

FIRST Long Island Announces Award Winners from the 2022 Long Island FIRST Robotics Competition Regionals



The winning alliance of (left to right) Team #3171 “HURRICANES” from Westhampton Beach High School, Team #870 “Team R.I.C.E.” from Southold Jr. Sr. High School and Team #2872 “CyberCats” from The Wheatley School display their championship banners during the Long Island Regional #1.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Long Island kicked off its weeklong 2022 Long Island Regional FIRST® Robotics Competitions. They consisted of two back-to-back events which were held March 21-23 and March 24-26 at Hofstra University’s David S. Mack Sports and Exhibition Complex. Between both events, eighty-four teams from Long Island, the metropolitan New York area, upstate New York, Brazil, India, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Turkey competed. Both regional events culminated with awards and honors for areas such as design excellence, competitive play, sportsmanship and high-impact partnerships among schools, businesses and communities.



Blue Alliance robots from Team #1796 “RoboTigers” from Queens Technical High School and Team #1496 “Hicksville J-Birds” from Hicksville High School attempt to score their cargo into the hub during the finals of the Long Island Regional #2.

Long Island Regional #1

Samuel Kruse, the Mentor for Team #5736 “Kingsmen Robotics” from Kings Park High School, was named a Finalist for the Woodie Flowers Award. Winners of the Dean’s List Finalist Award were Stuti Bhatia of Team #6024 “R Factor” from Mumbai, India and Ashley Snyder of Team #527 “Red Dragons” from Plainedge High School in Massapequa.

Long Island Regional #2

Peter Beninati, the mentor for Team #1796 “RoboTigers” from Queens Technical High School, was named a Finalist for the Woodie Flowers Award. Winners of the Dean’s List Finalist Award were Christopher Palazzo from Team #871 “Robotechs” from West Islip Senior High School and John Galletta from Team #810 “The Mechanical Bulls” from Smithtown High School-East & Smithtown High School-West.

[See Full List of Winners on Page 2](#)

The Full List of Winners of the 2022 FIRST Long Island Regional #1 Awards Include:

Award	Team #	Team Name	School/Town
Imagery Award in honor of Jack Kamen	5016	Huntington Robotics	Huntington High School/Huntington
Rockwell Automation Innovation in Control Award	2872	CyberCats	The Wheatley School/Old Westbury
Rockwell Automation Creativity Award	3171	HURRICANES	Westhampton Beach High School/Westhampton Beach
Delphi Excellence in Engineering Award	1468	Hicksville J-Birds	Hicksville High School/Hicksville
Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers Entrepreneurship Award	7567	SESI SENAI SÃO PAULO OCTOPUS	Centro Educacional SESI 296/Bauru, São Paulo, Brazil
General Motors Industrial Design Award	358	Robotic Eagles	Hauppauge High School/Hauppauge
Ford Autonomous Award	870	TEAM R.I.C.E.	Southold Jr. Sr. High School/Southold
Motorola Solutions Foundation Quality Award	2487	Mechanical Animals	Sayville High School/Sayville
Johnson & Johnson Gracious Professionalism	2027	Robotic Dragons	Westbury High School/Westbury
FCA Foundation Team Spirit Award	6423	Ward Melville Iron Patriots	Ward Melville Sr. High School/East Setauket
Judges' Award	2869	Regal Eagles	Bethpage High School/Bethpage
Regional Finalist #1	2638	Rebel Robotics	Great Neck South High School/Great Neck
Regional Finalist #2	1468	Hicksville J-Birds	Hicksville High School/Hicksville
Regional Finalist #3	6911	SO BOTZ	Tappan Zee High School/Orangeburg, NY
Regional Finalist #4	8267	Riptide Robotics	Long Beach High School/Long Beach
Regional Winner #1**	870	TEAM R.I.C.E.	Southold Jr. Sr. High School/Southold
Regional Winner #2**	3171	HURRICANES	Westhampton Beach High School/Westhampton Beach
Regional Winner #3**	2872	CyberCats	The Wheatley School/Old Westbury
Regional Engineering Inspiration Award**	6024	R Factor	Neighborhood Group/Mumbai, India
Regional Chairman's Award***	2638	Rebel Robotics	Great Neck South High School/Great Neck

* The Chairman's Award is the most prestigious award of the event and recognizes the team that embodies the goals and purpose of FIRST and best represents a model for other teams to emulate.

