

# FIRST.2024 CHAMPIONSHIP

PRESENTED BY

**BAE SYSTEMS**

## EVENT GUIDE

Updated 4/5/24

LIGHTS. CAMERA. STEAM!

FIRST. IN **SHOW.**

PRESENTED BY Qualcomm

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## Introduction

The 2024 *FIRST*® Championship presented by BAE Systems will join thousands of students for the ultimate celebration of the Arts in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and innovation. This 2023-2024 season, *FIRST*® in SHOW presented by Qualcomm, empowers young people around the world to design and build a world of endless possibilities with big ideas, bold action – and creativity. The information in this event guide outlines our overall event goal to provide a unique, transformative experience to all teams, sponsors, volunteers, and supporters of *FIRST* in a fun and safe environment.

Join us as we celebrate a future that's built better together at *FIRST* Championship. Get ready to have fun and be part of something extraordinary. Lights, camera, STEAM!

## Accessibility at the Championship

If a member of your team requires ADA accessible seating, please make sure that you request that during the Championship registration process. Each program will make available accessible seating that accommodates as many of the team members as possible. All Closing Celebration activities will be Closed Captioned.

## App

Download the *FIRST* Championship App for interactive maps, personalized schedules, activities, team info, volunteer info, alerts, and more.

## Block Party at Discovery Green

Wednesday, April 17, 2024 – Friday, April 19, 2024

The *FIRST* Championship Discovery Green Block Party is the outside extension of our campus. A variety of activities will be available throughout the week such as giant family and lawn games, Live Band Karaoke, Silent Disco and musical acts. Discovery Green is directly across from the George R. Brown Convention Center. A detailed schedule of activities will be available in the app.

## Closing Celebration

Our closing celebration experience will bring together *FIRST*® LEGO® League Explore, *FIRST*® LEGO® League Challenge, *FIRST*® Tech Challenge, and *FIRST*® Robotics Competition celebrations under the roof of the George R. Brown Convention Center. Each program will have a custom experience, while a global broadcast throughout the convention center will keep attendees up to date on highlights from each program. All are invited to this joint Closing Celebration involving all programs. Please check the schedule for each programs ceremony time.

## **FIRST Championship Conference**

The *FIRST* Championship Conference will be held Wednesday- Friday. The conference includes sessions and workshops on topics of interest to all members of the *FIRST* community in the following conference tracks:

- Discovery
- Innovation
- Impact
- Inclusion
- Teamwork

Sessions are either 15 or 45 minutes in length and will be held in rooms 340, 350 and 360 on the 3rd floor of the convention center. For a full list of conferences please download the app.

## **FIRST Programs**

### **FIRST LEGO League Explore (grades K-4)**

Elementary school kids are challenged to explore a STEM topic, then present what they learned with on their team journey through their team poster and a motorized LEGO team model. Sixty teams will present their findings at the *FIRST* LEGO League Explore Festival located in Room 320, Level 3. For program-specific information in Houston, see [FIRST LEGO League Explore Addendum](#).

### **FIRST LEGO League Challenge (ages 9-16)**

Friendly competition is at the heart of *FIRST* LEGO League Challenge, as teams of students ages 9-16 engage in research, problem-solving, coding and engineering – building and programming a LEGO robot that navigates the missions of the MASTERPIECE<sup>SM</sup> robot game. All activities will be held in Ballroom, Level 3 at the George R. Brown Convention Center, where you can see 108 teams work on their robots and compete. For program-specific information in Houston, see [FIRST LEGO League Challenge Addendum](#).

### **FIRST Tech Challenge (grades 7-12)**

Middle and high school students have advanced from competitions around the country to compete on 12 x 12 foot playing fields with robots they have designed, programmed, and built themselves. 192 teams will compete in Hall B, Level 3. For program-specific information in Houston, see [FIRST Tech Challenge Addendum](#).

### **FIRST Robotics Competition (grades 9-12)**

High school students from over 600 teams compete on special playing fields with robots they have designed, programmed, and built themselves. *FIRST* Robotics Competition Fields and pits (safety glasses provided and required) will be in the George R. Brown Convention Center Halls A – E, Level 1. Watch teams compete in this year's robotics challenge on six playing fields. For program-specific information in Houston, see [FIRST Robotics Competition Addendum](#).

## FIRST Store

The *FIRST* Store is your on-site source for merchandise made exclusively for the *FIRST* #STEMsquad, including limited edition *FIRST* Championship must-haves. Get your *FIRST* gear now!

