

Hello teams!

First of all, congratulations to all of you for a great FLL season so far! I will be communicating with you a great deal over the next few weeks leading up to the event so please make sure to take a moment to read the emails as they come in and stay informed.

We will archive these emails in our [Team Info](#) area on the website in case you want to refer back.

In this email:

1. **Welcome**
2. **Traveling to Canada with children**
3. **Hotels**
4. **Additional Purchases (buying extra Blue Jays' tickets and event souvenirs, etc.)**
5. **Consent and Release forms**
6. **Decorate your pit**
7. **Our Website**

WELCOME

We are very excited to tell each of you that we have **all** 72 teams registered for the Open in June. The official list of regions/teams attending the event can be seen [here](#). We have some [goals](#) for the event that we've shared on our site which we hope you'll agree are priorities for your team as well. Having each of you join us in Toronto in June is a great honour and we hope it's an experience you'll never forget!

Toronto weather in June is usually around 22-25°C (73-78 F) during the day and cooler in the evenings/mornings.

Everyone will be doing a lot of walking. Anyone who finds extended walking a challenge and requires a support device (wheelchairs, crutches, canes, etc.) should make arrangements ahead of time to bring with them. Check with your hotel's website or concierge to get an accurate trip method to the venue but the ones we've selected for you are easily accessible by subway. Public transit (called the TTC in Toronto) is a safe and economical method of travel within Toronto. If you would like to take public from the airport it's relatively straightforward. Here's a video explaining how you can plan your trip using Google Maps: <http://screencast.com/t/gA5PQBxCB>

A high level [schedule](#) for the event.

TRAVELING TO CANADA WITH CHILDREN

If you need VISAs to travel and haven't arranged that yet, please look into this quickly because it can take a while to arrange for them. If you need an invitation letter from *FIRST* Robotics Canada, please fill in [this form](#) and return it to me. I've also included a sample template of an "[Authorization Form](#)" you'll want to have all parents fill out if you're bringing children into the country without both parents. Please see this page for **more details/requirements** for traveling to Canada with children: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/arriving.asp>

HOTELS

We have secured hotel blocks for teams but a few of the hotels are getting close to capacity and/or preparing to release the block of rooms back into their general circulation for the

public. PLEASE make sure to book your hotels ASAP if you haven't done so already! The link to the hotel deals can be found [here](#).

"ADDITIONAL PURCHASES"

Your team fee (paid already), includes participation in the event and all the fun activities planned, including the Welcome Party on Wednesday night and the baseball game on Friday night, for the team members and 2 coaches. For those people who are traveling with you IN ADDITION to the team (i.e. parents, siblings, etc.), we have provided an option of purchasing "Welcome Party" tickets and baseball tickets. Furthermore, on this "Additional Purchases" page of our site, we are offering the opportunity for anyone to pre-order some **souvenir** items for the event including t-shirts and hats.

To order any of these items, please visit the "[Additional Purchases](#)" page of our site. You may send parents to this page as well, and as long as they include your email address in the purchase we will collate all the purchases (t-shirts, hats, tickets, etc.) and have them ready for you at the time of check-in/registration.

IMPORTANT: Baseball tickets and souvenir t-shirts/hats must be ordered by April 21st so don't delay!

CONSENT AND RELEASE FORMS

Please ensure you have printed, signed, (and then bring with you) the *FIRST* Consent and Release form. You can find it [here](#).

DECORATE YOUR PIT

Your pit spaces will be 10' x 10' and will have pipe and drape along the back and sides.

Please feel free to decorate your pit space and make it really stand out! This can include information about your team, your country/region, and of course your robot and project/solution/community outreach! Just stay within your allocated space please and be courteous of other teams around you.

OUR WEBSITE

We hope our website is helpful in communicating information to you. We will continue to update it as the event approaches so please keep an eye out for updates. Here's a [quick tour](#) of the site by yours truly!

We sincerely hope you are having fun preparing for the Open in June! We can't WAIT to meet all of you!

Dave