

Once you qualify for Championships

Congratulations!

Once you have qualified to attend Championships you will have many questions about getting there and what kinds of plans do you need.

Think about how many students will you travel with your group and possibly fundraising to help with your team's expenses.

Shipping your Robot

Remember that you need to crate and ship your robot the Tuesday after your last Regional event. You should receive your FedEx papers at your qualifying regional, if not contact your Regional Director.

Be sure that your crate does not weigh over 400 pounds! For all FIRST information about shipping your crate go to <http://frc-manual.usfirst.org/viewItem/7#5.8>.

Who Should you Take

This is entirely up to the team and will depend on how many team members you need to successfully execute your team's goals at the championship. Keeping in mind you must have students to drive and maintain the robot and could use students for scouting, pit speaking, mascots, photo/video capturing and cheering. Along with this you should have adequate adults to supervise and mentor these team members for the approximate five days of competition and travel.

Schedule

The Championship is a longer competition than the those leading up to it (regionals and district events) so make sure you plan accordingly. As it stands currently it spans over four days with load in and setup starting on Wednesday afternoon and the finals and load out ending on Saturday evening. The public agenda is available on the FIRST site under the *Events* and *Championship* or at the following link <http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/championship-event>. In addition depending on where you are traveling from it can take the better part of a day to travel to the Championship and home.

Flights

Contact airlines Group Reservations and see what kind of deal you can get for your team. Take baggage fees into the total price of tickets, \$25.00 per bag each way adds up when you have to check in totes.

Be careful packing your totes, airlines are really strict about the 50 pound weight limit. We zip tie our totes and tape 2 extra zip ties to the top of the totes so after they are inspected by the airline, most of the time they will re-zip tie them. **Be sure to pack your batteries in your crate since they are not allowed to be checking onto the airplane.**

It helps to have team members carry-on their bags and only check team supplies. Remember if your students have utility knives please be sure they are put into the totes.

Hotels

Contact *Steel Meetings* for rooms they usually have deals in the area of the venue. Generally quad rooms are available at hotels, these can sleep 4 and help to bring down the cost of rooms.

Try to find a place that includes breakfast, it will save a meal cost and time in the morning.

Steele Meetings, Inc.

6346-65 Lantana Rd

Suite 117

Lake Worth, FL 33463

888-5STEELE (578-3353)

561-292-3314 (P)

561-649-5396 (F)

FIRST@steelemeetings.com

www.steelemeetings.com

www.steelehousing.com

Cargo Van Rental

Check outside of the airport for a Cargo Van, it is much cheaper than renting a minivan, to transport your totes and equipment from the airport to the hotel, and the competition venue. We have found a Budget Rental in Hazelwood, MO. This is a 10 minute cab ride from the airport, a mentor can go pick up the van while luggage is being collected.

Train to Convention Center

Check out to see if there is a train to get from the airport to the competition venue. In St. Louis there is the MetroLink train and it cost \$2.25 per trip. It is cheaper to take the Metro if you are staying near the airport because parking near the Convention Center can be expensive. It is also a great way to get your team from the airport to your hotel if you are staying near the Convention Center. It takes about an hour from the airport hotels to the Convention Center in St. Louis, keep that in mind when planning your departure time in the morning from your hotel.

Here is the link for the schedule <http://www.metrostlouis.org/PlanYourTrip/>

[MetroLinkPDFSchedules.aspx](http://www.metrostlouis.org/PlanYourTrip/MetroLinkPDFSchedules.aspx)

Meals for your team

- Talk to the teacher/lead mentor about how much they would like spent per lunch or are the students on their own to get lunch? For our team we add all meals into the travel expenses.
- We always try to eat lunch as a team at a designated spot. We do this for two reasons;
 - 1) They get a nutritious meal and have time to talk about the competition.
 - 2) Everyone gets back to competition on time.
- Before arriving at Championships search for places to get lunches (I will pre-order a few days before arriving), warehouse super stores, grocery stores etc. You do not want to be looking for a place to get lunch the last minute.
- Another couple of option would be ordering Dominos pizza they deliver to the Convention Center in St. Louis or pre-ordering the FIRST lunches using the link here <http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/championship-event>
- Be sure you keep water and snacks in your pits for your pit crew and drive team. They spend most all of the day in your pit area and will need to be hydrated and nourished during their long day.
- Search for restaurants close to your hotel, make reservations before you arrive in town. You can always cancel once you get there as long as you haven't given your credit card number.

Links to St. Louis Activities

If possible try to fly out on Sunday so your kids will get a chance to see some of the sites in the city.

http://www.usfirst.org/sites/default/files/uploadedFiles/Robotics_Programs/FIRST_Championship/2012_FIRST_Championship_Event_Order_Form.pdf

<http://explorestlouis.com/>

<http://downtownsaintlouis.org/>

<http://explorestlouis.com/visit-explore/discover/25-things-to-do-in-st-louis/>

<http://explorestlouis.com/visit-explore/see-do/>

<http://www.stlmag.com/St-Louis-Magazine/May-2008/101-Things-Every-St-Louisian-Must-Do/>

http://stlouis.about.com/od/freethingstodo/Free_Things_to.htm

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/usa/great-plains/st-louis/things-to-do>

<http://www.stlouisattractions.com/downtown.htm>

<http://www.grandparents.com/gp/events/stlouis.html>