The *FIRST* Store is located on site on Level 1, outside Hall C and is open during the following times:

Date:	Open:	Close
Wednesday, April 17, 2024	6:00 AM	6:00 PM
Thursday, April 18, 2024	6:00 AM	6:00 PM
Friday, April 19, 2024	6:00 AM	6:00 PM
Saturday, April 20, 2024	6:30 AM	After Closing Ceremonies

## Food

### Concessions

There are concessions located within the convention center, with many food options around the George R. Brown Convention Center as well. Local food trucks will be around Discovery Green. [View a list of nearby restaurants.](#)

The food kiosks at the George R Brown Convention Center became cashless over the last year. Unfortunately, their equipment no longer has the capabilities to have cash available.

- Staff will be set up on the 1st floor (near our Main Registration) and 3rd Floor (near the Grand Ballroom lobby) at kiosks that will have the ability to accept cash and turn that into a GiveX card (a gift card that can be used at our R&C concepts) so they can use it throughout the week.
- Signage will be scattered on the 1st and 3rd floor letting people know, in addition to at the start of every R&C concept so they see that notice before waiting in line.
- The activation fee will be waived for these cards. They also will refund money that is still left on the card at the end of the event at those same kiosks, or they can keep the card with the money still loaded and will be able to use it next year.

### Pre-Order Lunch

Pre-order lunches are available at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

• [Lunch Order Form](#)

## Health and Safety

All children under the age of 12 must always be accompanied by an adult while in the Pit area.

Be aware of apparel and hair safety issues while working on your robot. Sandals, open-toed shoes, and Crocs are not allowed in the Pits, fields, or other teamwork areas. Wear relaxed, fun and appropriate clothing; remember, you represent your team and *FIRST*. Body paint in lieu of clothes, bathing suits and other revealing clothes are not appropriate.

Face coverings and vaccinations are not required but are recommended. If you are feeling ill, please do not attend the event.

## Mascots

Please keep safety in mind and make sure that mascot and team costumes are safe for the wearer as to vision and movement and are comfortable and cool enough to prevent fainting and dehydration. Mascots are not allowed on the playing field.

## Medical Incidents

*FIRST* requires that physical injuries and medical problems, however slight, be documented and reported to the party conducting the event or his or her designee and to *FIRST* Headquarters within 48 hours of the occurrence. Medical incidents can be reported electronically from any Wi-Fi enabled device using the [Medical Incident Form](#) on the [FIRST Reporting Portal](#). Pit Admins have tablets that can be utilized to report incidents to *FIRST*.

## Reporting Youth Protection and Youth Safety Concerns

The [Youth Protection Concern form](#) on the [FIRST Reporting Portal](#) can be used to report concerns related to Youth Protection and Youth Safety that do not involve medical incidents or physical injuries, such as bullying, harassment or inappropriate conduct involving or impacting youth participants. For other concerns that do not pertain to youth safety or medical incidents, such as volunteer or venue issues, you can use the [Other Concern form](#) and your issue will be routed to the appropriate party to address your concern.

## Safety Glasses

Safety Glasses are required to be worn by everyone while in the *FIRST* Robotics Competition and *FIRST* Tech Challenge Pit Area. Safety Glasses are available for spectators at major Pit Entrances for these programs, but teams should plan to bring their own.

## Security

Be sure to keep valuable items with you always or placed in a lockable compartment in your Pit station. *FIRST* and the George R. Brown Convention Center do not guarantee security of personal items. We strongly recommend that you do not leave behind valuable items in your Pits at any time, such as personal computers, cell phones, cameras, etc. You can report any lost items to the Event Information Desk (see Lost and Found).

Remember, the Pits are open to the public. Please take proper security measures to protect your valuable items.

## Prohibited Items

- Abusive, foul, or disruptive language
- Aerosol containers of any kind
- Animals (except service animals to aid guests with disabilities)
- Coolers\*
- Fighting, taunting, threatening remarks, gestures, or harassment of any kind
- Fireworks, firearms, and weapons of any kind (including parking lots)
- Glass containers of any kind
- Illegal substances, drugs, and drug paraphernalia
- Knives of any length except pocketknives no longer than 4"
- Laser Pointers
- Noisemakers (musical instruments, bullhorns, air horns, whistles, etc.)
- Outside Alcohol/Flasks

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- Outside food or beverages\*
- Smoking or the use of vapor (or similar) devices
- Throwing objects
- Trespassing, soliciting, peddling, and loitering
- Unauthorized/unlicensed vendors are not allowed.
- No unauthorized solicitation and materials including handbills, flyers, stickers, giveaways, samples, etc.
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems & Radio-Controlled Model Aircraft/Drones
- Any other item or action deemed dangerous or inappropriate

Event security reserves the right to deem any other item inappropriate. No prohibited item will be accepted at the entry gates for safekeeping.

