

THE FIRST® ROBOTICS PATHWAY

One journey from LEGO® bricks to real engineering —
your child's robotics future, explained in **5 posters**.



**Robotics
Classes**

weekly foundations



**FLL
Explore**

ages 6–10



**FLL
Challenge**

ages 9–16



FTC

ages 12–18

**2026: Sheen Academy covers ALL FIRST LEGO League
season costs — no charge to parents**

New for 2026: we've moved from WRO to the FIRST® ecosystem —
a bigger stage, a real pathway, and our brand-new FTC squad.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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|  FLL Explore — discover STEM the playful way | ages 6–10 |
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|  FLL Challenge — the real team competition | ages 9–16 |
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|  FIRST Tech Challenge — engineering for real | ages 12–18 |
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|  Why we switched + the 2026 season plan | |

AGES 6–10

FREE THIS SEASON



FLL Explore:

discover STEM the playful way

Teams of young explorers dive into a real-world theme, build a motorised LEGO® model, and share their discoveries at a festival-style showcase. No scoreboards — just curiosity with a purpose.

1



Hands-on building

Learn how machines move by building them — motors, wheels and moving parts.

2



Mechanical basics

Gears, levers and pulleys — the building blocks behind every robot.

3



First coding steps

Bring the team model to life with simple block programming.

4



Show & tell confidence

Present the team's poster and model — every child gets a voice.

✓ **Registration, equipment & coaching — all covered by Sheen Academy in 2026**

Training: Fri & Sat 2:30–4:30 PM (provisional) · for enrolled Sheen Academy students — log in with your enrollment account to register.

Join FLL Explore → sheen.bot/academy/competition

AGES 9–16

FREE THIS SEASON



FLL Challenge: the real team competition

This is where learners go from "learning robotics" to competing as a team: an autonomous LEGO® robot scoring missions on the game table, plus an innovation project judged side-by-side with the robot game.

1



Mission strategy

Read the season's missions, plan routes and pick the battles worth scoring.

2



Autonomous programming

Program the robot to run missions on its own — reliably, run after run.

3



Innovation project

Find a real-world problem around the season theme and design a solution.

4



Team presentation

Split the work, own a role, and pitch the project to a judging panel.

✓ **Season costs covered by Sheen Academy — places fill first-come, first-served**

Training: Fri & Sat 2:30–4:30 PM (provisional) · for enrolled Sheen Academy students — log in with your enrollment account to register.

Join FLL Challenge → sheen.bot/academy/competition

FIRST® Tech Challenge: engineering for real

The step beyond LEGO: metal chassis, CAD-designed parts, Java code and a documented engineering process — the closest a high-schooler gets to a real robotics team before university.

- 1



Mechanical design

Drivetrains, arms and mechanisms — designed in CAD, machined, built.
- 2



Code & control

Java for TeleOp driving, autonomous routines and sensors.
- 3



Engineering iteration

Test, log, redesign, retest — kept in a real engineering portfolio.
- 4



Team roles

Build, code, drive, document, scout — everyone owns a responsibility.
- 5



Project management

Ship a competition-ready robot on a real deadline, as a real team.

Season fee: **R11,500** per student

 Team kit share, field & registration	R3,000
 Professional coaching (full season, 2× weekly)	R7,200
 Team shirt, consumables & event logistics	R1,300

Pre-season Aug · season Sep–Feb · Wed & Fri 2:30–4:30 PM + monthly Saturday outreach (provisional).

Open to external students — STEM grounding (maths / physical science / technology) preferred.

The robot kit stays with the academy · pay online or by EFT · payment plans on request.

Apply for the FTC squad →
sheen.bot/academy/competition

WHY WE SWITCHED

Why WRO → FIRST®?

🌐 **A bigger experience.** FIRST judges the whole engineer — robot performance *and* innovation project, teamwork and presentation — not just the game table.

🏗️ **A real pathway.** FLL Explore feeds FLL Challenge, and FLL Challenge builds exactly the design thinking our new FTC squad needs. One ecosystem, ages 6 to 18.

🏠 **A dedicated home.** We are building a dedicated robotics training space designed specifically for FLL and FTC preparation.

💖 **Our commitment.** Top-tier coaching and resources — and for 2026, all FLL competition costs are covered by Sheen Academy.

The 2026 season at a glance



Late June – July

Official FLL registration opens · team preparation begins



August

FLL season launch worldwide · FTC pre-season training begins



August – October

FLL robot building, programming & innovation project development



Mid-Oct – November

FLL regional qualifying competitions



September – February

FTC competition season — build, qualifiers & SA championship events



Beyond

Nationals — winning FTC teams can reach the FIRST Championship in Houston, USA

Where it happens — we start from Cape Town. FIRST South Africa runs the qualifiers province by province, so our teams compete in the **Western Cape regional in greater Cape Town**; the **SA nationals are in Johannesburg**, and only qualifying teams travel. **2026 venues and dates are still to be confirmed by the organisers** — we pass on every detail as soon as we have it.

PLACES ARE LIMITED

Ready to join the journey?

FLL teams fill on a first-come basis,
and the FTC squad has just 10 seats.

FLL Explore

ages 6–10

FREE 2026

FLL Challenge

ages 9–16

FREE 2026

FTC Squad

ages 12–18

R11,500 / season

📱 Register online in minutes

www.sheen.bot/academy/competition

info@sheen.bot · Sheen Academy, Century City, Cape Town

FLL: log in with your enrollment account · FTC: open to all, pay online or EFT

Winning FTC teams can reach the FIRST Championship in Houston!



Learn more: firstlegoleague.org · firstinspires.org/robotics/ftc

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