

**Robert Ekman**

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**From:** FIRST Tech Challenge <firsttechchallenge@firstinspires.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2023 2:30 PM  
**To:** bob.ekman@att.net  
**Subject:** Congratulations, You're Invited to the 2023 World Championship

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## **FIRST® Tech Challenge World Championship Invitation**

**Congratulations Team 6417,**

Your team is invited to the 2023 *FIRST*® Championship presented BAE Systems in Houston, Texas. Alongside 191 other *FIRST*® Tech Challenge teams from around the world, you will experience a thrilling five-day event that will stay with you for years to come.

Your season has been filled with successes, teamwork, and personal growth for each member of your team. *FIRST* Championship will provide an even larger opportunity for celebration with all *FIRST* programs. At *FIRST* HQ, we recognize the hard work your team has committed to in order to reach this level. Congratulations!

**This email contains important instructions and information about the event and upcoming deadlines.**

Please read all of the information carefully, [bookmark](#), and save this email.

### **Your *FIRST* Championship Details:**

- 1) Register and Pay for *FIRST*Tech Challenge World Championship in Houston
- 2) Hotel Accommodations
- 3) Airport and Arrival Details
- 4) Transport within the City
- 5) Save the date: Virtual Coach/Mentor Meeting
- 6) Promote Award & Compass Videos
- 7) Tentative Schedule of Events

### **1) Register and Pay for *FIRST* Championship by March 24, 2023**

In order to guarantee your spot for the *FIRST* Championship, log in to the [FIRST Dashboard](#) and use the "Team Events" section of your team dashboard area to pay the \$2,000 registration fee. **The payment deadline is March 24, 2023.** If your team has questions or concerns regarding this fee, please email [firsttechchallenge@firstinspires.org](mailto:firsttechchallenge@firstinspires.org) as soon as possible.

**Your team must also enter all your team members and traveling companions into our [badging and registration system](#). Each attendee is required to have a badge on site at the *FIRST* Championship event.** By registering before your arrival, you will avoid long lines and help mitigate wait times. We also use this list to create Certificates of Participation. Please ensure everything is spelled correctly as we will work from the names you provide. **[Be sure to include](#)** all members traveling and checking in with your team in your team badging registration.

## 2) Hotel Accommodations

[Click here to search for available hotel blocks and make team hotel reservations.](#) Please make your reservations as soon as

possible. *FIRST* is proud to partner with housing & travel experts, ConferenceDirect to bring you more than 30 *FIRST*-reviewed hotel locations for teams and all attendees to choose from during the 2023 *FIRST* Championship in Houston, Texas. ConferenceDirect as the only approved Official Housing Provider for the 2023 *FIRST* Championship event.

When you book your housing with *FIRST*, your team will:

- ✓ Receive guaranteed low rates.
- ✓ Rest easy at *FIRST*-reviewed hotels.
- ✓ Stay close to the venue and other teams.
- ✓ Enjoy convenient *FIRST*-contracted amenities at most hotels including complimentary parking, Wi-Fi, and breakfast.
- ✓ Get reservation protection and assistance before, during, and after your stay if any unexpected challenges occur.
- ✓ Gain flexibility to make booking adjustments and pay later.

## 3) Airport and Arrival Details

We recommend travel into **Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH)** or **William P. Hobby Airport (HOU)** no later than **April 18, 2023**. We have Team Check-In and Robot Hardware Inspection Tuesday afternoon, April 18, from 3:00PM to 6:30PM Central Time. Robot Hardware Inspection will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Your team may collect their team packets and badges, drop-off their pit supplies, and get started setting up their pit. No robot practice is allowed at this time in the venue. We will also have a robot help desk available to assist with any robot issues that may have occurred during travel.

