

**FIRST**

**FIRST** (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization founded in 1989 to interest and inspire students in mathematics and science. **FIRST** was founded by Dean Kamen, President of DEKA Research and Development Corporation.

Compared with students from other industrial countries, students in the United States do not rank highly in math and science. There has also been a decline in enrollment of young adults entering science and engineering programs at our universities. These trends, if not reversed, will eventually lead to a loss of leadership in advanced technology fields.

**FIRST** is taking a leadership role in reversing this trend by stimulating interest in science, math, and technology in our nation's youth through programs such as the **FIRST** Robotics Competition.

***FIRST* Vision:**

**FIRST** inspires in young people, their schools and communities an appreciation of science and technology, and how mastering these can enrich the lives of all.

**Mission Statement:**

**FIRST** designs accessible, innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology and engineering.

**GRACIOUS PROFESSIONALISM, A *FIRST* CREDO**

Dr. Woodie Flowers, **FIRST** National Advisor, asks and provides his view regarding the question, "Why do **FIRST** folks talk so much about that phrase?"

*"Obviously it would not make sense to endorse 'asinine professionalism' or 'gracious incompetence.' It is, however, completely consistent with the **FIRST** spirit to encourage doing high quality well informed work in a manner that leaves everyone feeling valued. Gracious professionalism seems to be a good descriptor for part of the ethos of **FIRST**. It is part of what makes **FIRST** different and wonderful.*

*Gracious professionalism has purposefully been left somewhat undefined because it can and should mean different things to each of us. We can, however, outline some of its possible meanings. Gracious attitudes and behaviors are win-win. Gracious folks respect others and let that respect show in their action. Professionals possess special knowledge and are trusted by society to use that knowledge responsibly. Thus, gracious professionals make a valued contribution in a manner pleasing to others and to themselves.*

*In **FIRST**, one of the most straightforward interpretations of gracious professionalism is that we learn and compete like crazy, but treat one another with respect and kindness in the process. We try to avoid leaving anyone feeling like they are losers. No chest thumping barbarian tough talk, but no sticky sweet platitudes either. Knowledge, pride and empathy comfortably blended.*

*Understanding that gracious professionalism works is not rocket science. It is, however, missing in too many activities. At **FIRST** it is alive and well. Please help us take care of it.*

*In the long run, gracious professionalism is part of pursuing a meaningful life. If one becomes a professional, and uses knowledge in a gracious manner, everyone wins. One can add to society and enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that you have acted with integrity and sensitivity. That's good stuff!"*

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For more information on FIRST, please see our website at <http://www.usfirst.org>

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*FIRST* Headquarters will handle all inquires from the following states:

*Maine, New Hampshire, & Vermont*

## Senior Mentors

The **FIRST Senior Mentor Program** is a critical addition to *FIRST's* volunteer resource management infrastructure, working to recruit and support *FIRST* Team Mentors and *FIRST* Event Volunteers in their service areas. Senior Mentors strengthen and expand *FIRST's* partnerships with businesses, educational institutions, and communities. Senior Mentors will work with the *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC), the *FIRST* LEGO League (FLL), the *FIRST* Tech Challenge and the Jr. *FIRST* LEGO League in the geographic area in which they reside. The Senior Mentors work collaboratively with regional directors, volunteer committees, program partners, and teams.

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**Regional Development Officers**

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**Top Strategic Relationships**

To help coordinate among all the programs and events, our top sponsors in multiple areas.

To be Hired

**2008 FIRST Robotics Competition Schedule**

*This schedule is preliminary and is subject to change as not all contracts have been signed.*

*Some event names may change as well.*

**Week 1****Feb 27- March 1, 2008**

BAE Systems/Granite State  
Regional  
Manchester, NH

Midwest Regional  
Chicago, IL

New Jersey Regional  
Trenton, NH

Oregon Regional  
Portland Oregon

St. Louis Regional  
St. Charles, MO

**Week 2****March 5-8, 2008**

Arizona Regional  
Phoenix, AZ

Finger Lakes Regional  
Rochester, NY

Greater Kansas City  
Regional  
Kansas City, MO

NASA/VCU Regional  
Richmond, VA

**Week 3****March 12-15, 2008**

Boilermaker Regional  
West Lafayette, IN

Chesapeake Regional  
Annapolis, MD

Detroit Regional  
Detroit, MI

Florida Regional  
Orlando, FL

Peachtree Regional  
Duluth, GA

**Week 3 (Con't)**

Pittsburgh Regional  
Pittsburgh, PA

Silicon Valley Regional  
San Jose, CA

UTC Connecticut Regional  
Hartford, CT

Wisconsin Regional  
Milwaukee, WI

**Week 4****March 19-22, 2008**

Brazil Regional  
Porto Allegre, Brazil

Buckeye Regional  
Cleveland, OH

Lone Star Regional \*\*  
Kady, TX

Los Angeles Regional  
Los Angeles, CA

Microsoft Seattle Regional\*  
Tacoma, WA

Oklahoma City Regional \*  
Oklahoma City, OK

San Diego Regional  
San Diego, CA

UC Davis Sacramento  
Regional  
Davis, CA

Waterloo Regional  
Waterloo, ON Canada

West Michigan Regional  
Allendale, MI

\* New Event

\*\* New Venue

**Week 5****March 23-25**

GM Technion University  
Israel  
Tel Aviv, Israel

**March 26-29, 2009**

Bayou Regional  
New Orleans, LA

Boston Regional  
Boston, MA

Colorado Regional  
Denver, CO

Great Lakes Regional  
Ypsilanti, MI

Greater Toronto Regional  
Mississauga, ON Canada

Hawaii Regional \*  
TBD

Las Vegas Regional  
Las Vegas, NV

Minnesota Regional \*  
Minneapolis, MN

Palmetto Regional\*\*  
Clemson, SC

Philadelphia Regional  
Philadelphia, PA

SBPLI Long Island Regional  
Hempstead, NY

**Week 6****April 2-5, 2008**

New York City Regional  
New York City, NY

***FIRST Championship***

*April 16-19, 2008*

*Georgia Dome*

*Atlanta, GA*