** These teams were eligible to participate in the 2022 FIRST® Championship presented by Qualcomm® Incorporated at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas on April 20-23.

*** Denotes a rookie team.

The Full List of Winners of the 2022 FIRST Long Island Regional #2 Awards Include:

Award	Team #	Team Name	School/Town
Imagery Award in honor of Jack Kamen	5298	E-TECH CHARGERS	Energy Tech High School/Astoria
Rockwell Automation Innovation in Control Award	694	StuyPulse	Stuyvesant High School/New York
Rockwell Automation Creativity Award	564	Longwood Robotics	Longwood High School/Middle Island
Delphi Excellence in Engineering Award	810	The Mechanical Bulls	Smithtown High School-East & Smithtown High School-West/Smithtown
Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers Entrepreneurship Award	2601	Steel Hawks	Townsend Harris High School/Flushing
General Motors Industrial Design Award	287	Floyd Robotics	William Floyd High School/Mastic Beach
Ford Autonomous Award	870	TEAM R.I.C.E.	Southold Jr. Sr. High School/Southold
Motorola Solutions Foundation Quality Award	2791	Shaker Robotics	Shaker High School/Latham, NY
Johnson & Johnson Gracious Professionalism	1554	Oceanside Robotics	School 7 Oceanside High School/Oceanside
FCA Foundation Team Spirit Award	7717	Steam Punks	St. Michael's School/Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Judges' Award	6806	Mineola Wild Reds	Mineola High School/Mineola
Regional Finalist #1	1468	Hicksville J-Birds	Hicksville High School/Hicksville
Regional Finalist #2	1796	RoboTigers	Queens Technical High School/Queens
Regional Finalist #3	271	Mechanical Marauders	Bay Shore High School/Bay Shore
Regional Winner #1**	694	StuyPulse	Stuyvesant High School/New York
Regional Winner #2**	870	TEAM R.I.C.E.	Southold Jr. Sr. High School/Southold
Regional Winner #3**	2869	Regal Eagles	Bethpage High School/Bethpage
Regional Engineering Inspiration Award**	2869	Regal Eagles	Bethpage High School/Bethpage
Regional Chairman's Award***	1468	Hicksville J-Birds	Hicksville High School/Hicksville
Wildcard **	8739	Redhawk Robotics	High School for Construction Trades, Engineering and Architecture/Ozone Park
Highest Rookie Seed	8739	Redhawk Robotics	High School for Construction Trades, Engineering and Architecture/Ozone Park
Rookie All Star Award	8739	Redhawk Robotics	High School for Construction Trades, Engineering and Architecture/Ozone Park



Area Youth Recognized for Teamwork and Innovation at FIRST® LEGO® League Challenge Long Island Tournament

Contestants ages 9 to 14 took part in the annual FIRST® LEGO® League Challenge Long Island Tournament, which was sponsored by FIRST Long Island and held remotely on March 13 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Team #23785 “Meteorites Squared” from Hicksville won the Champion’s Award. The top teams won by embodying the program’s Core Values of teamwork and mutual respect while achieving excellence and innovation in both a robot game and innovative project.

FIRST LEGO League Challenge is an international program for 9- to 16-year-old children (ages vary by country) created in a partnership between FIRST and the LEGO Group in 1998 to get children excited about science and technology — and teach them valuable career and life skills. Children work

alongside adult mentors to design, build, and program autonomous robots using LEGO® Education SPIKE™ Prime or LEGO® MINDSTORMS® and create an innovative solution to a problem as part of their Innovation Project.

This year’s Challenge — CARGO CONNECTSM — called for teams to reimagine our global transportation system and explore ways of improving how we access and deliver needed and desired goods, making all communities more connected.

