



Hello Coaches & Mentors,

I hope you are enjoying the off season and looking forward to the start of the **INTO ORBIT** challenge. Here are a few updates to help you plan for the upcoming season...

- INTO ORBIT mission models reveal: Tune in to [www.twitch.tv/firstinspires](http://www.twitch.tv/firstinspires) beginning at **2 pm PST, Wednesday, April 18** to take a peek at the new mission models. You can also watch the *FIRST* Championship using the same link.
- Registration: *FIRST* systems will open for registration in early May. This is the first step in registering your team and ordering the **INTO ORBIT** Challenge set. **Please note that the challenge will be released on August 1, 2018**. This is almost 4 weeks earlier than past years and should provide most teams additional time to complete the research and programming.
- If you are planning site visits to JPL, Space-X, Raytheon,...it is best to schedule the time soon before all open slots are booked.

### **World Festival**

The World Festival will be held in Houston April 18-21. The Robo Titans (16003) and Robo-Rebels (1359) will be representing our region and we wish them the best of luck.

### **Workshops**

The new workshop schedule has been posted on our [website](#). There are two FLL Introduction for Coaches (June 30 & July 21) and two Advanced EV3 Programming (July 1 & July 22).

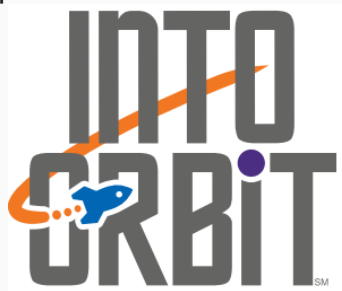
### **By the Numbers**

If the trend continues, we expect to have almost 500 registered teams in our region this season. So far we have tentatively secured 15 sites for Qualifying

tournaments and expect 3 additional. If your school is interested in hosting a tournament, please let [me](#) know.

## **Transitioning**

As some of you know, INTO ORBIT will be my last season as Operational Partner for FLL Los Angeles; however, I plan to continue volunteering on a limited starting next. At the end of **INTO ORBIT** season Steve and Cindy Stark will become the Operational Partners of the Los Angeles FLL Region in January 2019. Steve and Cindy, volunteered as head referees and judges during the Hydro Dynamics season at various tournaments and this year they will be the Region's Tournament Directors. Steve and Cindy are not new to FIRST. They began volunteering as mentors for their son's FRC team beginning in 2004. In 2008 Steve volunteered to chair the committee for the San Diego FRC Regional. After retiring with 31 years at Motorola, Steve became a Regional Director for FIRST in 2014. Over the last four years, Steve has started three new FRC regional events in Southern California. This year, Cindy retired after 22 years with Qualcomm and Kyocera Wireless. Steve and Cindy have decided to pursue a new direction supporting FIRST, they have been volunteers at many events and are excited to begin a new role as your FLL operational partners.



### ***Los Angeles First Lego League***

The region's website: <http://la-fll.org>

Our region's facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LosAngelesFLL/>

FLL Team Information System: <http://www.firstinspires.org/>

Challenge Page: <http://www.firstlegoleague.org/challenge#block-block-19>