



Overview

The Claflin Robotics Competition challenges students to collaborate, problem-solve, and design innovative solutions through hands-on robotics and technology-based challenges. Teams apply creativity, critical thinking, and teamwork to address real-world scenarios while exploring how technology intersects with multiple disciplines. **This competition is designed for participants from all degree interests and backgrounds who want to engage with technology in creative ways.**

This is a virtual competition, allowing teams to participate online without the need for physical robots or travel. Teams will engage in authentic robotics and coding challenges using a simulated environment that mirrors real-world robotics concepts.

Competition Website

For all competition-related information, visit: www.claflin.edu/robotics

The website serves as a central hub for the competition packet, registration, challenge details (upon launch), and Zoom access.

Eligibility Requirements:

- High school juniors or seniors
- Must submit an application to Claflin University
- Teams of 3–5 students

Support is available to help students connect and form teams.

No prior coding experience required!

Registration

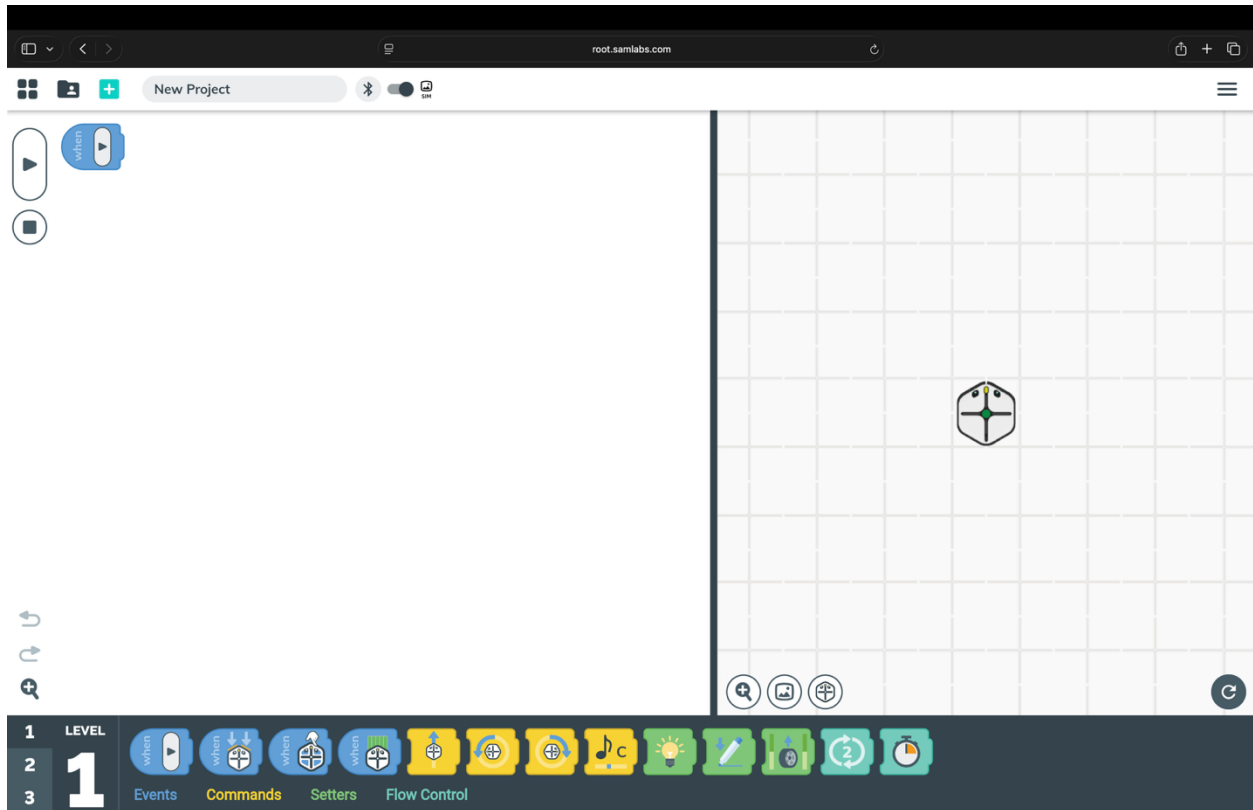
- Registration will be open February 22, 2026, at 12:00pm.
- Registration will close February 28, 2026, at 12:00pm.
- Registration link will be available through the competition website.

