



Thank you for your interest in joining a *FIRST*® LEGO® League Explore / Challenge team! Please note that *FIRST* does not match individual children with existing teams and we are not able to provide you with contact information for existing teams. We have included information below to help guide you in finding a team in your area or to helping you start a team.

Finding a Team

1. Using the [Team and Event Search](#) tool on our website is a great way to look for teams in your area!
 - Use the “Filter” section to narrow your search results. For your convenience, we’ve filtered the results to include teams within a 25-mile radius of your zip code.
 - Due to our [Privacy Policy](#), *FIRST* is unable to provide contact information for teams; however, you can copy and paste the team name, number, and location into a Google Search as this often yields a website or Facebook page. Once you've identified the team or organization's public contact information, you may contact them directly.
2. If you do not find any team information via the Events and Teams page, it's because teams generally form via school groups, youth organizations, and community groups. We recommend reaching out to these organizations in your area to inquire if any have a *FIRST* LEGO League team, and if so, if they are looking for additional members.
3. The [FIRST Forums](#) provide a place for the *FIRST* LEGO League Community to talk to each other; teams, coaches, volunteers, *FIRST* LEGO League partners and parents. Although this is not a *FIRST* site (i.e., where official information is dispensed) it is a popular tool used by many teams and where you can ask if a team in your area is looking for additional youth to join.
4. The Program Delivery Partners for the California - Southern Region have also put together a special Slack channel where individuals can meet up and form their own teams. You can access the slack channel using the QR code shown here:





Starting a Team

In the event you cannot find a team in your area that is looking for new team members, we highly recommend starting a team. Although this may sound daunting, many parents start teams themselves or work with their local community organizations and schools to get one started. **Please know, no one does not need to be technical to start a team!** We cannot emphasize this enough. In fact, many of our coaches have limited technical skills. The most successful coaches are people who simply have an interest in science and technology, and in helping kids discover and learn.

Here are key items to know about starting a team:

Team Startup Checklist:

- A spirit of adventure
- The time commitment is 1-3 hours a week, over the course of 12 weeks.
- 2 coaches and at least 2+ kids
- A place to meet
- A willingness to raise funds ([sponsorships available](#))
- The desire to have fun and help kids learn
- The expectation to get more back than you give!
- The link to our webpage [Start a team](#) has all the information you will need to start a team.

We know this is a lot of information and a Team Support agent would love to answer any questions you may have to ensure your child can participate with us this year. Please feel free to contact us with additional questions.



Thank You,

Paul Kass, Cathay Schultz and Sarah Rodriguez
Your California - Southern Co-Program Delivery Partners