

First LEGO League Qualifiers To Begin Across Long Island

Organization shares excitement over the 'Into Orbitism' Challenge

BY ANTON MEDIA STAFF

SPECIALSECTIONS@ANTONMEDIAGROUP.COM

Students from across Long Island are set to blast off into a series of FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO League Qualifiers—presented by School-Business Partnerships of Long Island, Inc. (SBPLI)—starting Jan. 26. Students (ages 9 to 14) and their mentors from the program have worked hard to research, design, build, program and test LEGO robots that will best address the challenge set forth in Into Orbitism.

For this challenge, teams will choose and solve a real-world problem faced by humans during long-duration space exploration within our sun's solar system. They will also build, test and program an autonomous robot using LEGO Mindstorms technology to solve a set of missions in the Robot Game. Throughout their experience, teams will operate under the FIRST signature set of core values, celebrating discovery, teamwork and gracious professionalism.

The students will then present the solution during one of six different qualifier tournaments being held on the following dates and locations:

Qualifiers 1-3: Saturday, Jan. 26 (a.m. and p.m.) and Sunday, Jan. 27, (a.m.) at Mineola High School, 10 Armstrong Rd., Garden City Park.

Qualifiers 4-6: Saturday, Feb. 2, (a.m. and p.m.) and Sunday, Feb. 3, (a.m.) at Huntington High School, 188 Oakwood Rd., Huntington.

Teams competing in these events will then earn the opportunity to subsequently advance to the SBPLI FIRST LEGO League Championship



tournament at Longwood High School on Sunday, March 3.

This will be the 15th year that FIRST LEGO League has enabled students on Long Island to explore STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) through building and problem-solving. In addition, 2019 marks the 20th anniversary of the SBPLI Long Island Regional FIRST Robotics Competition. FIRST's history and long-lasting impact on Long Island will be honored at all events this year.

"The FIRST LEGO League students on Long Island have already been working diligently to identify real-life problems we face when traveling in space," said Stephanie Stern, FIRST LEGO League codirector. "It's amazing how passionate they are about finding a solution. It's going to be really exciting to see what they devise when they present at the qualifiers."

For more information on SBPLI and the FIRST Long Island progression of programs, or to become a sponsor, visit www.firstlongisland.org.