\*Exceptions will be made for those with medical requirements and/or special needs. Individuals with these special needs should contact a security person at their entry gate for special attention.

## Innovation Faire

The Innovation Faire on **Level 2** brings together *FIRST* sponsors, supporters and students with engaging interactive events and booths. There will also be a college scholarship row, and other interactive exhibits. The students will take away a deeper understanding of why each sponsor celebrates STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) as the basis for their companies' existence, and how they can be a part of it in the future.

Hours of Operation:

Wednesday, April 17, 2024	10:00am - 4:00pm Plus, <i>FIRST</i> Scholarship Providers and Alliances
Thursday, April 18, 2024	10:00am - 4:00pm Plus, <i>FIRST</i> Scholarship Providers and Alliances
Friday, April 19, 2024	10:00am - 4:00pm

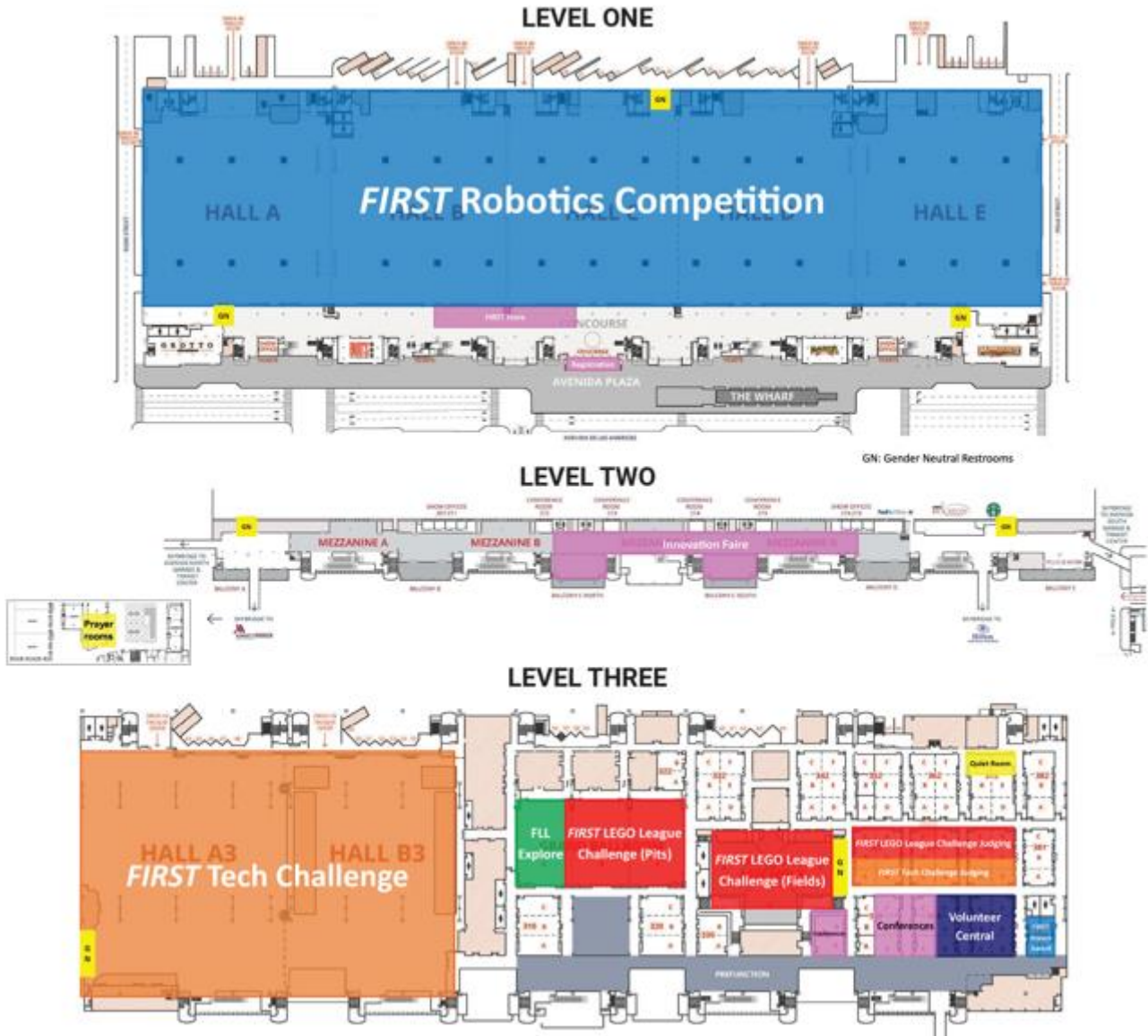
## Campus Map





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## Prayer Rooms

There will be two prayer rooms available for anyone wishing to observe religious practice onsite during event hours. Prayer rooms are located on the 2nd level of the Marriott Marquis Houston in Montgomery rooms A&B. The Marriott Marquis Houston is attached to the George R. Brown Convention Center and can be accessed from the level 2 skybridge located north of Mezzanine A.

## Quiet Room

A Quiet Room is available for those participants who need a quiet space to de-stress and take a break from the business of the competition. The Quiet Room location is on the third floor in 372 F. If you would like to donate items (things like playing cards, board games, stress balls, puzzles) for the room, please bring them to the room.

The Quiet Room hours are below:

Date:	Open:	Close
Wednesday, April 17, 2024	8:00 AM	7:00 PM
Thursday, April 18, 2024	8:00 AM	6:00 PM
Friday, April 19, 2024	8:00 AM	6:00 PM
Saturday, April 20, 2024	8:00 AM	6:00 PM

## Nursing Room

A Nursing Room is available in Room 382A on the 3rd floor of the GRB. This amenity offers a clean and comfortable room for traveling mothers to nurse, use a breast pump or care for young children. The Nursing Room features a table and comfortable seating. Please bring all supplies to effectively sanitize and disinfect this space before and after each use.

