

What is Scouting?

Scouting in robotics competitions involves gathering and analyzing data on other teams' robots. This data collection is crucial for developing strategies and making informed decisions during the competition.

There are two primary types of scouting:

Stand Scouting: In this method, students observe robots' performances from the stands. They watch matches closely, noting key aspects such as speed, agility, accuracy, and overall effectiveness. This information is then entered into a specialized scouting website, which aggregates the data for further analysis. Stand scouting helps the team understand the competitive landscape and identify strong and weak performers.

Pit Scouting: This approach involves students visiting the pits where teams maintain and repair their robots. Here, they gather detailed information about the robots' design, capabilities, and any unique features. Students may ask team members specific questions about their robots' mechanisms, programming, and strategies. This data helps the team understand the technical aspects and potential of other robots.

Both types of scouting are essential for creating a comprehensive understanding of the competition, allowing the team to strategize effectively and make informed decisions about alliances and match tactics.

- [Why Not Use The Blue Alliance?](#)

Why Not Use The Blue Alliance?

While [The Blue Alliance](#) is a valuable resource for robotics teams, it has limitations. The site provides comprehensive data on match results, rankings, and statistics, but it focuses on alliance performance rather than individual robots. This makes it challenging to assess the specific contributions of each robot in a match.

Additionally, data on The Blue Alliance can sometimes be inaccurate due to errors in entry, discrepancies in match reporting, or delays in updates. As a result, teams should not solely rely on this data and must complement it with their own scouting efforts.

Teams often use stand scouting to observe and record individual robot performance during matches and pit scouting to gather detailed information directly from teams. By combining The Blue Alliance data with firsthand scouting information, teams can develop a more accurate and comprehensive understanding of the competition, leading to better strategic decisions.