



# NEW MEXICO *FIRST* TECH CHALLENGE



**NEW MEXICO** Welcome to the Albuquerque *FIRST* Tech Challenge Qualifier Tournament!

Hosted by La Academia de Esperanza Charter School, Hack City Robotics FTC Team 21797 and Zia Robotics FRC Team 6974

## Welcome to Albuquerque!

We are SO looking forward to seeing you all December 12-13 at our Qualifier tournament held here in Albuquerque, New Mexico! This year's game, DECODE presented by RTX is an exciting one! It's time to celebrate the achievements of your team. Please read the following information and help us have a fantastic tournament. **Good luck Teams!!!!**

## Schedule for the Friday, Dec 12, 2025 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Venue opens to teams at 5:30 PM for early check in, inspection, pit set up, judging and practice. We encourage as many teams as possible to take advantage of this opportunity. Getting all teams inspected in a timely manner will ensure that the event runs on time. At 9:00 PM the venue closes for the night. (times can change ... we will announce or check at registration desk!)

To help with the schedule on Saturday, we will be scheduling some Judging interview for Friday evening. A Big Thank You to the teams who agreed to be judged on Friday evening! We will be sending out and posting a judging schedule ahead of the event.

**IMPORTANT: This season, we are asking teams who choose to submit an Engineering Portfolio to do so electronically (in PDF format) by 8AM MST on Friday, Dec 12.** To submit, please go to the following link:

## **[Team Portfolio and/or Compass and Promote Video Submissions | NM FTC](https://nmftc.org/compass-promote-video-submissions/)**

**<https://nmftc.org/compass-promote-video-submissions/>**

Please let me know at [nmftcinfo@gmail.com](mailto:nmftcinfo@gmail.com) if you have any problems with this submission

If you have problems locating the entrance or checking in, please call Jim at (575) 418-7092 for help!

## Saturday, Dec 13 2025

- 7:00 am Pits open, Team registration opens, Inspection continues
- 7:30 am Teams must be checked in by 7:30 am so we can generate the schedules
- 8:10 Drivers meeting on the field with the head Ref & Coaches meeting in the Outer Lobby with the Tournament Director. Schedules will be distributed.
- 8:30 am Judging sessions and practice matches begin
- 10:15 am Opening Ceremony then qualification matches begin immediately
- 12:00 pm Lunch Break
- 1:00 pm Qualification matches resume
- 2:00 pm Alliance Selections
- 2:30 pm Elimination matches
- 5:00 pm Awards & Closing ceremony
- 5:30 pm Event ends (all teams please clear by 6:30 pm unless you are helping with teardown!)
- 7:00 pm Building closes

## **PLEASE NOTE THAT NO WIFI NETWORKS MAY BE SET UP BY TEAMS IN COMPETITION VENUE!**

With the Android robot controller, WiFi interference has been minimized, but not eliminated. Outside WiFi networks and devices may interfere with Android communications on the competition field, so we would also ask that all mobile devices with WiFi capability have the WiFi set to off or airplane mode during the competition. One team computer can be added to a guest network for software downloads and troubleshooting, however it **MUST** be taken off the network after diagnostic or repair use. We will provide connection info at the event.

### **Check-in**

Your team roster and all student consent forms for all team members and mentors should be completed in the FIRST registration system. **The printed roster must be turned in at a team check-in.** Hard copy consent forms with those individual hand written on the roster can be accepted but are discouraged. **Students are not allowed to compete by FIRST without one or the other of these!**

### **Inspection**

Hardware inspection takes place with your robot at the inspection table located by the left stairs to the stage. Software inspection takes place on the practice field. Your team will not be allowed to compete in qualifying matches until your robot has passed inspection! ***Please make passing inspection your first priority!***

### **Team Setup/Pits**

Teams will setup along the two sides of the Auditorium. We will provide one 6ft table and a couple of chairs in a 10 ft x 10 ft space. A large power strip will be provided along both side walls for you to plug into. Teams are required to bring an extension cord (50 ft or longer) if you want power in your pit.

