

Teams, Team Leaders, Mentors and Parents:

We're excited to have you for the 2023 Midwest Regional, which is just a few days away! We hope your FIRST Robotics Competition build season is coming to an end and that you're ready to show off your robot! To help your experience at the Midwest Regional be as successful as possible, we have a few reminders we would like to share with you. We will also be posting any other updates as well as past email blasts here -

<https://www.firstillinoisrobotics.org/frc/midwest-regional/midwest-regional-updates>

- **Print Team Roster** - Bring a printed hard copy of your team roster. You will not be able to check-in at the Regional without it.
- **Load-In Process** - Up to 5 members from each team will be permitted to load-in on Wednesday from 6 PM to 9 PM or Thursday starting at 7:45 AM. To load-in, please bring your vehicle to North Congress Parkway on the north side of Credit Union 1 Arena. The load-in zone is indicated on the map found [here](#) and attached to this email. Please line up along Congress Parkway, spilling over to Racine Avenue if Congress Parkway is full. Once you're close to the garage on the east side of the Arena, you can check-in with a volunteer and start to unload your vehicle. After unloading, please proceed to Lot 11 to park your vehicle or to drop off your trailer. **Please remember** when bringing items, everything must go down the elevator except for items that are smaller than 24"x24"x24" and carried by an adult. These details are available here - <https://www.firstillinoisrobotics.org/frc/midwest-regional/midwest-regional-load-in>
- **Safety Precautions** - Please ensure that your team brings enough safety glasses for your team members and potential guests. Please also remind all attendees to wear closed-toe shoes.
- **Respect the Venue** - Please do not move any of the tables and chairs located throughout the venue for any reason. Additionally, please do not apply body paint or hair dye anywhere in the venue, including the restrooms.
- **Student Ambassadors** - We are looking for student team members who are interested in providing guided tours to VIP guests. Students will walk them through the pits while explaining FIRST and FRC, as well as showing them match play while explaining this year's game. We're looking for students who are excited and willing to share their experiences with our guests. If you have interested students, please send them to Pit Admin or Volunteer Check-In to sign up.
- **Safety Glasses Stations** (2 stations) - When checking-in, each team will be assigned two separate shifts to staff the safety glass tables. During each shift, your team will need to have at least two people at your designated safety glasses table for a two-hour shift.
- **Student National Anthem** - Students who wish to sing their nation's anthem during Friday and Saturday's opening ceremonies should sign up at pit admin on Thursday. Details about a rehearsal will be shared at signup.
- **Quiet Room** - A quiet room will be available for team members, pending volunteer availability. The quiet room is located in the Credit Union 1 Arena Administration Office, which is found across from section 214.

- **Outside Food** - As a reminder, outside food is not allowed to be brought into Credit Union 1 Arena, including the Arena's lobby, except for those who have dietary restrictions and have made arrangements before the Regional. Please review the second team email blast that was sent on Thursday, February 23rd for additional details.
- **Team Social** (\$15 per person) - If you're planning to pay for the Social at the Regional, please remember to bring payment according to the instructions you received in your sign-up confirmation email. If your team would like to attend the Social, details and the signup form can be found at :  
<https://www.firstillinoisrobotics.org/frc/midwest-regional/team-social/>. Please sign up by Tuesday, March 7th so we can ensure we have enough food for everyone.
- **Poster Contest Winner** - Congrats to Clara C. of FRC 8096 Cache Money for winning our poster contest! Please see the poster on our regional webpage here - <https://firstillinoisrobotics.org/frc/midwest-regional/poster-contest-and-event-flyer/> and it will be on display at the event in the Midwest Regional Gallery of Art.
- **Scholarship Row** - Inform your team members and families that we are excited to have 12 different FIRST Scholarship Providers during the Midwest Regional. You can find more information about the Scholarship Row and FIRST Scholarship program here - <https://www.firstillinoisrobotics.org/frc/midwest-regional/scholarship-row/>
- **Women In STEM Luncheon** - Friday afternoon from 12 PM to 1 PM, in collaboration with FRC Team 2451, PWNAGE, we will be hosting a Women in STEM Luncheon. The Women in STEM Luncheon event will showcase a panel of amazing women STEM professionals, followed by a panelist meet & greet. Lunch will be provided. An event poster with more information can be found [here](#). Please register ahead of time at <https://forms.gle/h3eTiAqUZKBrPmjM9>

If you or your team have any further questions as you make your final preparations for the Midwest Regional, please send them to [midwestregional@firstillinoisrobotics.org](mailto:midwestregional@firstillinoisrobotics.org). Our planning committee leadership team will respond to your questions as soon as they can.

See you later this week!

Gerald A. Smith  
Chair, FIRST Midwest Regional Planning Committee

Attach this map:



Park on the curb of W Congress Parkway for load-in. Please load-in quickly and move your vehicle to Lot 11 when finished to make space for other teams.