

# Clemson Elementary Robotics Team

To 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students:

We are beginning to form our Robotics team for the 2017-2018 season. This year's First Lego League (FLL) challenge is hydro-dynamics. How can we improve the way people find, transport, use and dispose of water?

FLL is a robotics program for 9-14 year olds, which is designed to get children excited about science and technology. A team of up to 10 kids will program an autonomous robot (using a LEGO MINDSTORMS robot set) to complete a variety of missions, research a problem related to this year's theme, and create an innovative solution as part of their project – all while guided by the FLL Core Values. These three elements – the Robot Game, Project and FLL Core Values – make up the yearly Challenge. You can learn more about FLL at <http://www.firstlegoleague.org>.

The team will be led by parent coaches. Meetings will be held after school on Mondays from 2:45-4:30pm with the exception of a teacher's workday on Oct 16. We will meet on Tuesday, October 17 instead. There will be an all-day tournament held on a Saturday in December. Some of the possible dates fall during Winter Break. Since this is a team activity, please consider your schedule before signing up. The team is limited in size, so priority will be given to students who can be present at all meetings. There is a tentative schedule on the back of this page.

It is important to note that while there is a large LEGO/Robotics component to the Challenge, the children will spend a significant amount of time researching their project and preparing a presentation. This may include some time working independently at home. There is not fee to apply, but if you are selected for the team, there is a \$25 participant fee to cover costs. Scholarships are available from SDPC for students with free/reduced lunch.

We will hold a tryout meeting on Monday, Oct 2 from 2:30-4:30pm. If your child is interested in trying out for the team, they should come to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade hallway after school that day. If your child normally attends ASC, they should go to ASC first. You must send a "Change in transportation" form for your child that day. We encourage all interested children to apply regardless of their level of experience with LEGO or robotics. Our goal for this year is to learn as a team and have fun!

If you have any questions or concerns about the club or FLL, please contact me. We are always looking for parent volunteers, so please let us know if you are interested in coaching a team.

Michelle Tennant  
clemsonrobotics@gmail.com

# Team Selection Process

Although we wish we could include everyone on the team, we are allowed a maximum of 10 members per FLL rules. Rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders who participated last year are given priority so that our team can build on our past experiences. Each year we have between 4-6 available spots.

To Apply:

1. Email us at [clemsonrobotics@gmail.com](mailto:clemsonrobotics@gmail.com) to let us know your child will be attending the tryout meeting.
  2. I will email you the application form, permission form, and recommendation form.
  3. The student should complete the application form.
  4. The parent should complete a permission form
  5. The student must request a recommendation from either your current or previous year's homeroom teacher. The recommendation forms will be turned in by the teacher directly to the front office.
  6. Attend the tryout session Monday, Oct 2, from 2:30-4:30pm
- We will let you know by Friday, Oct 6 whether you have been selected for the team.

## Schedule:

The team will meet on Mondays after school, starting Monday, Oct 9 and continuing through December. If you anticipate a conflict with the schedule below, please note it on your application. The schedule is subject to change. The coaches will notify you via email if there is a change in the schedule.

### Team Meeting Schedule

Mondays, 2:45-4:30pm at Clemson Elementary (Mrs. Roth's room on the 4<sup>th</sup> grade hall).

Children must be picked up promptly at 4:30 unless they attend After School Care.

We will NOT meet on Monday, Oct 16. We will meet on Tuesday, Oct 17 instead.

Extra meetings will be held in December as necessary, either after school or on the weekend

The tournament date has not been scheduled yet, but in the past was first Sat of Winter Break. It is important that all students are present for the tournament. We will inform you of the date as soon as we know it.