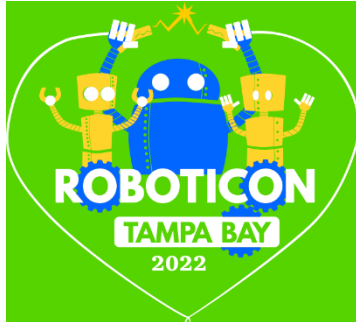


ROBOTICON

TAMPA BAY



Team Guide to ROBOTICON 2022

– v.4

October 8-29, 2022

Livestreamed every week on [ROBOTICON YouTube](#) and [Twitch](#)

Greetings ROBOTICON 2022 Teams!

Thank you for joining us for our 10th annual STEM Showcase, featuring K-12 youth robotics and drone teams, our first-ever Combat Robotics tournament, an Innovation Fair, workshops, presentations, industry tours and more! Opening Ceremonies will be hosted on AMRoC Fab Lab's First Friday at the Fab Lab Livestream on October 7 and Closing Ceremonies will be hosted live October 29, at 6pm, and livestreamed. This guide covers everything happening in between and includes:

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Goals, Hopes and Expectations

Our goal is that teams participating in ROBOTICON have a safe, fun and instructive 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.

Our aim is that things go smoothly, but because there are a lot of moving parts to our month-long event, and we know that with big events both in-person and online, at some point, things will not go as expected. Connections will drop, cameras will fail, time schedules will be off, links will break, people will be people.

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 #ROBOTICON2022.

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 2022, so we ask that you thank them by always conducting yourselves with ** class and professionalism. **

→ **What's the Point?** The goal of ROBOTICON is to provide fun and educational robot gameplay 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 2022. 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**
- 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:

- While masks are no longer required, we highly recommend teams keep them handy and use them in close and crowded situations or use common sense health and safety precautions throughout the event.
- Please dress appropriately in competition spaces: Closed toed shoes required in AMRoC and in and around competition fields.
- **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.**

Any program related individuals or teams who do not abide by our Code of Conduct or Safety protocols may be disqualified and removed from the event.

TRAVEL, LODGING & DINING

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

Address: 2154 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, visit our [Travel & Lodging | ROBOTICON](#) page, which also includes driving directions to AMRoC Fab Lab . While lodging specials have ended at this late date, the hotels listed may still have accommodations available.

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

Updated: As per University Mall preferences, **all teams must check in at [AMRoC Fab Lab](#), NW Mall Entrance, as highlighted on event map , and must check out through that area at the end of the day, as well.** A map of the mall with that entrance highlighted and other points of

interest are included in this edition of the Team Guide to ROBOTICON 2022. There will be additional way finding signs throughout the mall.

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 several different K-12, college and other 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 7 – Opening Ceremonies** , Livestreamed 6pm on ROBOTICON [Twitch](#) and [YouTube](#) from AMRoC Fab Lab with [FIRST Looks](#), with team interviews and special guests
- **October 7 – Early FRC check in Friday night**, starting at 4pm – practice field time starting at 6pm – **Please let us know by Thursday, October 6, if your team would like to check in on Friday** via https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdPED3wgMDIX4vJI5IRav6TfsSq5-of0AGUpGJ0nCPHs5Ra5w/viewform?usp=sf_link
- **October 8 & 9 – FIRST Robotics Competition Weekend – Rapid React!**
- **October 8 – Alumni Social & Game Night – 6 pm to ?**
- **October 15 – FIRST LEGO League & VEX IQ scrimmages**
- **October 16 – VEX Robotics Competition Qualifier**
- **October 22 – Lightweight Combat Robotics**
- **October 23 – Aerial Drone Competition scrimmages**
- **October 29 – FIRST Tech Challenge and VEX U & 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. 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.
- There will be an Awards Ceremony at the end of each program event, with a full recap during the Closing Ceremonies broadcasts.

TEAMS SHOWCASE/PITS AREA - ALL PROGRAMS

The **ROBOTICON Team Showcase** area will function as team pits, and a place to showcase your teams, promote sponsors and projects, and a place for team members to gather and enjoy being with other teams between field time and other programs. The emphasis is on “showcase” because team tables (which we’ll provide) will be out in the central mall area and more conducive to outreach than real “pit” areas. We may be able to set things up a little differently for FRC teams, but at this time all teams are advised to plan for the following:

Here are some things to know:

Principal event rule: Travel Light!