Twenty-one teams took part in the Tournament. The competition is judged in three areas: Innovation Project; Robot Design, and Core Values, which embody aspects of teamwork and good sportsmanship. Top robot game scores were also honored. The award winners were as follows:

AWARDS: FIRST® LEGO® LEAGUE CHALLENGE LONG ISLAND TOURNAMENT

Award	Team #	Team Name	Town
Global Innovation Award Nomination	22112	Portledge Royal Panthers	Locust Valley
Global Innovation Award Nomination	6435	Fire Dragons	Rocky Point
Innovation Project 1st Place Winner	39029	TriTech **	Dix Hills
Innovation Project 2nd Finalist	2180	LJHS LE’GO Lions (Holborow)	Middle Island
Innovation Project 3rd Finalist	51732	Dragon Racers	Huntington
Innovation Project 4th Finalist	30052	Team 4x4	Glen Head
Robot Design 1st Place Winner	22112	Portledge Royal Panthers	Locust Valley
Robot Design 2nd Finalist	15794	Buckley Cyber Dogs	Roslyn
Robot Design 3rd Finalist	1087	Brainstormers	Bayport
Robot Design 4th Finalist	46635	Brickaneers Gold	Islip
Robot Performance 1st Place Winner	50946	Overpowered Spicy Robot	Syosset
Robot Performance 2nd Place	54838	Overpowered Chicken Nugget	Syosset
Robot Performance 3rd Place	53744	Imagination in a Nutshell	Jericho
Robot Performance 4th Place	41153	Epic Robot	Roslyn

Award	Team #	Team Name	Town
Core Values 1st Place Winner	16174	Meteorites	Hicksville
Core Values 2nd Finalist	47463	Raptor Dactyls	East Islip
Core Values 3rd Finalist	54370	BRICKii	Stony Brook
Core Values 4th Finalist	50815	Brickaneers Duplo	Islip
Rising All-Star 1st Place Winner	53114	Robot	Jericho
Rising All-Star 2nd Finalist	43820	Robotic Lightning Kangaroos	Huntington
Rising All-Star 3rd Finalist	49289	Electric Eagles	Jericho
Engineering Excellence 1st Place Winner	37506	Microchip Cookies	Plainview
Engineering Excellence 2nd Finalist	2438	Camol Clan	Floral Park
Engineering Excellence 3rd Finalist	8085	Rocky Point Radical Robotix	Rocky Point
Champion's Award 1st Place Winner *	23785	Meteorites Squared	Hicksville
Champion’s Award 2nd Finalist	6435	Fire Dragons ***	Rocky Point
Champion’s Award 3rd Finalist	53744	Imagination in a Nutshell	Jericho
Champion’s Award 4th Finalist	50946	Overpowered Spicy Robot	Syosset

* The Champions Award winner was invited to participate in the FIRST LEGO League Challenge World Festival at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas on April 20-23, 2022.

** This team was invited to participate in the American Invitational Robotics Competition at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, New Jersey on May 14.

*** This team was invited to participate in the FIRST LEGO League Razorback Open Invitational at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, Arkansas on May 19-22, 2022.

The Coach/Mentor Award went to four coaches. The 1st Place Winner was Catherine Temps of Team #16174 “Meteorites” from Hicksville. Dave Savage from Team #48026 “Savage Bricks” from East Setauket was the 2nd Finalist,

and Shannen Delaney of Team #43820 “Robotic Lightning Kangaroos” from Huntington was the 3rd Finalist. The 4th Finalist was Paola Ragusa of Team #2438 “Camol Clan” from Floral Park.



Area Youth Recognized for Teamwork and Innovation at FIRST® Tech Challenge Long Island Championship

Returned to Syosset High School; First Live Event in Two Years

Contestants ages 12 to 18 took part in the annual FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Tech Challenge Long Island Championship, which was held on March 12 at Syosset High School. It was the first live event in two years.

The top-ranked teams, in order, were Team #3540 “RoboBoogie” from Hewlett, Team #4017 “RoboPandas” from Floral Park and Team #9421 “Hydrofluoric Robotics” from Greenlawn. The top teams won by embodying the program’s core values of teamwork and mutual respect while achieving excellence and innovation in both a robot game and innovative project.

FIRST® Tech Challenge is a widely accessible international robotics program for students ages 12-18 created to get young people excited about science and technology and teach them valuable lessons and life skills. Guided by adult

coaches and mentors, students develop STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) skills and practice engineering principles, while realizing the value of hard work, innovation, and working as a team.

This year’s challenge was FREIGHT FRENZYSM Presented by Raytheon Technologies. In this challenge, teams and their robots must navigate a complex transportation system by traversing barriers and racing against time to load and deliver essential items to those who need them most.

