



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!

Thank you for volunteering February 20-21 at our NM *FTC* 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 our teams. Please read the following information and help us have a fantastic tournament.

Schedule for the Friday, Feb 20, 2026 1PM – 9:00 pm

We have access to the venue for setup after 1PM on Friday. While many volunteer roles are for Saturday, all are welcome to come Friday afternoon/evening to help setup or meet teams. Venue opens to teams at 5PM for early check in, inspection, pit set up, judging and practice, so we need to have pits, practice field and judging set up by then. At 9:00 PM the venue closes for the night.

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

Schedule for Saturday, Feb 21, 2026

- 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

Food

Food and drinks will be provided for all volunteers! There will be a volunteer lounge room off of the lobby of the gym for taking a break and consumption of snacks/drink. We will be providing pizza to volunteers present on Friday evening starting at 5 PM in the Volunteer lounge. For Saturday, we will provide Hot Breakfast and Lunch meals in the Cafeteria (Refectory) building to all volunteers starting at 7AM for breakfast and noon for lunch. Food plans changed at the last minute from what I told some of you previously. We will be having a variety of breakfast and lunch sandwiches from Einstein Bagels. We are planning to have vegetarian options. Given the high risk of cross contamination, I would recommend folks with severe allergies or gluten free requirements to bring food you are comfortable with. We will have sealed snacks and drinks meeting these requirements.

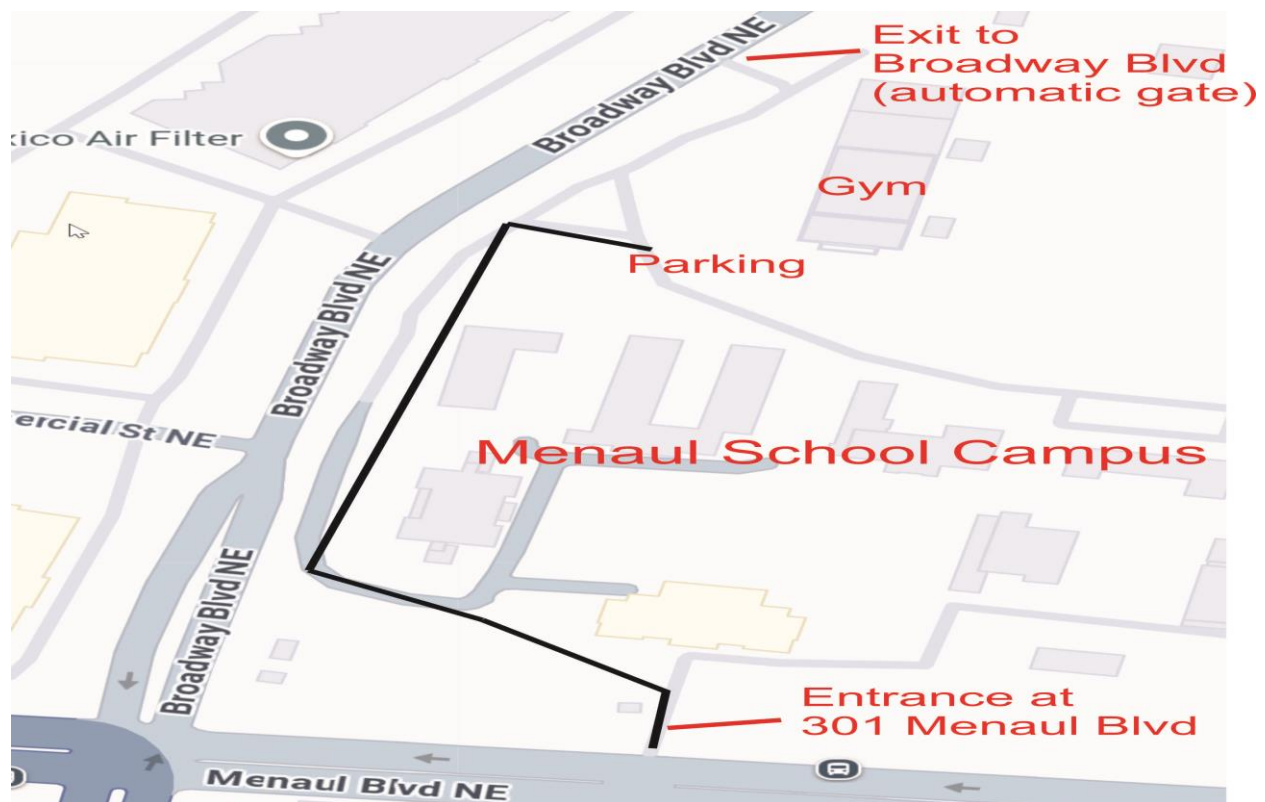
Check-in

Volunteers please check in at the table in the gym lobby. We have orange vests or referee pennies to identify you as a volunteer. Safety glasses are required around the pits and practice / competition fields so we will have those if you need a pair.

Directions & Parking

Menaul School is located at 301 Menaul Blvd. in Albuquerque, just west of I-25. While relatively new to NM *FTC*, many of you who have participated in NM *FLL* will 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 plan to 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. **Exit from the campus is via 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 the 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.

Volunteer Opportunities *FIRST* Championship and Premier Events

The New Mexico Championship will advance one NM region team to the *FIRST* Championship in Houston, TX. We also will advance three NM region teams to the new *FTC* Premier events being held around the

world. If you enjoy volunteering at our events in NM, please consider volunteering for one of these Premier Events or The *FIRST* Championship. They are exciting and High Energy events! Volunteering is through your *FIRST* Dashboard just as you volunteered for local events.

NM *FIRST* Robotics Competition (*FRC*) Chili Classic

On the weekend of July 10-11, 2026 New Mexico will be hosting our first ever *FIRST* Robotics Competition event in Albuquerque. The Chili Classic will be an off-season *FRC* event. NM has about a dozen *FRC* teams who currently compete under *FIRST* in Texas and we will be inviting teams from other regions as well. We will be needing many of the same types of volunteers for that event. So, if you enjoy *FLL* and *FTC* and want to see the excitement of the next level of *FIRST* competition, please come join us!

Things to remember:

- Please have any trainings, certifications, consent & release and YPP screening shown as required for your volunteer role in the *FIRST* registration system complete. That will make your (and our) day go much smoother!
- Safety glasses are required in all Pit and Competition areas. We will have safety glasses for volunteers including ones that fit over your prescription glasses
- Closed toed shoes only in the pits and competition area.
- Cheer! Bring up the energy of our event and have a blast!
- Most important HAVE FUN and enjoy the accomplishments of the teams!

Thank You!

Jim Jackson,

New Mexico *FTC* Program Delivery Partner

Co-Director, Land of Enchantment Robotics

Lead Mentor, Zia Robotics *FRC* 6974