participating in ROBOTICON 2021, along with an Alumni event, each with their own day or days to enjoy scrimmage time on game fields, classes, workshops and presentations from event partners. More specific information for each program can be found in the [Program Specific Event Schedule below](#).

- **October 1 – Opening Ceremonies** , Livestreamed 6pm on ROBOTICON [Twitch](#) and [YouTube](#) from AMRoC Fab Lab with [FIRST Looks](#), and special guest, Paul Sohl of the [Florida High Tech Corridor Council](#)
- **October 2 – FIRST LEGO League Day**
- **October 4 – VEX Day**
- **October 8 – Early FRC check in Friday night**, starting at 4pm – practice field time starting at 6pm
- **October 9 & 10 – FIRST Robotics Competition Weekend - Skills game scrimmages - Dodge Ball and Soccer!**
- **October 16 – Alumni Day** – NEXT Demos, Alumni Programming and Game Night
- **October 23 – FIRST Tech Challenge Day** and
  - **Awards/Closing Ceremonies - 6pm**

### *Some points of note:*

- Match/scrimmage schedules will be generated each morning, after teams have checked in.
- Teams will also be given a schedule of each day’s workshop and program schedule when they check in.
- Please be patient and understanding of any schedule changes or updates. We’re working with a lot of different people and organizations to bring you the best experience that we can, under some challenging circumstances. Adaptability and flexibility will help you and your students get the most out of ROBOTICON, just as I’m sure they’ve helped you make the most of the previous year. Thank you so much in advance!
- Check in for each program will open at 10am, at the back of AMRoC Fab Lab, and check out/load out will typically be between 3pm and 5pm, depending on the program/number of teams participating.

## TEAMS SHOWCASE AREA - ALL PROGRAMS

The **ROBOTICON Team Showcase** area at the **west end of the mall** is just that – a place for teams to set up at a table (provided for you) to showcase your teams, promote sponsors and projects, and have a place for team members to gather and enjoy being with other teams between field time and other programs.

### *Here are some things to know:*

#### **Principal event rule this year: Travel Light!**

Space is limited, but there’s a workshop at AMRoC that can be scheduled for use during your time at the event, with a drill press, bandsaw, grinders, mini-lathe, hand tools, power drills, and a laser cutter available for use with supervision. *So please leave the big toolboxes at home!*

- These are **NOT** pits, nor intended to be – just exhibit tables.
- Absolutely **no canopies** over your tables. Space is limited to about 8x8
- No table covers are provided but you're welcome to provide your own.
- The Awesome Showcase Contest for all programs is on! So plan to make your table ... Awesome!

## AWARDS & CHALLENGES

Here's what we're looking at handing out at ROBOTICON 2021:

### All programs:

- Team Spirit
- Gracious Professionalism
- Awesome Pit (Table)
- Judges Awards for various achievements

### VIRTUAL CHALLENGES - Underway Now!

There are lots of ways for teams and students to challenge themselves and earn some great awards, including grants for starting new *FIRST* Tech Challenge teams. Please visit our [Virtual Challenges page](#) to learn more and register for the Team Grants, CAD Challenge and the ROBOTICON A-Team Awards!

### MAKE IT LOUD AWARDS

We'll be giving out a modest assortment of Team Spirit, Gracious Professionalism, and Judges Awards along with a few other awards. But one of our favorites this year is the **Make It Loud Awards!**

If your team or some of your students received awards or recognitions during their remote challenge season last year, we want to help you celebrate them in front of cheering crowds!

If you want to help recognize students, teams, mentors or anyone else who you feel needs a good rousing shout out, bring whatever award you want to highlight with you, and sign up for our **Make it Loud Awards** here: <https://forms.gle/u4jPvJcsUDuR7hd58> If you're traveling and can't come back for our Oct 23 Awards and Closing Ceremonies, we will make sure your awardee gets a standing O while you're on site ! Read more at the link above.

## PROGRAM SPECIFIC EVENT SCHEDULE

### *FIRST* LEGO League – October 2

#### Organized by West Florida *FIRST* LEGO League

- 10:00 am - 10:30 am - Teams arrive and set up
- 10:30 am - 10:45 am - Coaches Meeting (Welcome, Schedule of Events, Core Values)
- 11:00 am - 1 pm - Pairs of teams get 15 mins with the game table
- 11:00 am - 11:30 am - Spike Prime workshop
- 11:45 am - 12:15pm - Innovative Project workshop

- 12:30 pm - 1pm - Regional Updates
- 1:30 pm - 3pm Closing & Clean Up (may be adjusted due to number of participating teams)

### **Supplemental Programming for FLL**

- "Making Learning Approachable For Children: A Dyslexic's Perspective"- For Educators, with author and neuroscientist, Praba Soundararajan – 1:00pm - classroom
- "Learning Through Storytelling with Pumpus 'n' Pals!" STEM stories for students with author Praba Soundararajan, of Pumpas & Pals 1:30 – classroom
- SOFWERX Exhibits and Presentations - ongoing
- eSmart Recycling Deconstruction Zone - ongoing
- Bay Area Manufacturing Association Exhibit - ongoing
- Tampa Drones Exhibit and Drone flight experience – times TBA
- Meet Inaugural Young Innovators Challenge Winners – hosted by Florida Inventors Hall of Fame, the Florida High Tech Corridor and AMRoC Fab Lab – ongoing

### **VEX Robotics – October 3**

- 10:00 am - 10:30 am - Teams arrive and set up
- 10:30 am - 10:45 am - Coaches Meeting (Welcome, Program & scrimmage schedule)
- 11am to 3pm – field and table scrimmages
- 3:30pm Closing & Clean Up (may be adjusted due to number of participating teams)

