

GETTING THERE

The Ford Idaho Center is just north of the freeway off of the **Garrity Blvd Exit 38** west of Boise. It's about 20 minutes from the Boise (BOI) airport. There are two hotels (**hot pink rectangles**) across the parking lot: The Hampton Inn & Suites and the Home2Suites. Both are managed by the same company. The other local hotel is south of freeway at the Holiday Inn Express. These hotels are part of the Experient arrangement so try that link. If it doesn't work, contact the hotel directly and tell them you are with the FIRST Idaho Regional to get the rates contracted by FIRST. Other hotels are available in Meridian off exits 44 and 46 and in Nampa off exits 39 and 40. These are listed on page 7 of this document.

LOAD IN: Load in will be from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday night and again from 7:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Thursday morning. **Because of the location and the size of the loading area, we can only allow 6 team members - including students and mentors to participate in the load in process.** The Loading Dock is on the east side of the Arena. Please be mindful of others and try to drop, unload and remove vehicles so that others can do so as well. There is a parking lot immediately adjacent to the load in area so save your smaller items for transport, by foot, from the lot to the venue rather than attempting to do it all in the loading lanes. **Please check in at the table inside the gates. Look for the “Robots” feather signs.**

FIRST LOGO “PHOTO IN THE AMPHITHEATRE”: This will happen on Thursday at 11:00 a.m. The Pits will close for a short time and everyone (teams, mentors, volunteers, etc.) will file outside to participate. Be sure to wear your team shirts so that you stand out in the photo. All photos we take at the Regional will be made available on Shutterfly about April 4th.

TEAM SOCIAL: Friday evening's Team Social from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. Further information will be coming.

Cost is still to be determined. **TICKETS ARE REQUIRED!** Please email your total attendance count to teamsocial@idahofrcregional.org by **March 25th**. Your admission tickets will be included in your team packet when you check-in at the Load-in area on Wednesday night or Thursday morning. You can prepay by using our PayPal link under “Donate” on the www.idahofrcregional.org website. Please choose to pay a “friend” and use the teamsocial@idahofrcregional.org email. You may also pay at load-in with a check (Payable to “**Idaho Regional Robotics**”). No packets will be given out or Pits assigned without payment received.

PITS: Power will come from the floor or panel outlet behind your pit. You will need to bring necessary surge suppressors and extension cords for your pit. Pits are 10' x 10'. Please use Gaffer's tape, not duct tape, on floors/etc. Water and light snacks will be allowed in the Pits, but no outside food or drink will be allowed in the Arena, even if you purchased it on the facility campus. Tailgating and picnics are allowed on the grounds and parking lots. The pits snacks **must** be brought through the loading doors on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning and stored in your pit. Concessions will be open for coffee/breakfast and lunch on the upper parquet level of the arena. Boxed lunches by previous order will be offered this year. Keep an eye out for a menu with pricing and how to place your order soon. An email will be sent to your mentors on file with FIRST.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY – NATIONAL ANTHEM: If any of your STUDENTS are interested in performing the National Anthem, Canadian or Chinese Anthem during the Opening Ceremonies on Friday or Saturday morning, please contact Lisa, our Regional Planning Chair at lisa_lalliss_skogsberg@msn.com or (208) 870-6873.