

Coaches Coffee & Chat

I Have a Team, Now What? (FTC)

August 17, 2026

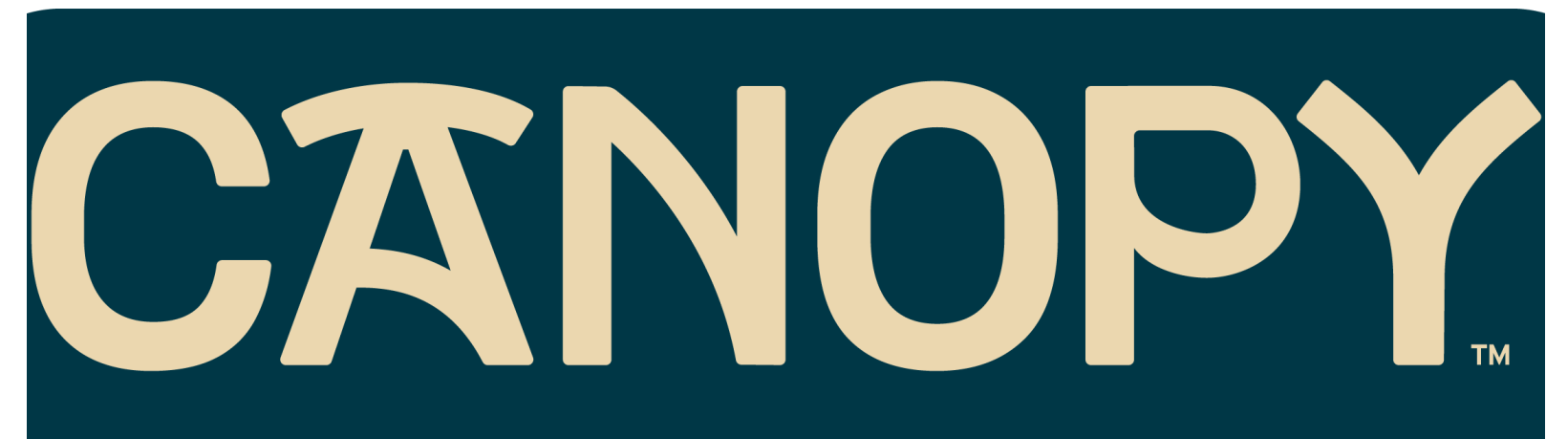
5:00 PM ET

Hosted by: Kelli Gowan

Jackie Caudill

Jeff Slaton

FIRST[®]



FIRST Teams Help *FIRST* Teams

Introductions: Name ● Team ● Role

How could we help?

A team runs into a programming challenge they can't solve on their own.

What could they do?

How could other *FIRST* teams help?

Be ready to share one idea.





