TEAM E-BLAST | OCTOBER 16, 2026

FIND YOUR FESTIVAL WITH

FIRST® LEGO® LEAGUE EXPLORE

BIOGLOW™ FOUNDERS EDITION

2026-27 SEASON

Your questions, answered. Every team has a place to glow!

1 SPOT YOUR HOME FESTIVAL & REGISTER



Find your team on the Home Event List, then register Oct. 16–23. Being on the list does NOT mean you are registered! Every Explore team must submit the FiM festival form and rank three preferences to confirm its home festival or request a change. Sign up through FiM, not the FIRST Dashboard. $50 festival registration fee per team, paid directly to your host.

Home Event List: firstinmichigan.us/FLL-Explore/team-list/
Register: firstinmichigan.us/FLL-Explore/event-registration/

2 ZIP IN TO FIND A PRINTING SPONSOR



Explore resources are digital! Ask a local print shop, business, or community partner to donate printing as an in-kind sponsorship. Print Team Meeting Guide pages for coaches and Engineering Notebooks for students as needed.

Team Meeting Guide & Engineering Notebooks: firstinmichigan.us/FLL-Explore/resources/
Sample sponsor letter

3 BUZZ TO EVENT READY



To register, your team needs two Lead Coaches with Youth Protection screening cleared and students on the roster. Your team number, coach name, and coach email must match your FIRST account, or the registration is placed on hold.

4 WISE OWL TIP



Explore: Michigan grades K–3. Select FIRST LEGO League Explore, Founders Edition, even if the Dashboard shows different grades.
Heidi Ferguson: heidi@firstinmichigan.org
Challenge: Michigan grades 4–5. Select FIRST LEGO League Challenge, Founders Edition.
Jessica Gupta: jessica@firstinmichigan.org

5 99H FUNDING SPROUTS 10/19



MDE lists the FY27 99h Robotics window as Oct. 19 – Dec. 1, 2026. Connect with your school's Level 5 now. Teams accepting 99h must attend one official FiM festival. Register by Oct. 23 for one fall Explore Festival.

6 RECHARGE YOUR GLOW



Hub won't light up? Charge the SPIKE Essential battery inside the hub using its micro-USB cable. Replacement parts: Small Hub Battery 45612; Small Hub 45609. For a failed part, start with LEGO Education Support.
education.lego.com/en-us/support/
Can we use SPIKE Prime? SPIKE Essential is recommended for Explore, but SPIKE Prime may be an option. Please reach out to Heidi to discuss your team's setup.

7 FIND YOUR COACH INVITE



No invitation? Ask your Lead Coach 1 or Team Administrator to resend it to the exact email you use to sign in to FIRST. Still stuck? Send FIRST Support your team number, name, account email, and role:
customerservice@firstinspires.org
800-871-8326

8 THERE'S STILL TIME TO GROW!



It's not too late to start a new Explore team or expand your program! Invite more K–3 students to discover BIOGLOW. Reach out to potential coaches, schools, libraries, and community partners—no robotics experience needed! Fall festivals run Nov.–Feb.; spring festivals run Apr.–May. Contact Heidi for help getting started. Let's help more young minds glow!



Healthy Ecosystems. Brighter Futures. Together.

Questions? I'm here to help!
Reach out with any questions about registration, festivals, or season resources.

Heidi Ferguson
FIRST in Michigan
FLL Explore Program Director
heidi@firstinmichigan.org
(989) 513-1841