**Teams need to be checked-in to the event no later than Wednesday, April 19, 2023, by 8:00 a.m. CT. Please arrange your travel plans so that they align with this expectation.**

#### **4) Transportation within the City**

*FIRST* Championship will be held in the **George R. Brown Convention Center**. For details, maps, and up-to-date information for planning your trip, check out the [FIRST Championship website](#). Please note, no transportation is provided to and from the airport, nor to and from the venue. Teams are expected to coordinate their own travel plans.

#### **5) Save the date: Virtual Coach/Mentor Meeting**

*FIRST* Tech Challenge will be holding an online orientation for *FIRST* Tech Challenge World Championship-attending coaches on **April 12 at 8:00 p.m. ET**. Save the date and join us as we take you through the venue, schedule, and expectations for teams. You will be able to ask questions as we work to help you and your team feel prepared for the event.

Register here:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1942296515118137689>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. We encourage teams to submit their questions in advance, by emailing [firsttechchallenge@firstinspires.org](mailto:firsttechchallenge@firstinspires.org), with the subject line “Virtual Coaches Meeting”.

#### **6) Promote Award & Compass Videos**

We encourage advancing teams that made a Compass or Promote Award video in their regular season, to have their Lead Coach 1 or 2 submit the video(s) to *FIRST* HQ to be viewed and judged to determine the World Championship video award winners. The top three Promote videos and the top three Compass videos will be shown at our World Championship event.

If you'd like to submit a video, please send it to us by **April 3, 2023**. This year we encourage teams to include closed captions for their videos to be considered for this award.

**\*\*\*\* SUBMISSION DEADLINE April 3, 2023 \*\*\*\***

#### **How to submit your video:**

👉 Be sure to read the criteria for the Compass and Promote Awards in the [Game Manual Part 1](#), Section 9.5.8 and 9.5.9.

👉 **The filename for your video must follow the naming convention:** State Abbreviation\_Team#\_Award Type. Example: NH\_12345\_Promote.

👉 The Lead Coach 1 or Lead Coach 2 of the team should fill out the form and [upload the video using this link.](#)

\*\*Files not using the naming convention listed above will not be accepted.

\*\*Files that are not within the 60 second time limit will not be accepted.

\*\*Files submitted after \*\*\*\*12:00 p.m. noon ET on 04/03/2023\*\*\*\* will not be accepted.

\*\*Teams must have rights to any music used in the video and permissions must be listed in video credits.

## **7) Schedule of Events**

The anticipated schedule is below. More detailed event scheduling information can be found on the *FIRST* Championship website: <https://www.firstchampionship.org/>

<b>Tuesday, April 18</b>	Team Check-in: 3:00PM – 6:30PM Robot Hardware Inspection 3:30PM – 6:30PM
<b>Wednesday, April 19</b>	Team Check-In: 7:00AM – 8:00AM Judging and Inspection: 8:30AM - 2:00PM <i>FIRST</i> Tech Challenge Championship Kickoff & Welcome Qualification Matches begin
<b>Thursday, April 20</b>	Qualification Matches continue
<b>Friday, April 21</b>	Qualification Matches continue, Alliance Selection
<b>Saturday, April 22</b>	Semi-Final and Final Matches, Award Ceremonies, Closing Celebration

This schedule is subject to change. In the coming weeks you will be receiving more team specific information, including inspection and judging schedules. Public agendas and other announcements will be posted at <https://www.firstchampionship.org/>.

## Questions?

Check out the [Event Guide](#) (coming soon) and [FIRST Tech Challenge Event Guide Addendum](#) (coming soon) on the [FIRST Championship website](#). Our event guide was created as a single-source document for teams attending World Championship. This guide covers everything from Pit rules to Drive Team Badges to Ceremonies, and beyond. We strongly recommend that teams (both returning and first timers) read this document. Oftentimes, questions that you may have can be answered here.

Make sure to bookmark our [Championship website](#) and check back often for updated information and resources.

Congratulations again. We can't wait to see your team at *FIRST* Championship!

Register for the Coaches Orientation today!



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