

FIRST 2026 **CHAMPIONSHIP**

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BAE SYSTEMS

ACCESSIBILITY EVENT GUIDE

3.6.26

FIRST[®] 2026 CHAMPIONSHIP

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FIRST is Committed to STEM for Everyone™

FIRST® is a global robotics community that prepares young people for the future, and key to our strategic intent is to serve every student, everywhere. This commitment includes promoting and engaging in initiatives that ensure a welcoming community for all participants, including students, adult mentors, coaches, and volunteers.

FIRST Championship Preparation Recommendations

We understand that the *FIRST* Championship presented by BAE Systems is held in a very large and populated space and that navigating that space can be a challenge at times. In preparation for your visit to *FIRST* Championship please consider the following in advance:

Sound Levels

FIRST has guidance on [audio levels at FIRST events](#). Please be sure to review these guidelines in advance for your safety and comfort.

Ear Plugs

Although we do provide earplugs at each pit entry point, they are available on a first come, first serve basis. We suggest you bring earplugs along with you.

Seating

Following ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) regulations, we will provide individuals with chairs that have a backing. We will ensure accessible seating is not blocked by other spectators.

Mobility

There are escalators and elevators on each level of the [GRB](#). Additionally, to navigate the long concourses, there is seating throughout each of the concourses on each level.

Conference Rooms

Conference rooms feature additional accessible seating options with wider aisles.

Pit Areas

Pit areas are working zones for the teams. While we are excited to open them publicly, please be mindful; they can be challenging to maneuver even with the ADA compliant layout we have formed.

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Accessible Restrooms

Single stall restrooms are available at the George R. Brown Convention Center (GRB). Locations of these restrooms can be found on the *FIRST* Championship map located in the *FIRST* Championship App or in the accessibility information links above.

Accessible Seating

If ADA accessible seating is needed, please request that during the Championship registration process. Each program will make available accessible seating that accommodates as many of the spectators as possible.

Closed Captioning

All closing celebration activities will be closed captioned. All videos produced by *FIRST* will be closed captioned.

FIRST Program Resources

[Best Practices for Accessibility \(Persons with Disabilities\) FIRST® Robotics Competition Events](#)
[FIRST Tech Challenge Accessibility Guide](#)

Lactation Pods

Two [Mamava](#) lactation pods are conveniently located on the North and South side of Mezzanine Level 2. Nursing parents can access these private, clean, and comfortable spaces to breastfeed or pump using the free Mamava app available on the Apple iOS Store or Google Play Store. [Click here](#) for guidance on using the app and locating the pods.

Prayer Rooms

There will be two prayer rooms available for anyone wishing to observe religious practice onsite during event hours. These rooms are located across the skybridge in the Marriott Marquis Hotel; Montgomery A&B.

Quiet Room

A Quiet Room is available for those needing a decreased noise space. The Quiet Room is located on Level 3 of the George R. Brown Convention Center, room 362CF.

Quiet Room Hours of Operation:

Date	Open	Close
Wednesday, April 29, 2026	8:00 AM	6:00 PM
Thursday, April 30, 2026	8:00 AM	6:00 PM
Friday, May 1, 2026	8:00 AM	6:00 PM
Saturday, May 2, 2026	8:00 AM	6:00 PM

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Service Animals

Service animals are permitted at *FIRST* Championship. A service animal is a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability.

- The ADA requires the animal to be under the control of the handler. This can occur using a harness, leash, or other tether. However, in cases where either the handler is unable to hold a tether because of a disability or its use would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, the service animal must be under the handler's control by some other means, such as voice control.
- For more information, please see [ADA Requirements: Service Animals](#).
- [GRB Convention Center Guidelines](#): "No animals or pets are permitted in the facility except as an approved exhibit, activity or performance requiring the use of animals. Service animals are permitted."

Venue Entry

Express Entry Lanes (accessible entry lanes for persons with disabilities) will be available at security entry points. More information, including map locations will be updated here prior to the event.

Venue Specific Accessibility Accommodations

Additional information about the different accessibility accommodations available at the *FIRST* Championship event venues are linked below:

[George R. Brown Convention Center](#)

[The Hilton Americas](#)

[Marriott Marquis Houston](#)

Additional Information

For general questions or concerns related to accessibility, please email sie@firstinspires.org.

If there is an urgent need during *FIRST* Championship, please contact the Information Desk on Level 1 of the GRB or seek out a *FIRST* Championship volunteer who can promptly assist.

STEM for Everyone™ Statement

FIRST is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of unity. We embrace and celebrate our global community. Exploring, developing and implementing strategies to ensure opportunities for any young person who engages in our programs is critical for *FIRST* to fulfill its mission. ALL young people should have the opportunity to become science and technology leaders who have the skills, confidence and resilience to build a better world.