



# NEW MEXICO FIRST TECH CHALLENGE



**NEW MEXICO** Welcome to the Alamogordo *FIRST* Tech Challenge Qualifying Tournament!

Hosted by Alamogordo High School, Holloman Air & Space STEM Outreach, and ASTRO Vikings *FTC*

**Welcome to Alamogordo!** We are SO looking forward to seeing you all January 16 & 17 at our qualifying event held here in Alamogordo, New Mexico! This year's game, **DECODE** 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 Tournament Friday, Jan 16, 2026 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

Venue opens to teams for early check in, inspection, pit set up 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 interviews for Friday evening. We are looking for 6 teams to do judging on Friday evening. Please let us know by email to [nmftcinfo@gmail.com](mailto:nmftcinfo@gmail.com) if you can do this. 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, Jan 16. 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

This year we are having the Qualifier in the Tiger Pit! You will enter Alamogordo HS from First Street onto Tiger Drive. Teams will enter the building directly under the Lawrence E Johnson Tiger Pit sign. I will have A.S.T.R.O. Vikings outside looking for teams, but if you are at all confused on where to enter Friday evening, please call Heather (575)442-1158 or Matthew (575)442-1486 and we will send help!



## **Saturday, Jan 17, 2026**

7:00 am Pits open, Team registration opens, Inspection continues

8:00 am Drivers meeting on the field & Coaches meeting in entry hallway

8:30 am Judging sessions and practice matches begin

10:30 am Opening Ceremonies  
10:45 am Qualification Matches begin  
12:00 pm Lunch Break  
1:00 pm Qualification matches resume  
2:00 pm Alliance Selections  
2:30 pm Elimination matches  
4:00 pm Pit & Competition field teardown, teams pack out  
5:00 pm Awards & Closing ceremony (starts after the TD and PDP are satisfied w/pit area status)  
5:45 pm Event ends  
6:00 pm Building closes (all teams please clear the venue by 6:00 pm unless you are helping with cleanup & teardown!)

### **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 on a case by case basis.

### **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 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 in the pit area. 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 pits in the back of the Tiger Pit. We will provide one 6ft table and a couple of chairs in a 10 ft x 10 ft space. 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! Cutting and drilling of materials is not permitted in the gym area. Please perform those activities outside and clean up after yourselves.**

### **Schedules**

Practice matches are on a first come, first serve basis. Match 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 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 Jan,16. Instructions are on the first page of this letter.**

## Food

**The school will not allow food or drink on the Gymnasium floor which includes the Pits and competition area! Only bottled water.** Food can be consumed in the upper gym or outside. **Please just clean up after yourself!** There are also ample picnic tables outside if the weather permits.

There are a few local pizza places that will deliver to AHS.