Space is limited, although there is a full-scale workshop at AMRoC – a few hundred feet bigger than last season - that can be scheduled for use during your time at the event, with a drill press, bandsaw, grinders, mini-lathe, hand tools, power drills, CNCs and a laser cutter available for use with supervision. So **please leave the big toolboxes at home!**

- These are **NOT** like usual competition pits, nor intended to be – think 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.
- Bring extension cords and power strips.
- Bring only small toolboxes.
- Bring folding chairs – but use them respectfully and keep pedestrian areas clear
- Bring handout materials about your team, and plenty of swag to share with other teams and guests
- The Awesome Showcase Contest for all programs is on! So plan to make your table ... Awesome!

AWARDS

Here’s what we’re looking at handing out at ROBOTICON 2022:

All programs:

- Team Spirit
- Gracious Professionalism
- Awesome Showcase Table
- Judges Awards for various achievements

And qualifying tournaments like VRC will have event specific awards as well.

PROGRAM SPECIFIC EVENT SCHEDULE

FIRST Robotics Competition October 7-9

- Early Load In on Friday October 7: 4pm to 6pm – **please let us know if you’ll be checking in Friday via this form:**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpOLsDPED3wgMDIX4vJl5IRav6TfsSq5-of0AGUpGJ0nCPHs5Ra5w/viewform?usp=sf_link

- Teams can load in through NW Mall Entrance until 6pm
- Open field practice till 8 – field time assigned after final early check in
- Saturday October 8 Load In: 10:00 am - 10:30 am - Teams arrive and set up
 - 10:30 am - 10:45 am – Coaches/Drivers Meeting (Welcome, Program & scrimmage schedule)
 - 11am to 11:30am – Field checks
 - Noon to 12:45 pm - Lunch
 - 1pm to 5:30pm - Qualifying Matches

FRC robots will be safely secured in a locked room overnight, and teams may store small toolboxes as well.

- Sunday October 9 – Final qualifiers and Finals Matches
 - 10am -check in
 - 10:30am – noon – Qualifying Matches
 - 12:15pm – Alliance selections
 - 12:30pm to 1:15pm – Lunch
 - 1:30pm to 4pm – Finals Matches
 - 5pm – Awards and Closing

Supplemental Programming for FRC – October 8 & 9

- Tampa Bay Community Network – video production best practices
- NET SVS/LT3 Academy Pre-Apprenticeship program – Career Readiness
- Pig Talk: FIRST Like a Girl – Exploding Bacon

You can RSVP early for some of these sessions, and others will be posted the day of.

ALUMNI Social & Game Night – October 8

We're celebrating Alumni on October 8 with an Alumni Social and Game Night at AMRoC with board and video games courtesy of STRYKE Esports, currently based at AMRoC Fab Lab. . -

Please invite alumni to RSVP by Thursday, October 6, here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfnQghCYFx2L-68vMutuXTmF0mHYC9oL2tYU6hK5_a5Qh_pHQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

VEX IQ – October 15

- 9am to 10am - 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 IQ Robotics:

- Tampa Bay Community Network – video production best practices
- Innovation Fair Exhibits and Presentations - ongoing
- eSmart Recycling Deconstruction Zone

VEX Robotics Competition Qualifier – October 16

- 9 am - Doors open to teams for pit setup
- 9am -10 am – Inspections
- 9:30 - 11:30 Skills
- 11:15 am– Drivers Meetings
- 11 am – Doors open to public
- 11:30 am to 12:30 pm – Qualification Matches
- 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm – Lunch Break
- 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm – Qualification Matches
- 3:30 pm – 3:45 pm Alliance Selection
- 3:45 pm to 4:45 pm – Elimination Matches
- 4:45 pm Awards

Supplemental Programming for VRC:

- Innovation Fair Exhibits and Presentations - ongoing
- eSmart Recycling Deconstruction Zone

Light Weight Combat Robotics – October 22

(Schedule will be sent to all registered teams by October 17 – learn more and register at <https://buildersdb.com/ROBOTICON2022>)

FIRST Tech Challenge - October 29

- 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

REC Foundation Aerial Drone Competition Scrimmage – October 29

(Schedule will be sent to registered teams by October 17)