Preliminaries

Preliminary challenges will be released on March 2, 2026, at 12:00pm on the competition website. Teams will be emailed an access code at the time of the release that is needed to view challenge. Please add *mathandcs@claflin.edu* to your email contacts to ensure competition emails are delivered to your inbox.

Teams must submit solutions by March 8, 2026, at 12:00pm. Teams will complete three asynchronous challenges using the iRobot Virtual Platform: <https://root.samlabs.com/#/explore>.

Screenshot of iRobot Virtual Platform



Ways to Prepare

- Visit <https://root.samlabs.com/#/explore>
- Explore *Getting started with Root*
- Review other coding examples on the iRobot website

Teams will submit both their code and a demo presentation. Specific instructions will be provided.

Judging and Advancement

A panel of judges will review and score all submissions, and the top 10 teams will be selected to advance to the competition finals. The judging panel will include individuals from various academic, professional, and industry backgrounds.

Finals

The final round will take place on March 15, 2026, at 4:00 pm. The top 10 teams from the preliminaries will compete live via Zoom, with 2 hours to complete the final challenge. The Zoom link will be sent via email.

Schedule

Time	Event
3:45pm – 4:00pm	Zoom entry allowed
4:00pm	Welcome and Introductions
Immediately following Welcome and Introductions	Final challenge released
4:30pm – 6:30pm	Work time for teams <i>Breakout rooms available if needed</i>
6:30pm	Live team demonstration and presentation for judges
7:00pm	Awards Ceremony and Closing

Prizes

Prizes will be given to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

1 st Place Prize	2 nd Place Prize	3 rd Place Prize
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$25,000 in scholarships • Priority admissions consideration • Printed Certificate of Achievement • Signature Claflin Experience - Private VIP Campus Tour with personalized itinerary by interest (Tech, Media, Business, Health, Education) • Overnight accommodations • Claflin Swag Bundle - A curated set of official Claflin gear and campus favorites designed to celebrate school pride and the Claflin experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$15,000 in scholarships • Printed Certificate of Achievement • Virtual Signature Claflin Experience - Private VIP Campus Tour with personalized itinerary by interest (Tech, Media, Business, Health, Education) • Claflin Gift 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$7,500 in scholarships • Printed Certificate of Achievement • Virtual student discussion • Overnight accommodations • Claflin Gift

Award Terms and conditions

- 1st prize - \$5,000, 2nd place - \$3,000, 3rd place - \$1,500 per team member. One-time award. Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA required. Must attend Claflin University.
- Overnight accommodations include one night stay

System Requirements

1. Reliable internet connection
2. Computer or laptop
3. Access to the iRobot Root virtual platform
4. Ability to record and upload a short demo video for preliminary submissions
5. A working camera and microphone for the live Zoom final challenge
6. A stable email address for team communication and registration confirmation
7. A quiet workspace for team collaboration and live final presentations

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do I need to buy a robot?

No. This competition uses a virtual iRobot platform, so participants do not need to purchase or own a physical robot. If you are interested in learning more about iRobot, visit <https://edu.root.samlabs.com/what-we-offer/root-robot>.

2. Is this competition in-person?

No. This competition is fully virtual, including the preliminaries and finals. Preliminaries are asynchronous and finals are synchronous.

3. Is coding experience required to participate?

No programming experience is required to participate in this competition. Beginner-friendly resources and examples are available, and the competition is designed to be accessible to all experience levels.

4. Can we work on the challenges at our own pace?

Yes. The preliminary challenges are asynchronous, allowing teams to work on them at any time before the submission deadline. However, the final challenge will be timed and must be completed within the allocated time frame.

5. Is my entire team required to physically be in the same space to compete?

All team members aren't required to be together physically when working on the challenges or when presenting. However, all members are required to be present virtually and contribute.

6. How are the teams judged?

Teams will be evaluated by competition judges using a scoring rubric. The rubric will be available on the competition website.

7. Is there a cost to participate?

No. The competition is free of charge, but each participant must meet the requirements.

8. How will we know if we advance to the finals?

Finalist teams will be notified via email.

9. What happens if my team misses the submission deadline?

Late submissions will not be accepted. Teams are strongly encouraged to submit early to avoid technical issues. Please pay close attention to submission dates and times.

10. How many teams can a school register?

There is no limit on the number of teams that can be registered from a single school as long as there are 3-5 students per team.

11. Can I register if I don't have a team yet?

Yes. You may register as an individual participant. Assistance will be provided to help match you with a team before the competition begins.

Questions?

For additional information or assistance, please email mathandcs@claflin.edu.