Twenty teams took part in the Championship. The competition was judged in three areas: innovation, robot design and Core Values, which embody aspects of teamwork and good sportsmanship. Top robot game scores were also honored. The award winners were as follows:

AWARDS: FIRST® TECH CHALLENGE LONG ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIP

Award	Winners
Promote Award 1st Place	Team #10419 “Syosset ELITE,” Syosset
Promote Award 2nd Place	Team #10696 “Syosset Syborgs,” Syosset
Design Award 1st Place	Team #5283 “LAIMO,” Lynbrook
Design Award 2nd Place	Team #14461 “RoboHawks,” Jericho
Design Award 3rd Place	Team #10738 “SBS Bears,” Stony Brook
Motivate Award 1st Place	Team #8110 “Invicta,” Dix Hills
Motivate Award 2nd Place	Team #10419 “Syosset ELITE,” Syosset
Motivate Award 3rd Place	Team #6438 “Syosset Syndicate,” Syosset
Arm, Inc. Control Award 1st Place	Team #1461 “RoboHawks,” Jericho
Arm, Inc. Control Award 2nd Place	Team #7407 “Team VEGA,” Dix Hills
Arm, Inc. Control Award 3rd Place	Team #3540 “RoboBoogie,” Hewlett
Raytheon Technologies Innovate Award 1st Place	Team #9421 “Hydrofluoric Robotics,” Greenlawn
Raytheon Technologies Innovate Award 2nd Place	Team #8110 “Invicta,” Dix Hills
Raytheon Technologies Innovate Award 3rd Place	Team #13375 “Great Neck North Goatbusters,” Great Neck

Award	Winners
Connect Award 1st Place	Team #4017 “RoboPandas,” Floral Park
Connect Award 2nd Place	Team #10696 “Syosset Syborgs,” Syosset
Connect Award 3rd Place	Team #7120 “Bionica,” Hewlett
Think Award 1st Place	Team #10419 “Syosset ELITE,” Syosset
Think Award 2nd Place	Team #4017 “RoboPandas,” Floral Park
Think Award 3rd Place	Team #16145 “Sea Lion Techs,” Seaford
Winning Alliance – Captain	Team #10738 “SBS Bears,” Stony Brook
Winning Alliance – 1st Team Selected	Team #4017 “RoboPandas,” Floral Park
Finalist Alliance – Captain	Team #123 “Syosset Vanguard,” Syosset
Finalist Alliance – 1st Team Selected	Team #13375 “Great Neck North Goatbusters,” Great Neck
Judge’s Choice Award	Team #20171 “Iron Phoenix,” Seaford
* Inspire Award 1st Place	Team #3540 “RoboBoogie,” Hewlett
* Inspire Award 2nd Place	Team #4017 “RoboPandas,” Floral Park
* Inspire Award 3rd Place	Team #9421 “Hydrofluoric Robotics,” Greenlawn

* The Inspire Award is the highest award that FIRST recognizes in the FIRST Tech Challenge.

It was also announced that Team #3540 “RoboBoogie” from Hewlett and Team #10738 “SBS Bears” from Stony Brook advanced to the FIRST World Championship at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas on April 20-23.

The top two Compass Award winners were John Chae of Team #10419 “Syosset ELITE” from Syosset and Team #10696 “Syosset Syborgs” from Syosset.

The Dean’s List Finalists were also named: Charley McNeilly of Team #16145 “Sea Lion Techs” from Seaford, Ketan Raghu of Team #6438 “Syosset Syndicate” from Syosset and Anoushka Rishi of Team #10419 “Syosset ELITE” from Syosset.

“RAPID REACTSM” Presented by The Boeing Company Was Unveiled as 2022 FIRST[®] Robotics Competition Challenge

SCHENCK USA Hosts Distribution of Kits of Parts to Teams Due to COVID Safety Protocols



“RAPID REACTSM” presented by The Boeing Company was part of the 2021-2022 FIRST season, *FIRST FORWARDSM* presented by Qualcomm.

In RAPID REACT presented by The Boeing Company, two competing alliances are invited to process cargo for transportation. Each alliance is assigned a cargo color to process by retrieving their assigned cargo and scoring it into the hub. Human players assist the cargo retrieval and scoring efforts from within their terminals. In the final moments of each match, alliance robots race to engage with their hangar to prepare for transport.