Supplemental programming:

- Innovation Fair - ongoing
- Tampa Bay Community Network – video production best practices
- Java the Hutts ROBOTICON Round Table
- NET SVS/LT3 Academy Pre-Apprenticeship program – Career Readiness
- Java programming

- CAD Tips and Tricks

VEX U College Level Qualifier - October 29

- 9 am - Doors open to teams for pit set up
- 10 am – Inspections
- 10:30 am– Drivers Meetings
- 11 am – Doors open to public
- 11 am to 1 pm – Qualification Matches
- 1 pm to 1:30 pm – Lunch Break
- 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm – Qualification Matches
- 3:45 pm – 4:30 pm – Eliminations & Awards

Closing Ceremonies – October 29 6pm

Plans currently call for Closing Ceremony at AMRoC Fab Lab at 6pm. Individual awards ceremonies will be held during individual program weekends to include teams that are traveling in from out of town, but all winning teams will be highlighted during the closing ceremony.

MEDIA

PLUGHITZ Live will be on hand each weekend with ROBOTICON Live , providing interview opportunities for interested teams and students each weekend. Visit <https://bit.ly/2022RTB> to schedule an interview before your event day, to share your story or your teams! You can see past interviews here: <https://plughitzlive.com/radio/6-first-looks.html>

Tag Social media @ROBOTICONtampaBay on Facebook and @ROBOTICONtampa on Twitter

Hashtags: #ROBOTICONtampa and #ROBOTICON2022

OTHER SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Student Ambassadors & Demo Teams

We're looking for student ambassadors for our **Volunteer & Invited Guests Luncheon** on **October 8**, as well as for teams from all the different programs who might be interested in providing **Outreach** demos and talking to students and visitors on different event weekends. Our goal is to have representation from all student programs each weekend, in addition to the program holding a scrimmage or tournament. Participating students and teams will receive event shirts and lunch.

Please apply for either or both opportunities:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdkjy_v8iBw3jq1yrLzE2dYjoEDemW9FBpddUH4_jXw5xSV5g/viewform?usp=sf_link

Other 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 2nd floor of the mall ([Tampa, FL - LOOK Dine-In Cinemas - LOOK Cinemas](#)) - **\$5 to students with team wristbands**
- **Food court discounts** to ROBOTICON students with wristbands
- **Discounted gaming** at Stryke Esports

AMRoC Fab Lab's Artist Shop on Threadless carries **ROBOTICON 2022 shirts and gear**, and benefits FCDI youth STEM programming at AMRoC. Visit <https://amrocfablab.threadless.com/> to check out the selections.

Innovation Fair

The Innovation Fair will be in and around the Center Court area of University Mall. Exhibitors include the following community partners and event sponsors

- Bay Area Manufacturers Association
- SOFWERX
- Frontier Communications
- Soaring City Innovation Partnership
- US Engineering Sumobot
- Scoutler
- MOSES – Marine Rover, Cambridge Christian School
- Univ. of S. FL Honors College
- USF Formula Society (automotive)
- USF BioMedical Engineering Society
- LT3 Academy Pre-Apprenticeship Programs
- Robotics Education Competition (REC) Foundation
- Tampa Bay Community Network

& More!

SPONSORS

Most of our ROBOTICON 2022 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:

- **RD Management**
- **Tampa Bay Community Network**
- **Frontier Communications**
- **The Florida High Tech Corridor Council**
- **SOFWERX**
- **Bay Area Manufacturers Association**
- **PLUGHITZ Live**
- **Foundation for Community Driven Innovation**
- **AMRoC Fab Lab**
- **McCormick-Stevenson**

- Stryke Esports
- eSmart Recycling

- Soaring City Innovation Partnership

Event Contacts

- Terri Willingham – Lead event organizer– Terri@ffcdi.org
- Neirda Thompson-Pemberton : *FIRST* LEGO League - FUNducation@outlook.com
- Dan Kinzer – *FIRST* Tech Challenge - Tampa Bay Technology Alliance - drkinz@verizon.net
- Scott Ertz - PLUGHITZ Live, ROBOTICON livestream and media partner – Scott@plughitz.com

Thank you again for being part of ROBOTICON 2022

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!