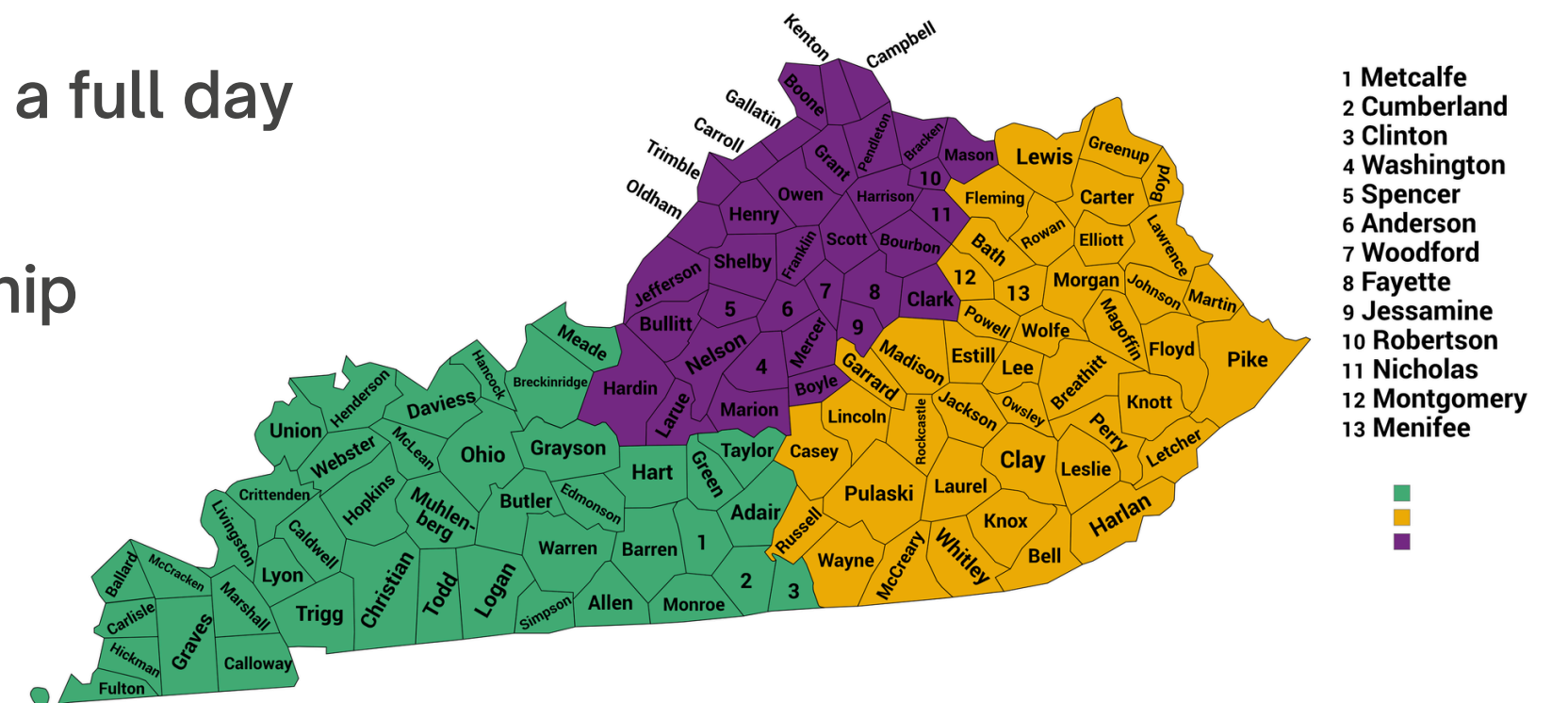
Objectives

- Let's connect!
- League/Competition Structure
- Registrations - *FIRST* & *KY FIRST*
- Funding & Grants
- Connecting with *KY FIRST* and each other

League/Competition Structure

- Three Leagues this season!
- Each League is independent through the League Tournament
- Meets are 5-6 hours, may be on a weekday - 2 per team*
- League Tournaments include the entire league, last a full day
- Advancing Teams move on to the State Championship
- Advancement: Premier Events and FIRST Championship
- Optional: Off-season events (eligibility varies)

*Possibility of additional events if there are openings



Registration

FIRST

- Season registration is \$350
- Your official team number is assigned by *FIRST*
- Registration includes access to training, the learning management system, and other team resources
- Your team roster is managed within the *FIRST* system
- Your team must be listed as “event ready” in the system before attending events

KY FIRST

- Kentucky season registration is \$400
- Includes Kentucky meets, league tournaments, and the Kentucky State Championship if your team qualifies
- Off-season events and advancement events beyond the state championship may have additional fees
- KY FIRST is your local contact for event information, season guidance, and direct team support
- KY FIRST helps connect teams with other teams, mentors, and resources when support is needed

KY *FIRST*

Your Local Contacts - Program Delivery Partners for FTC

Jackie Caudill - Eastern KY - Jackie@kyfirstrobotics.org

Kelli Gowan - Central KY - Kelli@kyfirstrobotics.org

Jeff Slaton - Western KY - Jeff@kyfirstrobotics.org



Financial/Grants

- Rookie Hardship Grants for new teams
 - Funds placed in your FIRST dashboard
 - Funds can only be used through the *FIRST* storefront for:
 - *FIRST* Registration
 - Control System
 - Game field & Game Set
 - Game
- Grants Administered through KY *FIRST*
 - Kentucky registration fees may be deducted from the grant total
 - Remaining funds may be issued by check or accessed through a Ramp debit card
 - Ramp card purchases require receipts to be submitted to KY FIRST
- Grants administered through another organization
 - Funds typically follow the payment and purchasing process of your school or sponsoring organization
 - When permitted by the funder, KY FIRST may be able to receive the funds and keep them designated for your team through Ramp
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What Does a First-Year Team Need?

Must-Haves

- [FIRST Registration - \\$350 | StoreFront](#)
- KY *FIRST* Registration - \$400 | KY FIRST
- Control System
 - [Driver Kit - \\$295 | StoreFront or REV](#)
 - [REV Robotics Control Hub V1.1 - \\$350 | StoreFront or REV](#)
- Robot Kit (Prices vary - see individual websites for latest offers & pricing)
 - REV Robotics | StoreFront
 - goBilda
 - AndyMark
 - Studica
 - VEX Structure can be used
 - OR NONE!
- Game Pieces or Field set - AndyMark or StoreFront
- Battery (if not included in your kit) - \$55 | Rev
- Adapter Cables - Rev, goBILDA or AndyMark
- Safety glasses

Nice-to-Haves

- REV Expansion Hub - \$350 | REV
- Field Tiles - \$293 | AndyMark or StoreFront
- Field Perimeter - \$740 | AndyMark or StoreFront
- Half or Full Game Set - AndyMark or StoreFront (individual pieces only on AndyMark)
- Extras Motors, Batteries, & Parts
 - Purchase from the same source as your kit for best compatibility
- Team t-shirts & Uniforms - easily recognizable with name and number
- 3-d printer and filament
- Various hand tools
- Duct tape, zip ties, and creative materials
- Storage containers for organizing
- Extension cord & power strip for events

Optional Items

- Robot Cart
- Pit display
 - Meets: usually limited to a table
 - Tournaments and championships: usually a 10' × 10' pit area
- Posters, mascot, team buttons, pins, and giveaways
- CNC Mill

Connecting

Connecting With KY *FIRST*

Website & Email

www.kyfirstrobotics.org

firstname@kyfirstrobotics.org

Add an email to our MailChimp Database



Connecting With One Another

How would you actually use a statewide coaches network?

Complete our two-minute survey:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/3XYCD2N09B>

