



Team Guide to the ROBOTICON 2024 Off-Season Tournament November 2 & 3, 2024 Livestreamed via ROBOTICON [YouTube](#) and [Twitch](#)

Greetings ROBOTICON 2024 Teams!

Thank you for joining us for our 12th annual FIRST Robotics Competition 2-day off-Season tournament! This guide is intended to make your participation safe, instructive and fun for everyone!



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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 we all know that 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 make the most of this event.

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 #ROBOTICON2024.

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 accommodating, kind, and supportive of ROBOTICON 2024, 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 2024. 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.

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.

Safety:

- Please dress appropriately in competition spaces: Closed toed shoes required in AMRoC and in and around competition fields.
- **Safety glasses are required while working with tools in the pits 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>

NW Mall Entrance Load In Directions:

Please unload at the NW entrance to the mall, as shown in the attached map. Volunteers will lead you to AMRoC Fab Lab, where you can check in, and then to team pits area near the field in the center of the mall.



HOTELS:

There are many hotels in the area. The following two properties have been recommended by the Temple Terrace Uptown Chamber of Commerce and have provided courtesy discounts. These rates may not be guaranteed, but both lodgings have said they have availability Nov. 1-3. Both are within 5 miles of the venue.

[Ramada Inn Temple Terrace](#)

Rate is 115.00 per night plus tax.

Blanche Wade is the clerk

Mention Chamber of Commerce referral, and FCDI ROBOTICON event at University Mall

13 double bed rooms available as of 10/25

813-985-8525 ext 0

[Hampton Inn and Suites North Tampa](#)

Best to call Monday to Friday to get \$139 rate for our event

Ask for Crystal Lucas, referred by Temple Terrace Chamber of Commerce for ROBOTICON event

8210 Hidden River Parkway

Tampa FL 33637 US

813-903-6000

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

All teams must check in at AMRoC Fab Lab, as highlighted on the event map. A map of the mall with that entrance highlighted. There will be additional wayfinding signs throughout the mall, as well as volunteers to assist you.

Team members and team supervisors/coaches will all receive a *wrist band* at the time of check in that you'll need to keep for the weekend.

TEAMS SHOWCASE/PITS AREA

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 matches.

Here are some things to know:

Principal event rule: Travel Light!

Space is limited 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!

The AMRoC Fab Lab machine shop can be scheduled for use during your time at the event, and includes access to a drill press, bandsaw, grinders, mini-lathe, hand tools, power drills, CNCs and a laser cutter with AMRoC staff supervision.

AWARDS

Here's what we're looking at handing out at ROBOTICON 2024:

- Team Spirit
- Gracious Professionalism
- Awesome Showcase Area
- Finalist Alliance
- Winning Alliance banners
- Judges Awards for anything else that strikes our fancy

EVENT SCHEDULE

➤ **Early Load In on Friday Nov 1: 4pm to 6pm – please let us know by Thursday, Oct. 31, if you'll be checking in Friday via this form:**
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfxcFcKY43xOkBqeZTHfKgvU2dfAKj6ef2rAd6rcMxXFMBh5A/viewform?usp=sf_link

➤ **Saturday November 2 - Load In: 10:00 am - 10:30 am - Teams arrive and set up**

- 10:30 am - 10:45 am – Coaches/Drivers Meeting covering Welcome, Program & Practice schedule
- 11am to 11:30am – Field checks, Practice
- Noon to 12:45 pm - Lunch
- 1pm to 5:30 pm - Qualifying Matches

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

➤ **Sunday Nov. 3 – 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

ALUMNI Social & Game Night – Saturday, November 2 – 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

We're celebrating Alumni on Saturday, November 2, with an Alumni Social and Game Night at AMRoC with video, arcade, and table top games courtesy [Forge Gaming Center](#), based at AMRoC Fab Lab. - **Please invite alumni to RSVP by Thursday, October 31**, here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSejBF1gcg-6D8WmSZ7WkhpLiesfCo8vW5TUVbTPVsEMMRPprw/viewform?usp=sf_link

SPONSORS & PARTNERS

The ROBOTICON 2024 Off-Season event is produced with support from [FRC Team 5276, the Edgar Allan Ohms](#), which is based at AMRoC Fab Lab, and these fine organizations, who make it possible for us to have event space, feed volunteers, provide programming and resources for students and more!

This year's sponsors and program partners include:

- **The Florida High Tech Corridor Council**
- **PLUGHITZ Live**
- **Forge Gaming Center**
- **Foundation for Community Driven Innovation**
- **AMRoC Fab Lab**
- **RD Management**

Event Contacts

- Terri Willingham – Lead event organizer– Terri@ffcdi.org
- Scott Ertz - PLUGHITZ Live, ROBOTICON livestream and media partner – Scott@plughitz.com
 - Questions about Forge Gaming Center- Scott@forgegg.com

About AMRoC Fab Lab

The Advanced Manufacturing & Robotics Center (AMRoC) Fab Lab is a program of the nonprofit Foundation for Community Driven Innovation (FCDI). AMRoC aims to inspire personal empowerment through creative self-expression, entrepreneurship support and by bridging the manufacturing and industry talent gap through robust project-based engineering education and training.

AMRoC Fab Lab is an intentionally inclusive and accessible STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Manufacturing) learning and idea development center for people of all ages. Visit AMROCTampaBay.com for more information.



Thank you again for being part of ROBOTICON 2024

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!