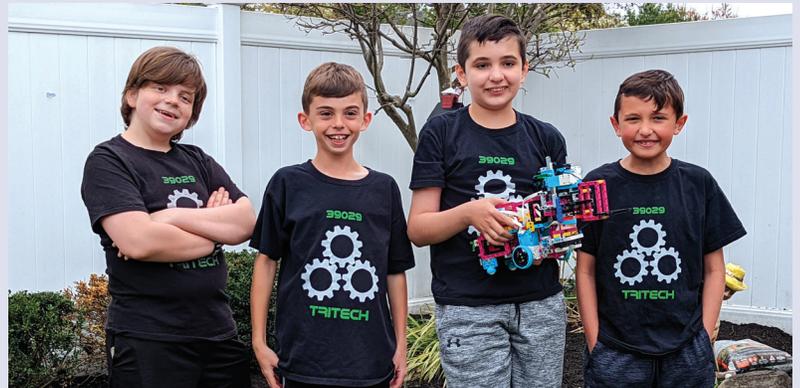
Due to COVID concerns, team leaders traveled to SCHENCK USA CORP. in Deer Park, where FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Long Island volunteers distributed a build kit to each team. Each build kit contained motors, batteries, control system components, construction materials and a mix of additional automation components, along with limited instructions.

Long Island FIRST volunteers distribute kits of parts to local team leaders as part of the FIRST Robotics Competition season kickoff at SCHENCK USA CORP. in Deer Park

Local Youth Robotics Team Was Recognized as a Finalist at the 2022 FIRST[®] LEGO[®] League Global Innovation Award presented by Qualcomm

Teams participating in the Global Innovation Award must consider possible barriers to implementation, document the evaluation of their invention, and validate their design with professionals working in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math).

Team #39029 “TriTech” from Dix Hills was one of the finalists at the 2022 FIRST[®] (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO[®] League Global Innovation Award presented by Qualcomm, which took place at Union Station in St. Louis, Missouri on June 21-23. The team was selected from tens of thousands of other teams from more than 110 countries for their outstanding Innovation Project. Their solution demonstrated strong design and innovation and the potential to add significant value in the world.



Twenty-One Teams Participated in the Tenth Annual Half Hollow Hills Invitational

Twenty-one teams from Long Island competed in the Tenth Annual Half Hollow Hills Invitational, which took place at Half Hollow Hills West High School in Dix Hills on October 29. The Invitational was presented by the Half Hollow Hills School District, with support from FIRST Long Island.

This year’s winning alliance consisted of the following teams: Team #263 “Sachem Aftershock” from Sachem High School, Team #870 “Team R.I.C.E.” from Southold High School, and Team #2869 “Bethpage Regal Eagles” from Bethpage High School. The runners-up were Team #3171 “Hurricanes” from Westhampton Beach Senior High School, Team #5736 “Kingsmen” from Kings Park High School, and Team #6423 “Iron Patriots” from Ward Melville High School.

A robot from Team #870 “Team R.I.C.E.” from Southold High School attempts to score its cargo into the hub while robots from Team #5736 “Kingsmen” from Kings Park High School and Team #3171 “Hurricanes” from Westhampton Beach High School engage with their hangar at the Tenth Annual Half Hollow Hills Invitational.

FIRST Long Island Recognizes Its Volunteers of the Year

Ellen Jane Pitrelli



Ellen Jane Pitrelli

Ellen Jane Pitrelli was named this year's *FIRST* Long Island Volunteer of the Year. She is a member of *FIRST* Long Island's Developmental Council and has served as a Volunteer Coordinator for the *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) since 2017. She works to find and organize volunteers to staff the FRCs at Hofstra University each year.

Dr. Pitrelli began working in the field of education in 1971 as a Business Education teacher. She taught for 25 years and also taught at the college level. In 2014, she retired from the Longwood

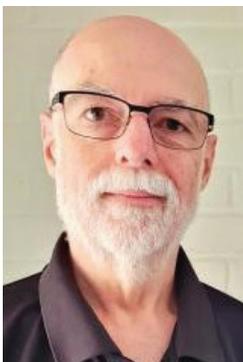
Central School District as the Director of Technology. Prior to her 10-year tenure as Director, she served Longwood as the District Occupational Education Chair (Grades 8-12) supervising and evaluating teachers and programs in the areas of Business, Family & Consumer Sciences, and Technology. Before that, she served as the Secondary Technology Teacher Trainer to support educators teaching in grades 6-12 with integrating technology into classroom instruction.