## Registration and Badging

Please be ready to present your ID when picking up your badge. [Badges can be printed / reprinted with preferred name.]

## Check-In

*FIRST* requires every Championship attendee to be registered and badged, including adult team mentors, youth team members, parents, family members, chaperones, etc. who are participating in the event. Attendee registration grants access to participant-only activities and increases the security of the event.

We strongly encourage your team to complete attendee badging prior to your arrival, as this will expedite your team's attendee badge collection and your entrance to the event.

## Consent and Release Forms

All participating team members and volunteers must complete a current season *FIRST* Consent and Release form.

## Pronoun Ribbons

Available at Central Registration and program Pit Admins.

## Registration and Badging Hours

### Central Registration Hours:

Date:	Open:	Close
Tuesday, April 16, 2024	7:00 AM	6:00 PM
Wednesday, April 17, 2024	6:00 AM	8:00 PM
Thursday, April 18, 2024	7:00 AM	6:00 PM
Friday, April 19, 2024	7:00 AM	6:00 PM
Saturday, April 20, 2024	7:00 AM	2:00 PM

### Satellite Registration Hours:

Date:	Satellite Area:	Open:	Close:
Tuesday, April 16, 2024	<i>FIRST</i> Tech Challenge	3:00 PM	6:30 PM
Wednesday, April 17, 2024	<i>FIRST</i> Tech Challenge	7:00 AM	12:00 PM
Wednesday, April 17, 2024	<i>FIRST</i> Robotics Competition	7:00 AM	7:30 PM
Wednesday, April 17, 2024	<i>FIRST</i> LEGO League Challenge	11:00 AM	3:00 PM

## Schedule

Please see the *FIRST* Championship app for the full list of events.

## Student Ambassador

Guests are invited to take an in-depth tour of the Championship with our most knowledgeable tour guides, our students! Tours are available Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. All tours are subject to availability. Please see the Student Ambassadors desk located near registration to set up a tour.

## Team Picture Area

There is a designated area at the *FIRST* Championship where teams are welcome to take group pictures with their sponsors, team mates etc. This area is located right outside of the GRB Convention Center. There will be a *FIRST* sign where teams can pose for their pictures to be taken. Please note, teams will need to supply their own photographers for the pictures.

