



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Library Hosts *FIRST* LEGO League Information Sessions

New Braunfels, TX - Kids ages 9-14 who hope to join one of the New Braunfels Public Library's six competitive *FIRST* LEGO League (FLL) robotics teams should bring a parent or guardian and come to one of two informational sessions, either Thursday, June 26th or Tuesday, July 1st, from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. The Thursday session is at the main library and the Tuesday session is at the Westside Community Center

New this year is all-girls team the Lady Adas, named for Lady Ada Lovelace, the first computer programmer. The Lady Adas join five other FLL teams, all of which have spots available for boys and girls.

At the informational sessions, head coach Megan Clark will explain the time commitment, season schedule, the robot game and engineering project, and the next steps for families who are interested in joining a team. Space on the teams is very limited, so each child who wants to participate must come to one of the two sessions, as well as attend a two-day workshop later in the summer.

“We want to be sure families know that *FIRST* is a lot of fun, but also a lot of work and a big commitment,” says Youth Services librarian Kit Ward-Crixell. “The kids are doing involved computer programming and creating real engineering solutions to community problems. They’re definitely not just playing with LEGOs. Dean Kamen, the founder of *FIRST*, calls it ‘the toughest fun you’ll ever have.’”

FIRST LEGO League is a worldwide competition, with over 20,000 teams in 70 countries. FLL is part of the *FIRST* family of robotics competitions for ages 6-18. Kids who compete in FLL have the opportunity to move up to higher-level competitions and become eligible for over \$19 million in college scholarships.

“This is a great program that teaches engineering, computational thinking, and professional skills,” Ward-Crixell noted. “By the year 2020, the U.S. is expected to have 1 million more computer science jobs than qualified applicants. *FIRST* is a great way for kids to get experience in the kind of skills they can use to succeed.”

The library also sponsors a *FIRST* Tech Challenge team for high-school aged students and Jr. FLL teams for 6-9 year olds. For more information about these programs, call the library at 830-221-4300.

Thanks to the support of the Friends of the New Braunfels Public Library, the McKenna Foundation, and other generous donors, there is no cost to families to participate in any of the library robotics teams.

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