Upon her retirement, the Longwood robotics program honored her for her efforts by creating a perpetual scholarship in her name to be presented to a Longwood High School student who was a member of the robotics team.

She holds an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from St. John's University, a M.S. in School Administration and Supervision from the College of New Rochelle, a M.A. in Business Education from Hofstra University and a B.A. in Education from St. John's University. She also holds New York State certification in School District Administration, Business Education, and Mathematics.

In addition to her work with *FIRST* Long Island, she volunteers her time with high school students who are part of Stony Brook University's Health Occupations Program for Excellence (HOPE), which provides opportunities for juniors and seniors to explore medical careers. She also serves as a judge to evaluate the business plans of high school students as part of the Virtual Enterprises International (VE) program and as a grant writer to raise funds for Longwood's Blessings in a Backpack volunteers to provide food-insecure elementary school students with meals on the weekend.

Rick Ramhap



Rick Ramhap

Rick Ramhap has been named one of *FIRST* LEGO® League Explore's Volunteers of the Year by *FIRST*. He was one of four Volunteers of the Year honorees worldwide to receive this honor. He joins an exclusive group of honorees from the United States, Morocco, and Canada.

Mr. Ramhap became involved in *FIRST* Long Island fifteen years ago, when he formed a *FIRST* LEGO League Jr. (now known as *FIRST* LEGO League Explore) program within the organization and started a team for his two children.

Our Sincere Gratitude to all FIRST Long Island Sponsors

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- Engineers Joint Committee of Long Island (EJCLI)
- The Dittmar Family
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- The Stern Family

UPCOMING EVENTS



FIRST Tech Challenge Championship
Bethpage High School
March 12, 2023



FIRST Long Island Regional #1
Hofstra University
March 20-22, 2023



FIRST Long Island Regional #2
Hofstra University
March 23-25, 2023

THANK YOU TO OUR PAST PROGRAM DELIVERY PARTNERS

There has been a change in leadership for our programs for *FIRST* Long Island. We welcome our new Program Delivery Partners (PDPs) and thank our former PDPs, who have since moved on, for their service.

The new Program Delivery Partners for *FIRST* LEGO League (FLL) Challenge are Chris Baker and Troy Douglas. Rick Ramhap, who has been a *FIRST* volunteer for 15 years, was the FLL Challenge PDP before becoming the FLL Explore/Discover PDP with JJ Gembinski.

Marin Kobin and Caryn Meirs are the new PDPs for the *FIRST* Tech Challenge, following the departure of Ed Parry, who served in that position for two years, when the tournaments were virtual.

David Johnson has stepped down after volunteering as a PDP for the *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) for many years and serving as co-director for several more years. Larry Toonkel has been named the new director of the FRC.

We would be remiss if we didn't take an opportunity to thank Janet Anderson and Stephanie Stern for their 20-plus years of service and dedication not only to the *FIRST* LEGO League program, but to the whole *FIRST* Community on Long Island. Their leadership, experience and professionalism will be sorely missed. While we are sad to see them step down, we are thrilled to see that they still would love to remain engaged in our *FIRST* Community!

MEET OUR PROGRAM DELIVERY PARTNERS



Rick Ramhap

Rick Ramhap became involved in *FIRST* Long Island fifteen years ago, when he formed a *FIRST* LEGO League Jr. (now known as *FIRST* LEGO League Explore) program within the organization and started a team for his two children. In 2021, he was named one of *FIRST* LEGO® League Explore's Volunteer of the Year by *FIRST*. He was one of four Volunteers of the Year honorees worldwide to receive this honor.

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J.J. Gembinski

J.J. Gembinski brought his first team to FLL in 2016. Along with his co-coach, J.J. worked with that team from FLL Explore (formerly FLL Jr.) through an additional four seasons of Challenge. After his team aged out, he volunteered to join *FIRST* Long Island leadership and participate in FLL from a different perspective. J.J. looks forward to working with coaches, school districts, and his colleagues to bring Explore to future generations of teams.

