

Applying & Presenting for Awards



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What can awards do for your team

In *FIRST*

- Enhance team credibility
 - Among other teams
 - Establishes reputation among judges and volunteers at events
 - Resume builder
- Engage other teams
 - Network with teams in your area and beyond
- Can qualify you for advancing in the season
 - District --> District Championship → Championship
 - Regional → Championship
 - Championship → Next Year's Championship(s)

What can awards do for your team

In Your Community

- Generates interest and awareness of your team and *FIRST*
 - In your school system
 - In your community
- Engages potential sponsors, supporters and team members by generating interest within:
 - Student body at schools
 - Local businesses
 - Potential mentors in community
- Potential to expand *FIRST* in your community
 - Teams
 - Competitions
 - Seminars

What can awards do for your team

On Your Team

- Gets your team organized
 - Pre and Post Season
 - Set goals as a team
 - Long term achievements
- Creates team self awareness
 - Capabilities
 - Impact and purpose
 - Areas for improvement and enhancement
- Something beyond the robot to work on
 - Expands and creates more team roles
 - Diversifies team roles
- Inspires confidence in students and team as a whole
 - Generates interest and motivation to expand scope and spectrum of efforts
 - Team pride



Awards Breakdown

Key Phrases

Submission Based Awards: Key Phrases

- **Woodie Flowers** Deadline: 2/09/2017 (Also Chairman's Deadline)
Presented to an outstanding Mentor in the robotics competition who best **leads, inspires, and empowers** their team **using excellent communication skills**.
- **Dean's List** Deadline: 2/16/2017
Celebrates outstanding student leaders whose **passion for and effectiveness at attaining FIRST ideals** is exemplary.
- **Entrepreneurship** Deadline: 2/16/2017
Celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit by recognizing a team that has developed the framework for a comprehensive business plan to **scope, manage, and achieve team objectives**.

Submission Award Prep

Pre & Post Season

- Reflect and review
 - What went well / worked / did not work
 - What will you need to update/edit in your essays
 - What will you need to update/edit in your hand out & presentation materials
 - Set new goals as a team to expand and enhance efforts
- Organize documentation of the season
 - Photos / Feedback / Media
- Ask for letters of support for next season
 - Reach out to teams, companies, people, etc. that you worked with
 - Give them key points you'd like them to talk to
- Gather data relevant to your key points to quantify your team's impact
 - The basics - graduation rates, STEM higher ed rates, gender, number of people reached in demos, etc.
 - The not so basics - things that set your team apart
- Create an updated outline for next year's submission
 - Set benchmarks and deadlines for your submissions for the upcoming season

Submission Award Prep

Build Season

- Solidify award deadlines
 - Set your own earlier so nothing goes wrong
- Add and edit new information to your submission - don't re invent the essay entirely
- If starting from scratch, categorize data
 - Team History - Community Outreach - **FIRST** Objectives- Etc.
- Determine high level points in each submission for supporting documents
 - Data and stats for Entrepreneurship, Chairman's, WFA and DL
 - Photos, key phrases/ quotes, stats for Chairman's video and presentation materials
- Have several people proof read submissions
 - Team members, teachers, parents, other teams, and non **FIRST** people
- Develop a plan for presentation supports
 - What will your presenters need to enhance their talking points
 - Make sure they are complementary to the presenters and not overbearing
 - Keep handouts and supports simple - judges have limited time to review

Submission Award Prep

Competition Season

- Review materials for presentation
 - Dean's List:
 - Read over essay - come up with talking points
 - Have teammates ask you sample questions
 - Chairman's:
 - Practice presentation, don't memorize - practice with props and support materials
 - Gather all needed supports and give to someone responsible
 - Double check that everything is exactly how it should be the day before - check video, have multiple consent & release forms, double supports and posters
 - Practice discussions with teammates and mentors - ask them questions to get a new point of view
 - Use people as judges to interview presenters
- Reflect and revise
 - After presenting at one event, document questions that were asked and how you answered them
 - Discuss with teammates and come up with a plan to improve and enhance
- Network with other teams
 - Discuss how they presented
 - Share judge questions and feedback

Tips from Camilo:

2015 Championship Dean's List Winner

Tips for Interviewing:

- Before going into the interview, **make a plan**. It is very hard to pack together your whole **FIRST** experience and work in a couple of minutes. **Create a quick outline of your talking points**.
- Relax. **Practice, but don't memorize**. You do not want to sound like a robot by the time you get to the interview. Make it real!
- **Be confident** throughout your interview. Chances are the judges are just as nervous as you.
- Judges are looking for what YOU have done throughout your time in **FIRST**. **Take your time talking** about all the things you have done and **make sure they understand what you're trying to convey to them**.
- **Ask questions** the judges questions, they're interesting people!
- **Sleep!** If you are worrying about your interview, you're doing it wrong. Worry about your robot and other work first. You were selected by your mentors for this because you are outstanding, so don't be nervous!

Tips from Camilo: 2015 Championship Dean's List Winner

Difficult Questions

- What does it mean to be a leader?
- How do you represent the core values of *FIRST* in your daily life?

Favorite Question

- What do you do for fun?

[Read his submission at](#)

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Technical Awards: Key Phrases

- **Industrial Design**

Celebrates **form and function** in an efficiently designed machine that effectively addresses the game challenge

- **Quality**

Celebrates **machine robustness in concept and fabrication**.

- **Innovation in Control**

Celebrates an **innovative control system or application of control components**—electrical, mechanical or software—to **provide unique machine functions**.

