

BERKSHIRE ROBOTICS CHALLENGE (BRC) 2026 - CALL FOR REGISTRATIONS!!!



The Berkshire Robotics Challenge (BRC) 2026 is modeled after the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) annual challenge and offers an opportunity for children from third to eighth grade (ages 8-14) to build their science and computer skills while designing and programming a robot to complete a challenge. Students work in teams toward a competitive goal while learning problem-solving, teamwork and good sportsmanship. The event is a blast!

Each year FIRST LEGO League releases a new Challenge to teams based on a real-world theme. The Challenge has three parts:

- 1) Robot Build and Game:** Build and program an autonomous LEGO robot
- 2) Innovation Project:** Teams learn more about the science behind the Challenge theme and design a solution to solve a real-world problem.
- 3) Core Values:** The Core Values are part of what makes FIRST LEGO League so special, because kids compete like crazy but respect their teammates, Coaches, and their “competitors” — and they have FUN!

What, When, and Where is the BRC 2026 Challenge?

The BRC 2026 challenge theme is UNEARTHED. The UNEARTHED Challenge invites young innovators to explore the world beneath our feet by designing robotic solutions and conducting research that uncovers the hidden potential of Earth’s natural resources, infrastructure, and underground mysteries. The competition will take place on a Saturday in March (with Sunday as the snow date). We may incorporate a guest lecturer to discuss their use of robots in research consistent with the year’s FLL theme. The specific details of the challenge are contained in the team manual. The location of the 2026 BRC is pending but will hopefully be held again at Wahconah Regional High School in Dalton, MA.

Registration

Please register with BRC 2026 and FLL before October 7, 2025. Registering as soon as possible will ensure that you get your challenge mat and tabletop parts for team practice sessions.

FLL’s registration fee this year is \$289 and the robot set about \$576.90. In addition, a team needs the UNEARTHED LEGO Challenge set which is \$110. Please click the link below for the breakdown of pricing:

<https://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/fll/challenge/pricing-and-payment>

A breakdown for a new team is as follows:

- \$576.90 for SPIKE PRIME Robot kit
- \$289 to FLL as registration fee

- \$110 for the UNEARTHED Challenge Set

TOTAL: \$975.90

Other Items

- Team size is limited to a maximum of 10 students.
- Each team needs a coach and second adult. You do not need coding experience to be a coach. Just a willingness to help the team problem-solve and work together.
- Coaches and assistants will be required to undergo a CORI check.
- The programming for the robot is simple enough that the kids can teach themselves and the coach.
- We'll have coach support available from experienced local coaches. The FLL also offers a website and coaches' chatrooms.
- The LEGO robots are challenged to turn, climb, lift, and drop small items.
- We will hold a Coaches' Meeting on a Saturday in January/February to go over specific details of the challenge.
- For the BRC 2026 tournament, we may slightly modify the scoring to encourage completion of all phases of the challenge.
- While the principles of physics and programming involved could be integrated into a school science curriculum, most of our teams have organized themselves as after school or neighborhood clubs, meeting weekly from October/November through the competition weekend.

REGISTER NOW!

1. You must first register your team with the Berkshire Robotics Challenge (BRC 2026) on or before October 7, 2025. [REGISTER HERE](#)
2. Immediately after registering with the BRC 2026, please register with USFIRST [HERE](#). To reiterate, it is very important to do this as soon as possible in order to get the Challenge Manual and Kit.

Registrations will be accepted in the order in which they are received. Most teams are able to obtain necessary funding for team expenses (i.e., registration fees, LEGO Robot kits, etc.) from individual team sponsors. We can also help with fundraising or send a coach to speak to a group that might be interested.

Do you still have questions? Please contact:

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