## Venue and Local Information

We are aware of the concerns members of our community have expressed regarding our continuing to host the *FIRST* Championship in Houston, Texas. We do plan to remain at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston for *FIRST* Championship through 2025, due in part to pre-existing contractual commitments. We are keenly aware of the issues at stake in Texas and other states throughout the country, and we remain deeply committed to supporting the rights of LGBTQ members of our *FIRST* community wherever they live. We've built a strong relationship with the Houston mayor's office, which is committed to defending equal rights in Houston and has been recognized as one of Texas' strongest advocates for LGBTQ rights. We're proud of the work that the administration has done to advance LGBTQ rights in Houston, and we're proud of their support of everything that *FIRST* does. In addition, the Harris County DA also supports LGBTQ rights and opposes the recent proposed legislation on transgender issues.

As we have in previous years' *FIRST* Championship, we will continue to remain focused on ensuring a safe and welcoming space for all participants at every one of our future events. If you have ideas about how we can make our spaces even more welcoming, we would be more than happy to discuss them with you.

## Campus Locations

The *FIRST* Championship Event is a multiple point campus, which will include four venues/spaces:

### George R Brown Convention Center

*FIRST*® LEGO® League Explore, *FIRST*® LEGO® League Challenge, *FIRST*® Tech Challenge, *FIRST*® Robotics Competition, *FIRST*® Championship Conferences, the *FIRST*® Store, and the Innovation Faire including Scholarship Row.

The George R. Brown Convention Center is located on Avenida de las Americas. Visit the venue site here:  
<http://www.grbhouston.com/>

### Discovery Green

*FIRST* Championship Block Party

### The Marriott Marquis Hotel

Headquarter Hotel

### The Hilton America's Hotel

Headquarter Hotel along with a range of meetings and events

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## Local Transportation

Metro Transportation is available in Houston - [Purchase discount passes](#)

**POWER YOUR TRAVELS TO THE 2024 FIRST ROBOTICS CONFERENCE**

Conference attendees can now explore our nation's fourth largest city with the **METRO FIRST Robotics Convention Pass**. Enjoy unlimited local bus and light-rail service, April 17 - 20, including travel to destinations across the city.

**Pass Options**

Single Day Pass (Student) - \$1.50	<b>CLICK HERE TO BUY</b>
Single Day Pass (Adult) - \$3.00	

**DAY PASS**

**METRO**  
RideMETRO.org | Call or text 713-635-4000

## Lost and Found

Items for lost and found will be logged in at the information desk located near registration for the duration of that day. At the end of the day, the items will be delivered to building security where they will remain through the event. At the end of the event and for up to 30 days post event, please call the facility directly for missing items.

George R. Brown Convention Center  
713-853-8087 [GRBinfo@houstonfirst.com](mailto:GRBinfo@houstonfirst.com)

Items lost under the bleachers: Items of extreme importance such as medication, a purse or wallet, please note where you were sitting and check in at pit administration. Pit Administration will then contact security to retrieve your lost item. For all other items, security will make periodic sweeps and deliver found items to the Lost and Found at the information desk where you can then retrieve your items.

**Under no circumstances should anyone but security go under the bleachers.**

## Parking

Surface Lot & Garage Parking is available around the George R. Brown Convention Center.

## Restrooms

Gender-neutral accommodations available.

## Shipping

The George R. Brown Convention Center cannot accept shipments directly. For robot shipping please refer to the program addendum.

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## Wireless

Free wireless internet access is available in the common areas of the George R. Brown Convention Center. This access is not available on the Pit floor or in the playing field areas of the George R. Brown Convention Center. When not actively using your Wi-Fi, please switch off your Wi-Fi and personal hotspots to benefit robot performance.

Due to the wireless nature of *FIRST* control systems, wireless availability will be evaluated during the event. Teams will not be allowed to set up their own wireless networks at the Championship. While we certainly appreciate the positive potential team-created wireless networks could represent, there is a chance such wireless networks could interfere with planned activities during the event.

## Volunteers

As part of our global robotics community, *FIRST*® volunteers build and bolster millions of young people to embrace innovation and collaboration. At the 2024 *FIRST* Championship, you will work side by side with *FIRST* participants from around the world to help build their leadership and problem-solving skills and, their sense of belonging and selfconfidence, and most importantly, help them have fun! Join us for the ultimate innovation celebration and build up and inspire the next generation of changemakers.

Find out more about [volunteering](#) at *FIRST* Championship. Check out the [Volunteer Guide](#) for the most up-to-date information on the *FIRST* Championship volunteer experience.

## Webcast

The live stream will be available on [FIRSTtv](#). Visit Twitch for airtimes and archives.