### **Supplemental Programming for VEX Robotics:**

- "Learning Through Storytelling with Pumpus 'n' Pals!" STEM stories for students with author Praba Soundararajan, of Pumpas & Pals 11:30 – classroom
- "Making Learning Approachable For Children: A Dyslexic's Perspective"- For Educators, with author and neuroscientist, Praba Soundararajan – 1:00pm - classroom
- SOFWERX Exhibits and Presentation:
- eSmart Recycling Deconstruction Zone
- Bay Area Manufacturing Association Exhibit
- Tampa Drones Exhibit and Drone flight experience

### **FIRST Robotics Competition October 8-10**

- Early Load In on Friday October 8:4pm to 6pm
  - Teams can load in through AMRoC until 6pm
  - Open field practice till 8 – field time assigned after final early check in
- Saturday October 9 Load In: 10:00 am - 10:30 am - Teams arrive and set up
  - 10:30 am - 10:45 am - Coaches Meeting (Welcome, Program & scrimmage schedule)
  - 11am to 5pm – scrimmages and workshops
  - 5:30pm Closing & Clean Up

## **Supplemental Programming for FRC – October 9 & 10**

- Diamond View Studio Tours – maximum of 10 students and 2-3 coaches each 30-minute tour – Teams will receive a pre-registration link for the tours, which will be filled on a first come, first served basis.
  - 10:00 - 10:30
  - 10:30 - 11:00
  - 11:00 - 11:30
  - 11:30 - 12:00
- PIGTalk: Together we Inspire, Exploring Outreach with Exploding Bacon 1902
- Infinity Aero Club – Aerospace and Aviation resources and presentations
- CAD Classes – Programming/Marketing/Media
- Drone Presentations and Demos Tampa Drones
- NETSVS – Cybersecurity presentations, career info
- SOFWERX exhibit and demos
- HADO (6:00 – 8:00)

## **ALUMNI Day – October 16**

We're celebrating Alumni on October 16 with the opportunity to participate in a post high school robotics competition: NEXT Robotics, attend tech presentations and career workshops, and enjoy an Alumni Social and Game Night at AMRoC, complete with HADO Augmented Reality active gaming. - Please invite alumni to RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/zEj7zjJ1bNc4FnQa8>  
Alumni teams can learn more and register to play NEXT Robotics Competition here: <https://roboticon.net/next-robotics/>

## **Supplemental Programming**

- SOFWERX exhibits and programming
- NETSVS -- programming apprenticeship session and women in tech - at their facility
- HADO AR

## **FIRST Tech Challenge - October 23**

- 10:00 am - 10:30 am - Teams arrive and set up
- 10:30 am - 10:45 am - Coaches Meeting (Welcome, Program & scrimmage schedule)
- 11am to 5pm – scrimmages and workshops
- 5:30pm Closing & Clean Up

## **Supplemental programming:**

- SOFWERX exhibits and programming
- Java programming
- CAD Tips and Tricks
- HADO AR
- Closing Ceremonies



## Awards and Closing Ceremonies – October 23 6pm

Plans currently call for Closing and Awards Ceremony in the Underground Lecture Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of University Mall, starting at 6pm. Smaller awards ceremonies may be held during individual program weekends to include teams that are traveling in from out of town.

## MEDIA

PLUGHITZ Live will be on hand each weekend with *FIRST* Looks (<http://firstlooks.tv/>) coverage of ROBOTICON. Interview opportunities will be available each weekend.

Tag Social media @ROBOTICON Tampa Bay on Facebook and @ROBOTICON Tampa on Twitter

Hashtags: #ROBOTICON Tampa and #ROBOTICON2021

## OTHER SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Some retailers throughout the mall will feature signs in their windows welcoming ROBOTICON Teams, and providing discounts and specials offers to those wearing their wristbands. Among the retail offerings for ROBOTICON teams:

- Discounted movie tickets at **LOOK Cinemas** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the mall ([Tampa, FL - LOOK Dine-In Cinemas - LOOK Cinemas](#))
- \$10 off any purchase of \$30 or more at **Hibbett Sports**
- Discounts at **The CoffeeHouse**

And others!

## SPONSORS

Most of our ROBOTICON 2021 sponsors will be at the event most weekends. If you see them, please thank them! They believe in this event and in the students and teams attending the event. They make it possible for us to have event space, feed volunteers, provide programming and resources for students and more!

This year's sponsors are:

- **Frontier**
- **The Florida High Tech Corridor Council**
- **SOFWERX**
- **Bay Area Manufacturers Association**
- **PLUGHITZ Live**
- **Foundation for Community Driven Innovation**
- **HADO Florida**
- **AMRoC Fab Lab**
- **Tampa Innovation Partnership**
- **RD Management**
- **eSmart Recycling**
- **Boon-Dah Learning System**
- **Well Fed Community**
- **RESO**



## Event Contacts

- Terri Willingham – Lead event organizer– [Terri@ffcdi.org](mailto:Terri@ffcdi.org)
- Desh Bagley – West Florida *FIRST* LEGO League – [SuncoastFLL@gmail.com](mailto:SuncoastFLL@gmail.com)
- Neirda Thompson-Pemberton : *FIRST* LEGO League - [FUNducation@outlook.com](mailto:FUNducation@outlook.com)
- Scott Ertz - PLUGHITZ Live, ROBOTICON livestream and media partner – [Scott@plughitz.com](mailto:Scott@plughitz.com)
- Bryan Bautista – CAD Challenge - [minibcan@gmail.com](mailto:minibcan@gmail.com)

Thank you again for being part of ROBOTICON 2021.

Have Fun! Learn Something New! Never Quit!

And always [be the kind of person Dr. Woodie Flowers believed you are!](#)

***With Virtual High Fives from All of Us on the ROBOTICON Planning Team!***