



NEW MEXICO *FIRST* TECH CHALLENGE



NEW MEXICO Welcome to the New Mexico *FIRST* Tech Challenge Regional Championship!
Hosted by Land of Enchantment Robotics at Menaul School

Welcome to Albuquerque!

We are SO looking forward to seeing you all February 20-21 at our Regional Championship 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, Feb 20, 2026 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Venue opens to teams at 5 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 six Judging interviews for Friday evening. A Big Thank You to the local Albuquerque teams who agreed to be judged on Friday evening! We will be sending out and posting a judging schedule shortly.

IMPORTANT: For teams who choose to submit an Engineering Portfolio, please do so electronically (in PDF format) by 8 AM MST on Friday, Feb 20. 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 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, Feb 21, 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
- 10:30 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 a team check-in.** Hard copy Consent forms with those individual hand written on the roster can be accepted but are highly 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 in the pit area. Software inspection takes place on the competition field. Your team will not be allowed to be on the practice field or compete in practice or qualifying matches until your robot has passed inspection! ***Please make passing inspection your first priority!***

Team Setup/Pits

Teams will setup in the East half of the gym. We will provide one 6ft table and a couple of chairs in a 10 ft x 10 ft space. Power cables 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 pit area has high ceilings so canopies and other pit structures are allowed and welcome.

Schedules

Practice fields 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!** The interviews are in another building across a gravel parking lot, so please plan accordingly! 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 8AM MST on Friday Feb 20. Instructions are on the first page of this letter.**

Food

Food can be consumed in the auditorium. **Please just clean up after yourself!** We need to leave the area as we find it!

The Menaul School Athletics Program will have their snack bar open in the Front Lobby. A Menu of available items will be sent along with this letter. This is a fundraiser for the School's Athletic Programs so please try to support them!

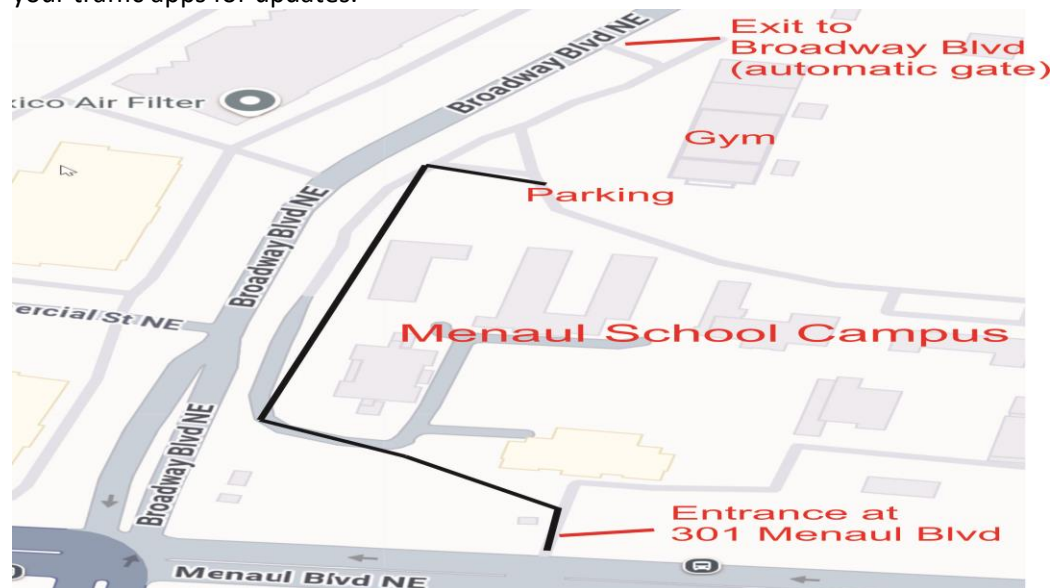
There is also ample food & lodging throughout the area within a 5 mile radius of the school.

Directions & Parking

Menaul School is located at 301 Menaul Blvd. in Albuquerque, just west of I-25. It is the same venue as last season and many of you who have participated in NM **FLL** will also already be familiar with it – our setup is basically the same. **Traffic flow on campus one way.** You enter through the main gate off of **Menaul Blvd**, drive around to the left (west) side of the buildings, the gym is in the back of the campus. Parking is on the West and south side of the gym. We will have signs directing you. The main entrance for check-in is the glass doors on the south side of the gym. Pit load in and out are the doors in the center west side of the gym. You may pull up by the loading door to unload and load but please think of your fellow teams and be quick! **Exit from the campus is a gate you will see on the west side of the gym. It is an automatic gate so just pull up to it from the inside and it will open, letting you exit onto Broadway Blvd NE.**

I've attached a map showing how to get into to the Campus. It is easy to get to the school by turning directly into the campus directly off of Menaul Blvd. However, when you leave the school, please use the exit through an automatic gate onto Broadway Blvd NE.

Please be aware there is significant road construction going on involving Interstate-25 and it's frontage roads in this area. This is resulting in diverted traffic, lane closures and intermittent closures of the frontage roads that may affect your route to the school. Please watch the live traffic signs and your traffic apps for updates.



Advancement from the New Mexico Championship

The New Mexico Championship will advance one NM region team to the **FIRST** Championship in Houston, TX this season. We also will advance three NM region teams to the **FTC** Premier events being held around the world. **Advancement rules and processes have changed significantly this season!** Please see my previous email, the blog post entry on our website and the FIRST Team Blast emails for details on this topic. **For the teams advancing, there will be very short response times (a few days) required for setting preferences and accepting invites after our Championship!**

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 Noon, January 17.
- 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 the 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;

Co-Director, Land of Enchantment Robotics

Lead Mentor, Zia Robotics FRC 6974