- **Creativity**

Celebrates **creativity in design, use of component, or strategy** of play.

- **Excellence in Engineering**

Celebrates an **elegant and advantageous machine feature**.

- **Judges' Award**

During the course of the competition, the judging panel may decide a team's unique efforts, performance, or dynamics merit recognition.

Technical Award Prep

Pre & Post Season

- Team and group discussions about successes, failures and discoveries from the season
 - Strategy
 - Fabrication
 - Design
 - Displaying and conveying information to judges
 - Observations of other teams efforts and ideas

Build Season

- Team Communication
 - Group discussions about successes and failures
 - Reflect on previous seasons
 - Continue discussions throughout the build and competition season
- Document your strategy and design process!
 - Delegate team members to capture process
 - Photo documentation (white boards, prototypes, etc)
 - Engineering journal
 - CAD files
 - Talking points and pieces
 - Save prototypes and spare parts to show judges

Technical Award Prep

Competition Season

- Identify your team's unique attributes
 - Study other team's reveal videos, watch competitions
 - Ask yourself - what does your team do well? What's unique about your robot or strategy?
- Determine key points to convey to judges
 - Develop a timeline from concept to competition
 - What is your strategy
 - How and why did your team come up with it
 - How did you design your robot / robot components to achieve your strategy
 - What are the key features on your robot
 - What adjustments and modifications did you make - when and why
- Develop a basic list of key robot component facts for each sub system
 - Drive Base - Feet per second
 - Programming - language used, unique features
 - Electrical - wiring methods, materials
 - Manipulator - ie. can grabber speed
 - Materials

Team Attribute Awards: Key Phrases

- **Team Spirit**
Celebrates extraordinary enthusiasm and spirit **through exceptional partnership and teamwork** furthering the objectives of FIRST.
- **Imagery**
This award celebrates **attractiveness in engineering** and outstanding visual aesthetic integration of **machine and team appearance**.
- **Gracious Professionalism**
Celebrates the team that exemplifies the core values of FIRST in their **relationships with other teams** and by their **demonstrated Gracious Professionalism®**
- **Industrial Safety**
Celebrates the team that **progresses beyond safety fundamentals** by using **innovative ways** to eliminate or protect against hazards.
- **Engineering Inspiration**
Celebrates outstanding success in **advancing respect and appreciation for engineering** within a team's **school and community**.
- **Judges' Award**
During the course of the competition, the judging panel may decide a team's unique efforts, performance, or dynamics merit recognition.

Rookie Awards: Key Phrases

- **Rookie Inspiration**

Celebrates a rookie team's outstanding success in **advancing respect and appreciation for engineering and engineers**, both within their **school**, as well as in their **community**.

- **Rookie All Star**

Celebrates the rookie team exemplifying a young but **strong partnership effort**, as well as implementing the mission of FIRST to inspire students to learn more about science and technology.

- **Highest Rookie Seed**

Celebrates the highest-seeded rookie team at the conclusion of the qualifying rounds.

Team Attribute Award Prep

Pre & Post Season

- Team and group discussions about successes, failures and discoveries from the season
 - Review submissions - highlight areas to edit and update for the upcoming season
 - Discuss presenters and plans for next year's presenters
 - Review any feedback or questions from judges
 - Connect with teams you've worked with and ask for a Letter of Support
 - Review presentation materials
 - Observations and examples of other teams' ideas and efforts
 - What was most impactful and how can you expand and enhance it
- Collect information and turn into facts
 - Statistics

Build Season

- Update, edit and tweak award submissions
 - Most of the writing should be done in the pre season for major award submissions
 - STIMS awards submission opens in November
- Create visuals and support materials
 - Highlighting key points
 - Important facts and statistics

Competition Season

Interview Tips

- Practice - don't memorize
 - Understand key talking points, supports, facts and experiences related to them
 - Delegate facts with others in a conversation
- Ask potential judge questions to your mentors and peers
 - Gives you a new way of answering and speaking to the topic
 - Helps reinforce key vocabulary and phrases
- Make sure visuals are helpful to you and informative to the judges
 - Keep the facts brief in writing
 - Helps nervous students have a reference in case they need it
 - Use prototypes and physical visuals
- Have at least one or two questions to ask the judges at the end of your presentation
 - Related to your submission and efforts
 - Related to your performance and presentation
 - Related to the judge and their experience as a judge or how they became involved
 - Always thank them for their time, they invest a lot of time before, during and after the event

Resources

Chairman's Award Resources

- Cyber Blue FRC 234: [Entrepreneurship & CA Examples](#)
- Simbotics FRC 1114: [2012 CA Submission](#)
- FRC Chairman's Award Resources: [Examples from Hall of Fame Teams](#)

Woodie Flowers and Dean's List Resources

- Amanda Morrison: ['5 Steps Towards Winning WFA/ UFH Essay'](#)
- Penfield Robotics FRC 1511: [Dean's List Submission Examples](#)
- NUTRONS FRC125: [2015 World Championship Dean's List Essay](#)

Presentation Material Examples

- The Cheesy Poofs FRC 254: [Branding Guidelines](#)
- NUTRONS FRC 125: [2015 Chairman's Supports](#)

General Awards Resources

- FRC Administrative Manual 2015: Awards Section 6, Page 35: [Detailed Breakdown of Awards](#)
- Kristine Atiyeh FRC 125: ['5 Things ANY Team Can Do in the Off Season to Win More Awards'](#)
- FRC Awards Resource Page: [General Awards Information](#)

Questions or Want Help: Nutrons@gmail.com