**Please use only gaffer tape on floors – NO Duct Tape!**

**The Auditorium and Pit area are carpeted so please no drilling or cutting.** A separate work area with hard floors, tables and power will be provided in the school's TMZ maker space for that type of work.

The pit areas in this facility are a little darker than you may be used to. We are looking to add some additional lighting but recommend bringing LED type string, rope or work lights with you. The area has high ceilings so canopies and other pit structures are allowed and welcome.

### **Schedules**

Practice matches are on a first come, first serve basis. Match and judging schedules will be generated once all teams are checked in. Each team will get 5 qualifying matches with time built in for robot repairs and battery charging. Teams will also be assigned a 10-15 minute judging interview time that will take place Friday evening or Saturday before opening ceremonies. If possible, the whole team and robot are invited to participate in the interview. **Please - be at your interview at LEAST 5 minutes prior to your assigned time!** After lunch, judges will circulate throughout the pit and the competition field to interview teams informally. **Please be sure there is always someone at your pit during this time who knows where the team is.**

### **Engineering Portfolios**

**Teams may document their build season in an engineering portfolio.** Three of the possible eight awards (Inspire, Think and Control) require teams to submit an engineering portfolio in order to be eligible for those awards. If you plan to submit a portfolio, **please submit them electronically in PDF format by 8:00AM on Friday Dec 12. Instructions are on the first page of this letter.**

## Food

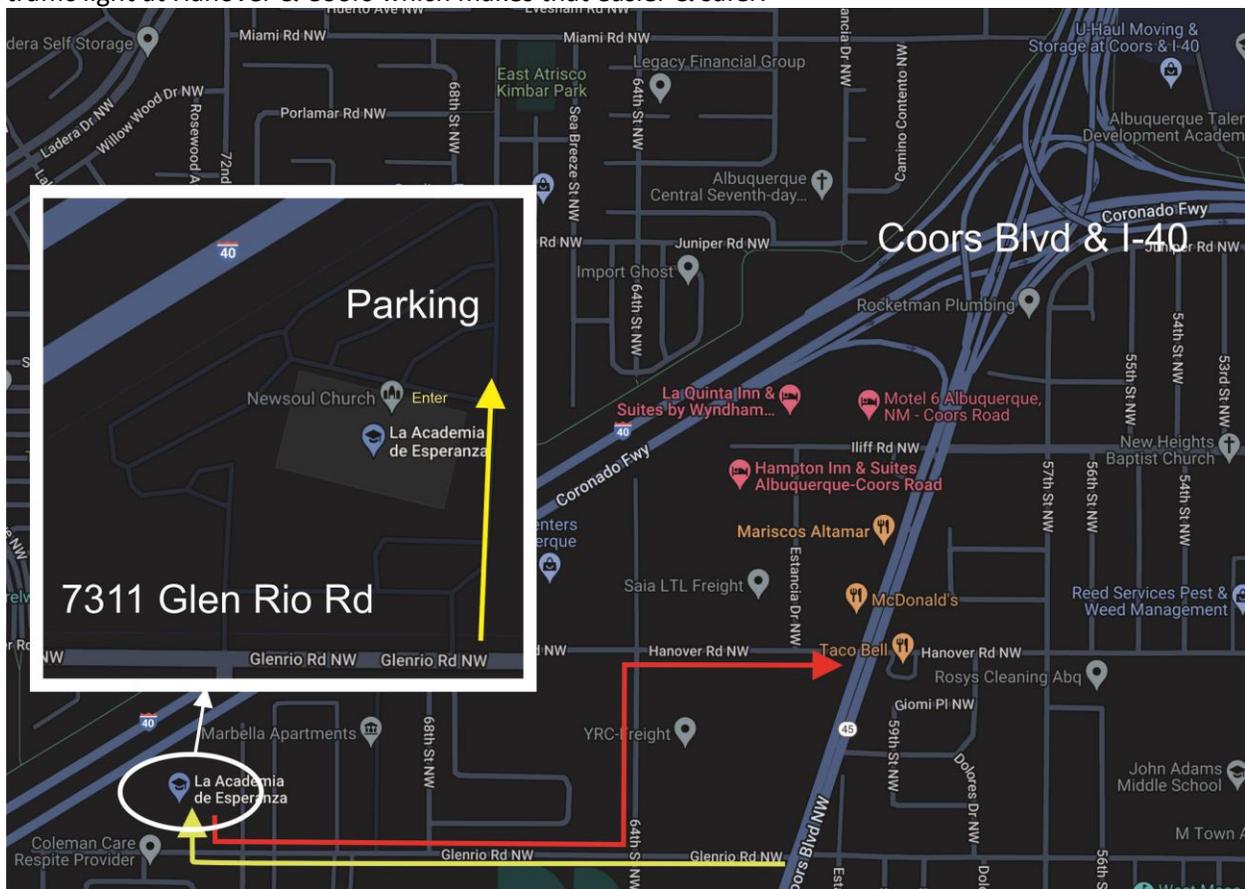
Food can be consumed in the auditorium. **Please just clean up after yourself!** The spaces we are in will be used for Church services the very next day, so we need to leave the area as we find it! Students from La Academia de Esperanza will be operating a snack bar in the back of the auditorium. The fund raised by this snack bar go to support the FTC & FRC teams at the school. Please try to support them!

