

# FIRST Lego League Scouts ACT and Southern Ranges District

Participant Information

## Meetings

Location – **1<sup>st</sup> Jerrabomberra Scout Hall**, Firethorn Place, Jerrabomberra.

When – **3:00pm to 6pm, Sundays** - starting on Sunday 23 July (see program for exceptions)

Dress - **Scarf only**, except when noted.

Bring - Please bring a water bottle (labelled) and snack. If you have access to a tablet or laptop that allows you to install the Spike Prime software, you may bring it. (See [SPIKE Prime Support | Everything You Need | LEGO® Education](#) for system requirements.)

## Key contacts

Shelby Canterford – South Coast and Tablelands STEM Commissioner,  
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Elvira Currie – Leader/Coach, elvira.currie@nsw.scouts.com.au / 0407 304 728

## This is not LEGO Masters

You will not just build things in LEGO. This program is about designing, building, and coding a robot at the same time as designing an innovative solution to a problem, all while actively showing Scouting values. You will be writing, drawing, thinking, explaining, researching, tinkering and coding.

On competition day, the robot game takes just 7.5 minutes. Your presentations to the judges will be 30 minutes. The presentation demonstrates: teamwork, inclusivity, the research and the actual presentation.

The competition involves:

- build a Lego robot to complete missions on a playing field (7.5 minutes)
- complete a design challenge (15 mins)
- present their design solution and Lego robot project documentation (15 mins)
- demonstrate teamwork and initiative. (all day, in all that you say and do)

## Registration

Registration is through ScoutEvent, <https://events.nsw.scouts.com.au/event/1069>.

## Camps

All camps are during the day (**9am-5pm**) **Saturday and Sunday** at **Burra Community Hall**, Burra, NSW, on the following weekends:

- Day Camp 1 – **29-30 July**
- Day Camp 2 – **9-10 September** (Saturday to 8pm)
- Day Camp 3 – **21-22 October**

## Competition day

We will be competing at Wollongong TAFE on Saturday 18 November. The exact format of the day will depend on the Covid situation at the time (and may even be virtual like it was in 2022) but expect a long day. Sausage sizzle has been available in the past, or BYO lunch and snacks.

- 8am Registration
- 9 am Competition starts
- The program for the day will be confirmed closer to the competition
  - competition time slots may be spread throughout the day
- 4 pm Award presentation inside the venue, expect it to be 1 hour long and is a celebration of what youth have achieved.

## Costs

The **\$120** fee covers all meetings and camps. We will rely on parent transport to get to Wollongong for the competition however we will be able to offset fuel costs.

We have hired a bunkhouse in Wollongong for the Friday and Saturday night of the competition. Having the team there the night before will help with having them ready for competition and not too tired.

We are supported by Sponsorship Grants for Student Science Engagement and International Competitions 2023 from Inspiring Australia. We thank them for helping to keep our fees low.

There shouldn't be any additional costs, but we may do some fundraising to ensure the program is sustainable in the long term. If cost is an issue, please speak to Shelby (STEM Commissioner and head coach) and we will arrange something. This year we are hoping to find a grant or sponsor to purchase laptops to run the robots. If you know of a business that can help, please let me know.

## Robots

We will be allowing youth to take robots home for a period of 2-3 weeks at a time, if both the youth member and their parents sign the "Caring for a robot" code of conduct. When you have the robot, you **MUST** bring it in every week. More details will be released in week 1.

## Devices

We need a number of youth (at least 2 from each team) to bring a device to be able to program the robots. The [software and list of requirements](#) is available online. If you are a veteran, can you please make sure you have the most recent version of the software. Devices will also be used for research and documentation. Please make sure all devices, cables and chargers are named.

## Time commitment

Meetings are important and it is best to attend as many and for as much time at each as you can. However, this is only part of the time commitment. Some youth will choose to put in more than 100 hours, others just a few hours, in addition to attendance at meetings. Commitment from each youth member will depend on their age, the tasks they have, their enthusiasm, and how much we can get done in meetings.

