

FIRST LEGO League Awards

FLL teams will find complete descriptions as well as judging guidelines in the *FLL Coaches' Handbook*.

At Official Tournaments, award distribution is spread as equitably as possible among the teams, with the goal of no team winning more than two major awards at an Official Tournament. A team can only win a second award if one of the awards they win is for Robot Performance. To ensure fairness to teams and provide equal opportunity to win an award at an Official Tournament, teams are only eligible to win an award at the first official tournament they attend.

All Official Tournament participants receive an FLL Medallion to signify their accomplishments, both on and off the Competition Field.

Director's Award

The Director's Award is the most prestigious award that any team can win. The Director's Award celebrates the ultimate success of the FIRST mission and FLL Values. It measures how the children inspire and motivate others about the accessibility, excitement, and wonders of science, technology, and engineering while demonstrating respect, encouragement, and continued gracious professionalism. The winning team receives the honor of serving as a valued role model for FIRST and the FIRST LEGO League Program.

Teams considered for the Director's Award are those that perform well in technical and team performance categories, which are equally weighted. Once teams are selected, judges review the results of the teams' FLL Values Assessment interviews. Using this final parameter for determination, judges will decide which team(s) will receive this most coveted award.

Technical Awards

Robot Design Award

Judges look for teams whose work stands out for its innovation, dependability, or both. To assess innovation, the judges watch the robots work, looking for things that make them say "Wow!" and they interview team members to reveal the less obvious unique and inventive ideas. To assess dependability, the judges interview the teams to learn what solid principles and best practices were used to reduce variability and errors, then consider the most consistent teams from among those that ranked highly.

Robot Performance Award

This award is presented to the team(s) whose robot achieved the best score on the competition field.

Team Performance Awards

Project Awards

The Project Awards are presented to the teams whose quality research, innovative solutions and creative presentation best reflect an in-depth understanding of the various scientific disciplines and issues involved with the Challenge Project.

Teamwork Award

Teamwork is necessary to succeed in FIRST LEGO League, and is the key ingredient in any team. This award is presented to the team that best demonstrates extraordinary enthusiasm and spirit, exceptional partnership, the utmost respect to their own teammates, and support and encouragement of fellow teams.

Special Recognition Awards

Outstanding Volunteer Award

The success of the FLL Program is a reflection of the commitment and enthusiasm displayed by our volunteers. This award honors the dedication of the volunteer(s) whose assistance and devotion helped to change the lives of children for the future.

Adult Coach/Mentor Award

Many teams reach significant milestones of success thanks to their close relationship with an adult mentor. This award goes to the coach or mentor whose wisdom, guidance, patience, and devotion were most clearly evident in his/her team's discussion with the judges.

Young Coach/Adult Mentor Award

This award is presented to the young adult (high school through college) coach/mentor, whose impact and inspiration, devotion, guidance, and support were most clearly evident in the team's discussion with the judges.

Optional Awards

Against All Odds Award

Incredible odds can be overcome if we just never give up, no matter what. This award goes to the team who rises from the worst situation to improvise, adapt, overcome, and still make a respectable showing.

Team Spirit Award

Some teams really know how to go overboard. Their community knows them well. This award goes to the team who most enthusiastically demonstrates a commitment to getting others to see how accessible, fun, and rewarding science and technology can be, especially when you're part of a great team.

Judges' Award

Many high quality teams don't exactly fit the mold for an existing award, but are nonetheless deserving. Some teams have a story that profoundly sets them apart in a unique way. Sometimes, a given award is just too close to call. This award gives the judges the freedom to recognize the most remarkable teams for which a standard award does not exist.

Universal Design Award

FIRST is piloting an optional award to be given out at Official Tournaments called the Universal Design Award. This award is not part of the criteria used to select the Director's Award Winners, nor part of the Innovative Project Solution Award. This award is presented to the team(s) who incorporated principles of Universal Design into its Challenge Project solution and related presentation, to benefit people of all ages and abilities. Core principles of universal design state that "products and environments... be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. (Ron Mace North Carolina State University, the Center for Universal Design).