

EEF/FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) GEArheads

Computer Repurposing Project FAQs

(FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

- **What devices are being collected?**
 - Only PC laptops (no desktops, tablets, or Apple products at this time). Any donated Chromebooks will be recycled, since they cannot be loaded with the software needed for FIRST robotics or most STEM applications.
- **Why are these devices being collected?**
 - The FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) GEArheads robotics team knows that many students across Wisconsin and around the world are interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), including robotics, programming, computer science, etc., but their ACCESS to technology is limited (especially in lower income or lower resourced areas). By collecting used laptops and refurbishing them, we hope to enable others to learn and love STEM and robotics the way we do! We hope this project helps bridge some of the [“digital divide”](#) for students in need.
- **I don't have a device to donate but love this project! How else can I support your efforts?**
 - If you do not have a device to donate but would like to fund new batteries, power cords, cases, and software, we will accept checks made payable to EEF, cash, or Venmo to [@ElmbrookEducationFoundation](#). *Please note “FTC Robotics” on your donations.*
- **What are the device specifications you would ideally like?**
 - In order to load the software needed for FIRST Lego League (SPIKE Prime and SPIKE Essential) and FIRST Tech Challenge (Android Studio Base) robotics teams, we will be loading Windows 10 on PC devices.
 - Ideally donated laptops will not be older than 5-6 years old; but, if they are, we will still try to repurpose them if possible. Otherwise, they will be responsibly recycled.
 - Here are the minimum specifications needed for repurposing devices for FIRST Lego League and FIRST Tech Challenge robotics team and other STEM applications:

	FTC - Android Studio	FLL – LEGO Education SPIKE Prime & SPIKE Essential
	Windows	Windows
Operating System	64 Bit - Windows 8/10/11	64 Bit - Windows 8/10/11
Processor	2nd Gen Intel Core or AMD Ryzen 3 or better	1.5 Ghz Intel i3 Core or better
Memory	8 GB Ram or better	4 GB Ram or better
Bluetooth Compatibility	None required	4.0 or above
Screen Resolution	1280 x 800 or better	NONE
Ports	1 USB Port or more	1 USB Port or more

- **Are donations tax-deductible?**
 - Yes! The FTC GEArheads will be leading this project as a robotics team in the Elmbrook School District, and we are partnering with the Elmbrook Education Foundation (EEF). EEF is a 501(c)3 organization and will be accepting your donations and providing a receipt which you can use for tax deduction to the extent allowed by law.

(TURN OVER FOR MORE FAQs)

- **What happens to devices after they are donated?**
 - All devices will be thoroughly inspected. Those meeting our minimum required standards for hardware and software repurposing will be refurbished using DBAN (PCs) to securely wipe all data from the device, batteries may be replaced, all devices will be thoroughly cleaned, and Windows 10 PRO Citizenship software license will be loaded prior to distributing it to students in need. Those NOT meeting our minimum requirements or that are not able to be affordably repaired will be used for parts, may be sold to pay for batteries and accessories to complete other units, or will be properly recycled.
- **How many devices do you hope to collect?**
 - As many as possible! Once we have collected and refurbished the devices, we will know how many will be available for distribution, so we will then reach out to FIRST robotics coaches, STEM schools, and other education-related non-profit organizations across the State of Wisconsin, a school in Honduras, and TechLit Africa to distribute them. With school and robotics seasons underway, our goal is to distribute as many as possible during this 2024-25 school year.
- **Tell me more about FIRST®**

FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a robotics community that prepares young people for the future through a suite of inclusive, team-based robotics programs for ages 4-18 (PreK-12) that can be facilitated in school or in structured afterschool programs. Boosted by a global support system of volunteers, educators, and sponsors that include over 200 of the Fortune 500 companies, teams operate under a signature set of *FIRST* Core Values to conduct research, fundraise, design, build, and showcase their achievements during annual challenges.

An international not-for-profit organization (501(c)(3)) founded by accomplished inventor Dean Kamen in 1989, *FIRST* has a [proven impact](#) on STEM learning, interest, and skill-building well beyond high school. [Alumni](#) of *FIRST* programs gain access to exclusive scholarships, internships, and other opportunities that create connections and open pathways to a wide variety of careers.

Read more about the [impact of FIRST](#) or [download our FAQs](#).

In 2022-23, there were ~479 registered FIRST robotics teams (4,248 students) at all levels in Wisconsin. (FLL Explore = 108, FLL Challenge = 240, FTC = 70, FRC = 61). *We are awaiting updated numbers for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 seasons.*

To learn more about FIRST visit www.firstinspires.org, and to learn more about FIRST Wisconsin, visit www.firstinspireswi.org

- **Who has helped you with this project so far?**
 - We have gotten excellent advice and support from Dan Scott, Director of Technology for the **School District of Elmbrook**, to ensure we properly refurbish and recycle all items and work with authorized companies to purchase new Microsoft licenses.
 - We also extend a thanks to **Brookfield East and Brookfield Central High Schools** and the **Elm Grove and Brookfield Public Libraries** for allowing us to collect devices at their locations.
 - Our team also appreciates very generous corporate laptop donors to this project, especially **Reserve Advisors** and **Milliman**.

If you have other questions, please contact our FTC GEArheads Outreach Project Coach, Deborah Nustad, at deborah.nustad@gmail.com. (For security reasons, we do not publicly distribute the contact information of the minors on the team.)

Thank you!