**There is ample food & lodging available along Coors Blvd within a few miles radius of the school.**

## Directions & Parking

**La Academia de Esperanza Charter School is located at 7311 Glenrio Rd NW. in Albuquerque.** When you enter through the gate, drive around to the right side of the building and you will see the doors on the back. All entry, exit & loading will be through those main doors. You may pull up in front of the building to unload but please think of your fellow teams and be quick!

I've attached a map showing how to get to the school and a blow-up of where to park and enter the building. It is easy to get to the school by turning directly onto Glenrio Rd off of Coors Blvd. However, when you leave the school to go north on Coors Blvd (as most probably will), follow the red line I've shown. When departing, you cannot turn left from Glenrio Rd onto northbound Coors Blvd. There is a traffic light at Hanover & Coors which makes that easier & safer.



**Advancement to the New Mexico Championship**

The New Mexico **FTC** Championship will take place in Albuquerque, NM on February 20-21, 2026 at Menaul School.

Due to team registration numbers and the impact of the new advancement rules for the season, all NM teams registered in the NM **FTC** region are invited to advance to the NM **FTC** Regional Championship provided they have participated in one of the Qualifiers.! Please register for the championship by visiting <https://nmftc.org/calendar-of-events/> by 5pm, January 31 to secure your spot.

**Things to remember:**

- Don't forget your Gracious Professionalism!
- Bring your team roster and/or please have all student consent forms for all team members and mentors completed in the **FIRST** registration system. Hard copy forms can be accepted but are discouraged. **Students are not allowed to compete by FIRST without one or the other of these!**
- If submitting an Engineering Portfolio, remember to submit it electronically by 8 AM, December 12.
- Please bring **safety glasses** for your team and all guests – **they are required in all Pit and Competition areas.**
- Closed toed shoes only in the pits and on the field.
- Scout! You never know if you might be selecting an alliance.
- Cheer! Bring up the energy of our event and have a blast!
- Make sure your robot batteries are fully charged before coming out to a match. This is the #1 reason why robots stop moving on the field and is entirely preventable!
- Please no WiFi devices except one team computer as needed!!
- Please leave our school cleaner than you found it.
- **A Fun Challenge for teams** – come up with a unique award to present to another team at the event. Let's see what you can come up with!
- HAVE FUN!

**GO TEAMS!**

**Jim Jackson, New Mexico FTC Program Delivery Partner; Lead Mentor, Zia Robotics FRC 6974**

**Thomas Loyd, Instructor at La Academia de Esperanza; Lead Mentor, Hack City Robotics FTC 21797**