

## **Fall FIRST Lego Program**

Shrewsbury Robotics will be running the Fall FIRST Lego Program again this fall. The program is open to Oak and Sherwood Middle School students only. We will start September 12th and will continue until the final competition for each team. We expect the teams to compete at the end of November or beginning of December. Those teams who earn a place at the District Championship will continue until that competition at the end of December.

FIRST Lego League is a competition program for middle school aged children. Working in small teams the students will build a robot using Lego NXT or EV3 bricks to complete challenges within a 2 1/2 minute match. Additionally they will select a topic for this year's challenge, Hydro Dynamics Full details of the challenge will be available August 29th, 2017. As a team they will work on both the robot and the project, all students will be involved in the presentation of the project at competition. There is also a judging component for FIRST's Core Values which are an integral part of FIRST's philosophy.

Meetings will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30pm-8:15pm, in the Oak Middle School cafeteria, students are expected to attend all meetings.

The cost of the program is \$160 payable to Shrewsbury Robotics, this covers competition entry fees, equipment and a team T shirt. Students will also need to pay the middle school Activity Fee directly to their school, this is only paid once each year regardless of the number of activities the student participates in. The middle school Activity Fee must be paid before meetings commence on September 12th, 2017. If finances are an issue for your family, please reach out to the Robotics Program Director (contact information is provided at the end of this communication) for a confidential consultation.

This year we are again planning on running more smaller teams, with only 6 students on each team. We feel this will provide the students with more opportunities to work on the robot and hopefully a better overall experience. We still plan to have 100 students in the program. In order to provide a fair method of assigning those 100 places we will use a lottery.

The lottery will operate as follows: The database will open for sign ups on August 7th, 2017 and remain open until September 3rd, 2017. All signups will be assigned a unique record number. The record numbers will be used in the lottery, which will be drawn by a random number generator. Each grade will have 25 places plus waitlist places drawn. In the event that there are fewer than 25 applicants from any given grade the unused places will be reallocated to the other grades. Successful applicants will be notified through email, make sure you sign up with a regularly used email. Payment information will be sent to the successful candidates with their offer.

The primary purpose of this program is to encourage students to think about engineering problems and solutions in real world situations, work on engineering challenges using the robots, work together as a team, and hopefully think about STEM related careers. It is important to us that students have fun while doing this!

Last year we had more signups than we could accommodate, we anticipate this will happen again. If you are unsuccessful in securing a place through the lottery and would like to run your own independent team, I will be holding an informational meeting September 7th at Oak Middle School. The purpose of this meeting will be to provide information on how to sign up

and operate a team. Additionally this will provide an opportunity to meet other parents and students and hopefully find other team members.

Signups can be done through the direct link below or our website [shrewsburyrobotics.org](https://shrewsburyrobotics.org) starting August 7th, 2017.

Signup link:

<https://shrewsburyrobotics.wufoo.com/forms/r1v53f315iuewg/>

Questions can be directed to me at [carol@shrewsburyrobotics.org](mailto:carol@shrewsburyrobotics.org)

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