



Oregon Robotics Tournament & Outreach Program

Dear Friends of ORTOP,

Across Oregon, each robotics season tells a story of curiosity, perseverance, and community. In classrooms, libraries, community centers, and after-school programs, students tackle engineering challenges that encourage them to think critically, solve problems creatively, and learn from one another. Alongside dedicated coaches, mentors, volunteers, educators, and families, they discover that meaningful learning happens through collaboration, persistence, and the willingness to test ideas, learn from failure, and try again.

From Umatilla to Medford, from Bend to Beaverton, last season unfolded in rural schools, homeschools, libraries, and garages, where students built alongside classmates, neighbors, mentors, and teachers. Then they met across the distance—competing, exchanging parts and advice, and discovering that the work of one team could strengthen another.

ORTOP serves as Oregon's statewide program delivery partner for *FIRST*, supporting hands-on, team-based STEM learning through robotics. Working with schools, community organizations, and volunteers across the state, we help ensure that young people have access to high-quality programs that inspire exploration, strengthen communities, and create opportunities to discover new interests and abilities.

The pages that follow highlight the impact of this work throughout Oregon. Thank you for believing in Oregon's young people and for supporting the educators, volunteers, and communities that make this work possible. Together, we are expanding opportunities for students to explore, invent, collaborate, and discover what they are capable of achieving.

With gratitude,

Bobbi Kelly

Executive Director, ORTOP



www.ortop.org



9498 SW Barbur Blvd. Ste 103
Portland, OR 97219



ORTOP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
EIN: 46-4276182



Oregon Robotics Tournament & Outreach Program



Our Mission

To welcome, engage, educate, and inspire Oregon's youth and their diverse communities through robotics programs

Our Vision

Every Oregon student belongs and contributes to a community that celebrates STEM thinkers and makers.

Last Season

- 2,900+ students served
- 468 teams supported
- 29 Oregon counties reached
- 1,116 coaches and mentors
- 1,711 volunteers engaged
- 90+ official events statewide

Our Programs

Every season, thousands of students across Oregon come together to design, build, program, and compete while developing the technical and professional skills that define the *FIRST* experience. This year, Oregon teams represented our state at national and international events, competing alongside some of the strongest teams in North America. Yet the impact of the season extends far beyond how far a team advances. Across hundreds of teams, students turned ideas into working designs, tested and refined solutions, adapted strategies, presented their work, and learned to rely on one another. They leave each season with greater confidence in their abilities, stronger connections to their communities, and skills they can carry into education, careers, and whatever challenges come next.



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FIRST Robotics Competition

The REBUILTSM season challenged students to think like engineers working on complex, multidisciplinary projects. Teams designed and built industrial-scale robots while managing strategy, fabrication, programming, outreach, and project planning under demanding timelines. Working closely with mentors and alliance partners, students experienced the collaborative nature of engineering and innovation while preparing for the technical challenges of tomorrow's workforce.



FRC Season by the Numbers

- Teams: 40
- Students: 977
- Events: 3 official, 3 unofficial
- Team Retention: 97.5%
- Geographic Reach: 16 counties
- Volunteers & Coaches: 378
coaches/mentors | 185 event volunteers (optional)
- 24.1% coaches/mentors are alumni /
38.4% event volunteers are alumni



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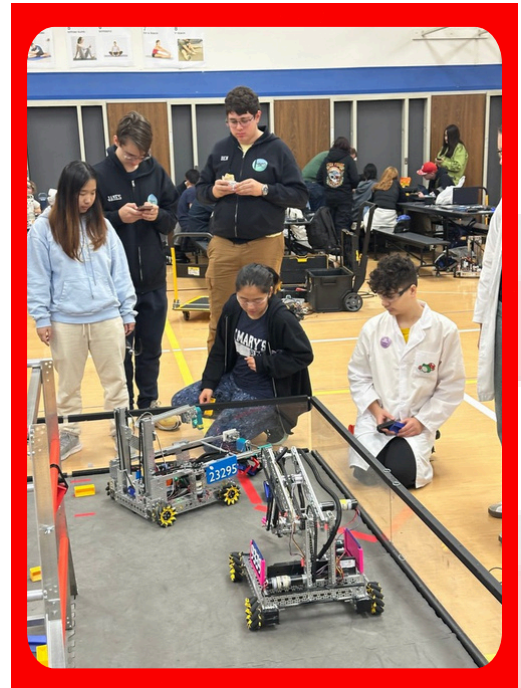
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FIRST Tech Challenge

Throughout the DECODE™ season, *FIRST* Tech Challenge teams tackled increasingly sophisticated engineering challenges that required strategic thinking, precision, and collaboration. Students designed, built, programmed, and refined competitive robots while learning that successful engineering depends on continuous improvement, effective communication, and the ability to solve problems alongside others. Every iteration strengthened both technical knowledge and confidence.



FTC Season by the Numbers

- Teams: 154
- Students: 970
- Events: 40
- Team Retention: 89.9%
- Team Growth: 10.9%
- Geographic Reach: 18 Oregon counties
- Volunteers & Coaches: 286 coaches/mentors | 369 event volunteers (optional)
- 9.8% coaches/mentors are alumni / 14/1% event volunteers are alumni



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FIRST LEGO League

For many students, *FIRST* LEGO League is where a lifelong interest in STEM begins. This season's UNEARTHED™ challenge invited teams to investigate the world beneath our feet, encouraging students to explore geology, archaeology, environmental science, and engineering through research and robot design. Along the way, teams learned to ask thoughtful questions, test creative ideas, and work together to solve authentic challenges—discovering that innovation begins with curiosity.