Tasks will include: robot building and programming, tweaking the code, creative pieces for the presentation, research, and reflection. They may be asked to write letters or talk with experts in

their field of research. Work at home is not mandatory, but the more effort everyone puts in, the more successful the team will be. Communication is essential.

## Attendance policy

Our expectation is that youth will attend as many meetings as possible, but we understand that life gets in the way sometimes and you can't always make it.

- If you are sick, please don't attend AND let the leaders or your patrol know.
- Camps provide opportunity for rapid progression. They may clash with other week activities, but please come for as much of the weekend as possible.
- Term 3 is more flexible, and you can catch up in your own time. By term 4, each patrol has allocated roles and will practice their presentations. This is a team activity and engagement is essential. Youth will only be asked to not attend the competition, if they have not engaged at all during this critical period.
- If you can't come, it is your responsibility to make sure you keep in touch with your patrol and are aware of what you need to do. Communication is essential.

## Parent helpers

We will need at least one parent helper per team. If we don't have enough coaches sign up we will need a parent roster. We need help for a range of tasks, from a team manager, to transporting Lego, to organising specialists. You don't need engineering or coding experience, (though we need someone of those skills too), we need project management and research skills too. Even volunteering to pack up and look after the gear every week is a huge help. If you haven't signed yourself up as a parent helper, please do. You will need to be a registered parent helper in your state.

Organising snack time or keeping leaders caffeinated are valid contributions. It is very much many hands make light work.

## Communication

WhatsApp and email will be the main form of parent communication.

A closed Facebook group has been great for communicating, sharing photos, and discussing issues (such as transport) as a group. We will only use Facebook for important things if all parents are comfortable. Talk to Shelby if you have any concerns.

Youth will be included on email lists unless parents ask us not to. We will be adding youth to the Scouts NSW virtual environments so that they can access resources and save their files. Youth should also be able to access the chat function during the week, particularly as the competition gets close, so that they can discuss their projects and presentations.

## Badgework

**Special Interest Areas (SIAs):** Leaders will work with youth to plan one or more SIAs early in the program. Youth must take their SIA plans to their home unit council for approval. Leaders and coaches will then act as mentors for the youth to help them complete their SIA. SIAs are not limited to STEM, there are many opportunities for Personal Growth and Arts and Literature, but with some thought others can be accommodated.

## Program overview

Date	Session 1	Notes
23/07, 3-6pm	Kick-off meeting	<b>Full Uniform</b>
<b>29/07-30/07</b>	<b>Camp 1</b> <b>9am-5pm Saturday and Sunday</b>	<b>Burra Community Hall, Burra</b>
06/08, 3-6pm	Meeting	
13/08, 3-6pm	Meeting	
20/08, 3-6pm	Meeting	
27/08, 3-6pm	Meeting	
03/09, 3-6pm	Meeting	
<b>9-10/09</b>	<b>Camp 2</b> <b>9am-8pm Saturday, 9am-5pm Sunday</b>	<b>Burra Community Hall, Burra</b>
17/09, 3-6pm	Meeting	
24/09	School holidays	
29/09-3 Oct	Cuboree for ACT and NSW (no meet)	
8/10	School holidays (tentative meeting)	
15/10, 1-6pm	Meeting	
<b>21-22/10</b>	<b>Camp 3 – Burra</b> <b>9am-5pm Saturday and Sunday</b>	<b>Burra Community Hall, Burra</b>
<b>28/10, 1-6pm</b>	Meeting	Saturday
29/10, 1-6pm	Meeting	
5/11, 1-6pm	Meeting – <b>Open Day</b>	<b>Full Uniform</b>
<b>11/11, 1-6pm</b>	Meeting	Saturday
12/11, 1-6pm	Meeting	
<b>Sat 18/11</b>	<b>Wollongong competition</b>	<b>North Wollongong Tafe</b>
27/11	Break-up/review – <b>meeting for Nationals teams</b>	
<b>Sat 2/12</b>	<b>National competition in Sydney (if a team is successful)</b>	Probably Macquarie Uni