

The PghTech Women Network™ and the Field Robotics Center at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) are pleased to announce the launch of girlsFIRST, an all-girls, all-Pittsburgh FIRST Robotics Competition team. The team will be composed of ninth-through twelfth-grade girls from across the Pittsburgh region. **Applications are being accepted from August 25–September 17.** The team will prepare during the fall of 2010 through a series of weekly classes and exercises at CMU, and will compete in the 2011 FIRST season, which takes place January–April.

We invite all interested participants to apply for this exciting opportunity to learn new skills, make new friends, have fun with robots, and represent Pittsburgh! All robot enthusiasts, both novices and experts, are welcome.

About the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC)

The FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition is referred to as “the varsity sport for the mind,” because it combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. Under strict rules, limited resources, and time limits, teams of 20 or so high school students are challenged to design a team “brand,” hone teamwork skills, and build and program a robot in seven weeks to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors. It’s as close to “real-world engineering” as a student can get. Volunteer professional mentors lend their time and talents to guide each team. **Additional information on the FIRST Robotics Competition can be found at <http://www.usfirst.org>.**

Why an all-girls FRC Team?

In addition to having fun while succeeding in competition, the primary goals of this team are to foster interest in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) for the girls and provide them with exposure to both men and women who have made these fields their careers. There are more than 2,000 FIRST robotics teams in the country, and unfortunately, female participation averages just 25%. So, join girlsFIRST and make a difference!

Important Dates:

September 17: Deadline for applications

October 1: Team announced

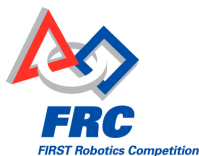
October 12: Introduction to FIRST Robotics class begins at CMU (Tuesdays from 4 to 6 pm)

January 8: FIRST 2011 kickoff (task announced, parts received, robot building begins!)

February 22: Robot complete, shipped to FIRST

March 11-13: Regional championship at Petersen Events Center in Pittsburgh (date not official)

April 27-30: World championship at Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis



Application fields (please complete every field):

Contact Info:

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

School: _____

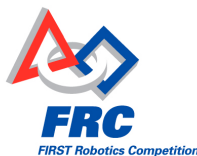
Grade: _____

Have you had experience with any of the FIRST competitions? Circle one. yes no
If so, please tell us about it.

Please provide a brief explanation of why you are interested in joining the girlsFIRST team.

FIRST-related interests (please check all that apply)

- ___ Mechanical construction
- ___ Mechanical design
- ___ Electronics
- ___ Computer programming
- ___ Website development
- ___ Fundraising
- ___ Team management/leadership



Past Experience

Note that prior experience in any of the following areas is not required to join the team. (please check all that apply)

- Metal Machining
 - Hand tools
 - Drill press
 - Mill
 - Lathe
- Electronics
 - Circuit design
 - Power electronics (amplifiers, motor drivers, etc.)
 - Soldering
 - Connector building
- Mechanical design
 - Solidworks
 - AutoCAD
- Programming
 - Java
 - C/C++
 - National Instruments LabView
- Website development
 - Web design
 - Web programming
 - URL of a website you built:
- Fundraising
 - Examples of prior fundraising experience:
 - Ideas for fundraising for girlsFIRST:
- Team management/leadership

Examples of prior team management/leadership experience:

Applicants under the age of 18 are required by law to have parent or guardian consent. Submissions without appropriate signatures will not be considered.

Signature of student _____ Date: _____
Signature of parent/guardian _____ Date: _____

Send completed applications to: girlsFIRST
Care of Lynnetta Miller
The Robotics Institute
Carnegie Mellon University
5000 Forbes Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213