

FIRST Robotics

FIRST[®] has a mission to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders and innovators, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering, and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.

Combining the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology.

The *FIRST* Robotics Competition is called the ultimate Sport for the Mind. High-school student participants call it “the hardest fun you’ll ever have.” Under strict rules, limited resources, and an intense six-week time limit, teams of students are challenged to raise funds, design a team "brand," hone teamwork skills, and build and program industrial-size robots to play a difficult field game against like-minded competitors. It’s as close to real-world engineering as a student can get. Volunteer professional mentors lend their time and talents to guide each team. Each season ends with an exciting *FIRST* Championship.

FIRST needs your help to support these young scientific minds and they are currently looking for volunteers to support planning efforts and engage youth before and during this event. Opportunities to get involved start now and run through the regional competitions in early March. They include joining the Regional Planning Committee, mentoring a team or volunteering at the regional competitions.

With support of General Atomics and others, local teams are able to compete at the San Diego Regional; one of the best and largest regional competitions in the world. This year's event will engage 60 teams, and will impact over 1,500 high school students.

To learn more about *FIRST* please visit their website at www.firstinspires.org .

If you are interested in learning about ways to get involved locally, in this very impactful program/competition, please contact David Berggren, *FIRST* Senior Regional Director for California at dberggren@firstinspires.org .