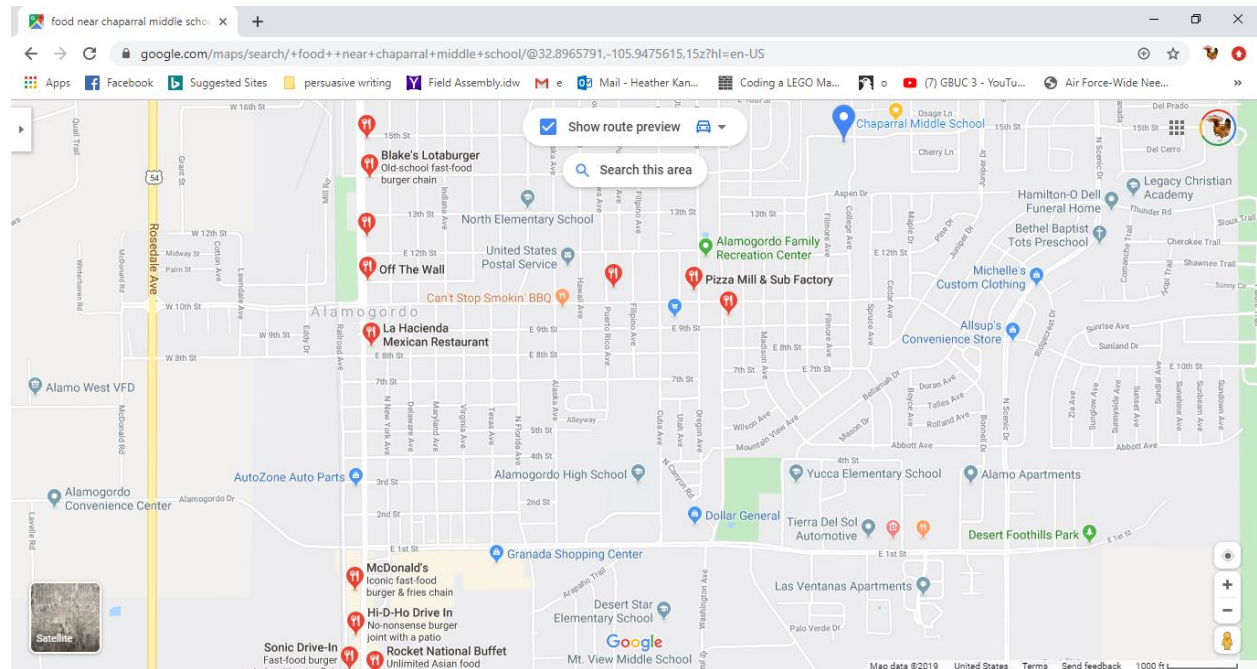
Dominos (575)434-3030

Pizza Mill (575)434-1313

Papa Johns (575)437-5678

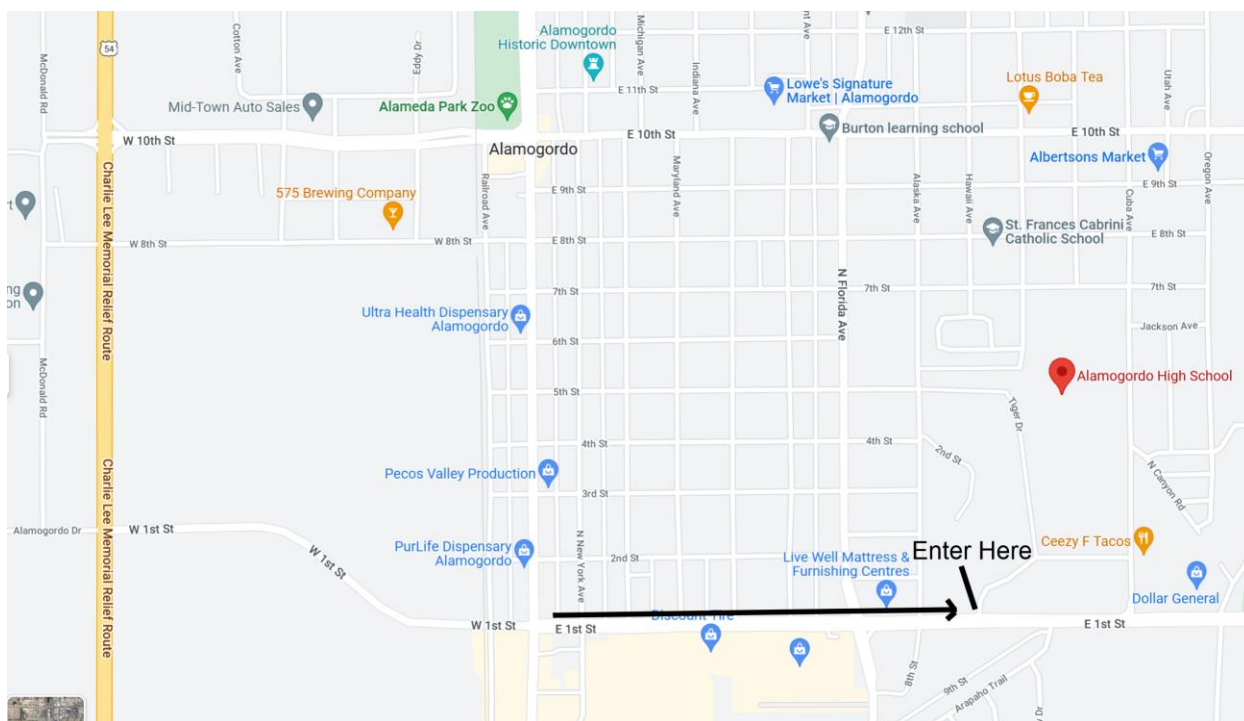
Just be sure to tell them to meet you outside of the cafeteria and a description of who they are looking for. It will make their trip much easier!

I've also included a map that shows the closest restaurants to the school. Brown bag deli make wonderful sandwiches! Pizza Mill had really great subs and the Garbage Barge Pizza is a local favorite.



## Directions & Parking

To get to the Alamo High School from Highway 54 turn onto 1<sup>st</sup> street. You will turn left to enter the high school parking lot from 1<sup>st</sup> street. There is a big sign that says Tiger Drive! If you make it to Cuba Ave you've went too far.



### Load in to Pit Floor

For team load in we are asking that no students use the elevator unless they need it for accessibility. For tool/robot carts we ask that 1 coach please use the elevator with the supplies and not load it over 400 lbs. Students can help you get what needs to be moved via elevator into it.

### Spectator seating

We are asking all spectators to stay in the upper deck seating area. In an attempt to keep food/water off of the gym floor all non-team participants need to stay out of the lower gym area. They should be able to view the game field well from the upper deck. Please have your spectators practice their best core values as if they too are representing your team as well. We will have 1 set of lower bleachers open for team seating.

### Advancement to the New Mexico Championship

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

This season, due to registration numbers, all NM teams who attend at least one qualifier will advance to the NM **FTC** Regional Championship. You will have until the Thursday following the Alamo High School Qualifying Tournament to accept your spot at the tournament. Please register for the championship by visiting <https://nmftc.org/calendar-of-events/> by 5 pm Jan 22 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 strongly discouraged. **Students are not allowed to compete by FIRST without one or the other of these!**

- Remember to submit your engineering portfolio electronically if you have one.
- 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 and once the event ends please exit the school grounds. APS is gracious enough to have 5 security and 5 janitorial staff assisting with the event. As you know it's a long day and we really would like to respect their time.
- HAVE FUN!

### **GO TEAMS!**

Heather Kangas, Alamogordo **FTC** Qualifier Tournament Director

Jim Jackson, New Mexico **FTC** Program Delivery Partner

A.S.T.R.O. Vikings **FTC**