FLL Season by the Numbers

- Teams: 254
- Students: 985
- Events: 19
- Team Retention: 66.7% (FLL Challenge)
- Team Growth: 12.6% (FLL Challenge)
- Geographic Reach: 20 Oregon counties
- Volunteers & Coaches: 504 coaches/mentors | 301 event volunteers (optional)
- 3.4% coaches/mentors are alumni / 19.3% event volunteers are alumni



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MENTORS & COMMUNITY

The strength of *FIRST* extends far beyond the competition field. Every season, students are supported by a statewide network of coaches, mentors, volunteers, educators, and STEM professionals who share their knowledge, encourage perseverance, and create opportunities for young people to grow. Whether serving as a team mentor, referee, judge, speaker, or technical advisor, these dedicated adults help students connect classroom learning to authentic engineering and technology experiences while demonstrating the many pathways available in Oregon's STEM community.



These relationships strengthen more than individual teams. Experienced coaches mentor new coaches, volunteers build specialized expertise through professional development, and industry, university, and community partners contribute time, resources, and leadership that sustain robotics programs across the state. Together, this collaborative network creates meaningful learning experiences for students while strengthening Oregon's STEM ecosystem. By investing in young people today, these volunteers and partners help inspire the next generation of engineers, innovators, educators, entrepreneurs, and community leaders.



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Expanding Access to STEM

Every community is home to young people with the curiosity, creativity, and determination to solve problems, build new ideas, and shape the future of STEM. Yet many from communities historically excluded from STEM education and career opportunities—continue to face barriers that limit access to hands-on learning experiences.

At ORTOP, we believe Oregon is stronger when every young person has the chance to discover and develop their potential. Through *FIRST* programs, Team Support, regional partnerships, and collaboration with schools and community organizations, we work to strengthen the local networks that make participation possible. The next engineer, inventor, teacher, entrepreneur, or community leader can come from any neighborhood, school, or background. When more young people have the opportunity to discover what they are capable of, our communities become stronger, our economy becomes more innovative, and we all benefit.

- Total Teams: 478 across the state
- Gender Distribution: 69.8% Male, 28.8% Female, 1.4% Non-binary
- Socioeconomic Diversity: 16% of participants qualify for free and reduced lunch (+2%)
- Racial/Ethnic Diversity: 46% White, 31% Asian, 9% African American, 7% Hispanic/Latinx, 5% Multiracial, <1% Pacific Islander/Native American

We are proud of the progress made this season while recognizing there is still work to do. Expanding access requires sustained investment in people, partnerships, and local leadership—not simply funding a season. Together with educators, volunteers, families, and community partners, ORTOP is working to ensure that more young people across Oregon can participate, belong, and thrive through *FIRST*.



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Girl's Generation

Girls' Gen is one of ORTOP's signature events, celebrating the leadership, creativity, and technical excellence of female and non-binary students participating in *FIRST* programs. More than a competition, it creates a space where students lead teams, solve complex engineering challenges, and demonstrate their skills alongside peers from across Oregon.



Representation plays a powerful role in shaping future aspirations. Research shows that girls who participate in *FIRST* are 3.2 times more likely to engage in STEM activities, 2.2 times more likely to develop strong STEM interests, and 3.7 times more likely to major in computer science than their peers. These experiences help students build confidence while showing younger participants—and the broader community—that STEM is strengthened when everyone has the opportunity to contribute.

Girls' Generation is about more than a single day of competition. It is a celebration of possibility, leadership, and belonging, and a reminder that Oregon's future innovators come from every community and every background.



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WHAT'S NEXT?

As schools face tighter budgets and technology reshapes the workforce, ORTOP will continue helping Oregon students build skills in engineering, computer science, artificial intelligence, and innovation through hands-on learning.



Oregon's STEM Future

In the coming seasons, ORTOP will:

- Sustain and grow *FIRST* teams in Southern and Eastern Oregon through regional partnerships.
- Equip coaches, mentors, and volunteers with training and resources that strengthen local leadership.
- Connect students with STEM education and career pathways through partnerships with schools, higher education, industry, and community organizations.
- Expand Girls' Generation to include FTC teams.
- Increase outreach events that introduce more students and families to high-quality STEM programs.
- Reduce barriers to participation so students across Oregon can fully engage.
- Diversify funding and cultivate regional supporters to strengthen the long-term sustainability of Oregon's *FIRST* community.

Together, these priorities will help more Oregon students develop the confidence, experience, and technical skills to shape the state's future.



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We need your support

The future will require curiosity, collaboration, and a generation of young people prepared to solve problems we cannot yet imagine. Together with our educators, volunteers, partners, and supporters, ORTOP is building that future—one student, one team, and one community at a time.

- Every student deserves the opportunity to discover what they're capable of.
- Every community deserves the chance to nurture the talent already within it.
- Every season, thousands of Oregonians—students, educators, mentors, volunteers, families, and partners—come together to make that possible.

Your time, expertise, partnership, and financial support sustain opportunities for young people to build, create, solve problems, and discover what they can do. Together, we are helping ensure that students across Oregon can participate in meaningful STEM experiences in their own communities. Preparing the next generation of Oregon innovators to lead with confidence and curiosity.

Thank you for being part of the ORTOP community.

Volunteer • Mentor • Partner • Invest

Give today or support ORTOP through your Donor-Advised Fund.

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