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Troy Douglas

Troy Douglas is a project engineer designing industrial automation systems for the past eight years while working for Festo. He is a *FIRST* Robotics Competition Alumnus from Team 270, the "Falcons" from Deer Park High School. He has been involved with helping to plan and execute *FIRST* LEGO League, *FIRST* Tech Challenge, and *FIRST* Robotics Competition as a volunteer and development council member dating back to 2007 and was a mentor for *FIRST* LEGO League from 2003 to 2007. His previous role for *FIRST* LEGO League was regional head referee. For the *FIRST* Robotics Competition, he is a head referee and has volunteered out of state, internationally and at the *FIRST* Championship for a number of years.

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Chris Baker

Chris Baker has been a full-time IT professional for a Long Island school district for over 20 years. He is also a nine-year *FIRST* LEGO League and *FIRST* Tech Challenge coach and parent with three trips to the World Championship. He has enjoyed volunteering in many roles at all levels including referee, judge and many other positions. Chris has also been on the *FIRST* LEGO League and *FIRST* Tech Challenge development councils, helping plan and facilitate *FIRST* events for almost 10 years.

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Marin Kobin

Marin Kobin is a systems engineer who has been working with the Navy and Marine Corps for the past thirteen years. She recently graduated from a selective leadership program through work and added to her technical work by also becoming a supervisor. She is a *FIRST* Robotics Competition alumna from Team #1468, the "J-Birds" from Hicksville High School. After high school, she went on to coach and volunteer across the *FIRST* progression of programs in the Finger Lakes, Chesapeake and Long Island regions during and after college.

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Caryn Meirs

Caryn Meirs is a high school special education science teacher and recently earned her doctorate in education. Caryn moved with her FLL team to the fledgling NYC-Long Island FTC season and helped the team grow into a successful multi-team FTC club. She is awestruck at the opportunity to be volunteering for *FIRST* Long Island again — especially with the FTC program. At home, she lives with her two dogs and competes in agility and obedience on weekends without robotics.

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Larry Toonkel

Upon his retirement in 2015, Larry Toonkel joined the *FIRST* Long Island (formerly School-Business Partnerships of Long Island, Inc.) development council and served as a judge at the Long Island Regional *FIRST* Robotics Competitions. He was named co-director of the development council in 2017. In 2022, he became the council's sole director following the retirement of David Johnson.

Larry always had a love of science and technology and his career shows it. He worked for the Atomic Energy Commission, the U.S. Department of Energy and a small technology company involved in cell phones. In addition, he spent 30 years at Northrop Grumman, where he held various managerial and supervisory positions related to project management, software engineering and process engineering. He also served as the lead process engineer of the Enterprise Services Sector, ensuring that the systems were built in accordance with defined standard processes. It was his time at Northrop Grumman when he became interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiatives.

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190 Motor Parkway
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Inspiring Students to Pursue Careers in Science, Technology, Engineering & Math

ABOUT *FIRST*® LONG ISLAND

FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Long Island is a fully volunteer-run 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the goal to enable students to find their passion, while preparing them for the challenges facing the 21st-century workforce.

FIRST Long Island evolved from School-Business Partnerships of Long Island (SBPLI). In 1984, Frederick Breithut had the vision and foresight to recognize the need to develop partnerships between local high schools and businesses. His goal was to provide students with practical experience and curriculum development, while helping the business community develop its future workforce, which resulted in the formation of over 100 partnerships. To further this mission, in 1999, SBPLI partnered with *FIRST* to administer and bring *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) to Long Island. The Long Island robotics program featured just eight FRC high school teams culminating in the inaugural FRC Regional event. Since then, the FRC Long Island Regional has grown to two events with over 80 teams consisting of over 2,000 students competing each year. *FIRST* Long Island also hosts the *FIRST* LEGO League programs, in which over 2,000 elementary and middle school students from Nassau and Suffolk Counties take part each year. In 2016, the *FIRST*® Tech Challenge was added to its roster of programs, roughly impacting another 500 students on Long Island.

Now doing business as *FIRST* Long Island, the organization seeks to expand its impact by strengthening relationships with students, volunteers, and sponsors while helping to connect students and alumni to internship and job opportunities. *FIRST* Long Island continues to use robots as the vehicle to “build students“ and prepare them for the future.

For more information about the programs, find out about volunteering, or to learn how to become a sponsor, visit www.firstlongisland.org



FIRST
ROBOTICS
COMPETITION
Grades 9-12

FIRST
TECH
CHALLENGE
Grades 7-12

FIRST
LEGO
LEAGUE
CHALLENGE
Grades 4-8

FIRST
LEGO
LEAGUE
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