

February 24, 2015



Vermont Principals' Association
Supporting Learners and Leaders

Vermont Principals Association Sanctions *FIRST* Lego League and *FIRST* Technical Challenge as a School Activity

BARRE – The Vermont Principals Association (VPA) has moved to sanction two *FIRST* robotics competitions as VPA-approved school activities, thereby granting the same benefits as other sanctioned activities and sports. Robotics teams will now be able to access to school facilities, coaches and resources to support the development of robots and robotics competitions in *FIRST* Lego League (FLL) and *FIRST* Technical Challenge (FRC) competitions.

“Robotics is growing in popularity in Vermont. It is considered a sport for the mind”, says Doug Webster of the Vermont Agency of Education, founder of the Champlain Maker Faire and member of the Vermont Robotics Leadership Council. “We would like every Vermont child to have access to *FIRST* Lego League by 2017 and expand the *FIRST* Robotics Competition, as well.”

FIRST started in 1992 with 28 teams at a high school gym in New Hampshire; now more than 400,000 youth participate worldwide and host an annual world championship in St. Louis, Missouri. There are four levels of *FIRST* programs: Lego League Jr., Lego League, Technical Challenge and Robotics Competition. Teams of youth from schools and communities create a robot and compete against others from around the country in a culture of ‘gracious professionalism’ and ‘co-opetition’. Teams not only master technical skills but also obtain 21st century, transferable skills that everyone needs to succeed in the modern world.

The FTC state competition runs February 27, 2016 at the University of Vermont Davis Center and the next FLL state competition is in November 2017 at Norwich University. Watch live stream at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/uvm-first-robotics>.

For more information about robotics in Vermont, contact Doug Webster at doug.webster@vermont.gov.

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