

## **Lego Competition Workshop Spring Institute 2025**

In today's session you will:

- Know the cost to run a Lego Build Competition
- Know best practices in choosing supplies for a competition
- Know how to run a competition from planning to implementing the program

### Why?

Legos are extremely popular at our library. We received a large donation a few years ago of Lego sets. We've developed a system to allow kids to "check out" these sets, build them in our department, and put them on display for a week. Since we have that in place, after we run a Lego competition program we then phase those extra sets into our system. While a Lego competition is expensive on the front end, we're able to reuse the sets for building at any time.

This type of program encourages teamwork, cooperation, and communication under a time constraint. Normally a solo activity—building a Lego set—we ensure that each team consists of at least two participants. This presents a unique challenge to some kids who consider themselves experts at building Legos but have never built a set with another person in this kind of setting.

### Cost

We prefer to purchase 10 sets for a competition. We try very hard to keep the cost per set around \$15-16. We aim to acquire Creator sets—these have three projects in the box. While we only use one project for the competition, this allows for three new building projects to be added to our collection.

To help contain pieces, we encourage builders to use craft trays. We purchased several sets of "Easy-Clean Craft Trays" from Lakeshore Learning and have found they work very well for Lego building. (They also work really well for crafts in general.)

Lego sets (x10): \$150-160

Craft trays (for three sets of 4): \$45

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Total cost estimate: \$200

### Supplies

-Creator 3 in 1 White Rabbit (31133) x 10

OR

-Creator 3 in 1 Exotic Parrot (31136) x 10

-Craft trays from Lakeshore Learning

### How to run

We recommend setting up registration. We do not accept a registration for just one participant—they must have at least one other person on their team. We allow people to join a team on the day of the competition. Please note: the team **must already have at least two people**. If a team member isn't able to attend, we will combine teams if necessary, which we state in our marketing materials.

We set an age limit of whatever the Lego set recommends. If the set has a minimum age of 7+, we open the program to children ages 7-12(ish). We can be flexible for the upper age of the competition, however we are not flexible with the younger age. We do try to not go too much older than the younger age to ensure that building abilities are roughly equal.

Each team can be between 2-4 participants. We have found that having 4 team members doesn't always mean a higher level of success. When the teams check into the program, we ask them to nominate a Team Captain. The Captains meet with the staff member running the program to go over the rules of the competition and make sure everyone understands what they are supposed to do.

We use our programming space and spread out 10 tables to give teams some privacy. Each table has four chairs, and we only allow team members to sit at the tables. We also learned that many parents like to stay and watch. We added chairs around the perimeter of the room for the adults.

At the end? We give a prize to each member of the winning team! To keep costs down, we give away leftover SRP prizes to the top three teams.