



**Inspiring technology literacy and creativity
in youth through hands-on, mentor-based
programs across New England in collaboration
with the world's leading youth-serving nonprofit
advancing STEM Education, *FIRST*®**

High School Students in Connecticut Make Waves with STEM as they Compete in an Ocean-Inspired Robotics Competition in Waterbury

Feb. 25, 2025

Waterbury, CT – Thirty-seven teams of students in grades 9–12 from Conn., Mass., and N.H. will compete at the NE *FIRST* Waterbury District Event, a *FIRST*® Robotics Competition qualifier, the weekend of March 8-9, 2025, at Wilby High School. The event is free and open to the public.

FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. With strict rules and limited resources, each team of high-school students is challenged to raise funds, hone teamwork skills, and build and program robots to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors. This year, the challenge is [REEFSCAPE presented by Haas](#), an ocean-themed game played by two alliances of three robots each.

[REEFSCAPE presented by Haas](#) is part of the [2025 FIRST DIVE](#)SM presented by Qualcomm season. In REEFSCAPE, competing teams will use their engineering skills to strengthen one of the ocean's most diverse habitats—making waves to build a better world. Project-based, hands-on *FIRST* programs introduce students to engineering and coding in an engaging, inclusive, and creative learning environment in schools and local communities. Participants work collaboratively to solve an annual, themed robotics challenge.

NE *FIRST* FRC District Events are where teams will see their solutions play out in a competitive arena. New England FRC teams each earn ranking points at two local district events, such as the NE *FIRST* Waterbury District Event, with the hopes of qualifying to participate in the regional advancement tournament, the New England District Championship. The New England District Championship will host 96 of the top-ranked New England FRC teams the weekend of April 3–5, 2025, at the Eastern States Exposition (The Big E) in West Springfield, Mass.

Contacts

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Waterbury Event Co-Chairs John Niski & Lauren Jefferson, frc-waterbury@nefirst.org

For more information, visit NEFIRST.org

**LEARN MORE:
NEFIRST.ORG**

Public Event Schedule

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

- Event opens at 8 a.m.
- Opening ceremonies at 10:30 a.m.
- Qualification matches from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. and 2–7 p.m.
- Event closes at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

- Event opens at 8 a.m.
- Opening ceremonies at 9 a.m.
- Qualification matches from 9:30 a.m.–noon
- Playoff matches from 1-4:30 p.m.
- Awards ceremony at 5 p.m.
- Event closes at 6:30 p.m.

FIRST Robotics Competition Team List: NE FIRST Waterbury District Event

#	Name	From	#	Name	From
155	The TechnoNuts	Berlin, Conn.	3654	TechTigers	Middletown, Conn.
176	Aces High	Windsor Locks, Conn.	3719	STEM Whalers	New London, Conn.
177	Bobcat Robotics	South Windsor, Conn.	4572	Barlow Robotics	Redding, Conn.
228	GUS	Meriden, Conn.	4628	Sintian Robotics	West Haven, Conn.
230	Gaelhawks	Shelton, Conn.	5142	Robo Dominators	New Haven, Conn.
237	Black Magic Robotics	Watertown, Conn.	5746	Human Error	Deep River, Conn.
429	Two Many Bobcats	South Windsor, Conn.	5856	Bullbots	Waterbury, Conn.
716	Who'sCTEKS	Falls Village, Conn.	6346	Cybeats Robotics Team	Norwalk, Conn.
839	Rosie Robotics	Feeding Hills, Mass.	7407	Wired Boars	Wallingford, Conn.
999	MechaRAMS	Cheshire, Conn.	7869	The Fun Gang	New Haven, Conn.
1073	The Force Team	Hollis, N.H.	8085	MOJO	Milford, Conn.
1099	DiscoTechs	Brookfield, Conn.	8709	Pathfinder Tech	Palmer, Mass.
1991	The Dragons	Hartford, Conn.	8889	Project W	Waterbury, Conn.
2064	The Panther Project	Southbury / Middlebury, Conn.	9193	Short-Circuited Eagles	Waterbury, Conn.
2168	Aluminum Falcons	Groton, Conn.	10133	Manhattan Monsters	Waterbury, Conn.
2712	Power Surge 4-H Robotics	Waterbury, Conn.	10245	WAMS	Waterbury, Conn.
3182	Athena's Warriors	Hartford, Conn.	10266	Hopkins Galvanized Goats	New Haven, Conn.
3566	Gone Fishin'	Southborough, Mass.	10592	Stamford Cyber-Hird TSA	Stamford, Conn.
3634	Spark City	Bridgeport, Conn.			

About NE FIRST

New England *FIRST* supports the global mission of *FIRST*® in all six New England states: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. NE *FIRST* provides accessible, innovative robotics programs that motivate young people to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math, while building self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills. NE *FIRST* is supported by ingenuityNE, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity incorporated in the State of Connecticut. **Learn more at nefirst.org.**

Additional New England *FIRST* Robotics Competition Events (full details linked)

• Salem, NH	NE FIRST Granite State District Event	March 1–2, 2025
• Falmouth, ME	NE FIRST Southern Maine District Event	March 1–2, 2025
• Waterbury, CT	NE FIRST Waterbury District Event	March 8–9, 2025
• Revere, MA	NE FIRST Greater Boston District Event	March 8–9, 2025
• Kingston, RI	NE FIRST URI District Event	March 14–15, 2025
• Springfield, MA	NE FIRST Western NE District Event	March 15–16, 2025
• Lewiston, MA	NE FIRST Pine Tree District Event	March 15–16, 2025
• Worcester, MA	NE FIRST WPI District Event	March 22–23, 2025
• Durham, NH	NE FIRST UNH District Event	March 22–23, 2025
• Hartford, CT	NE FIRST Hartford District Event	March 29–30, 2025
• Burlington, VT	NE FIRST UVM District Event	March 29–30, 2025
• West Springfield, MA	New England District Championship	April 3–5, 2025

About *FIRST*®

FIRST® is a robotics community that prepares young people for the future through a suite of inclusive, team-based robotics programs for ages 4–18 (grades PreK–12) that can be facilitated in school or in structured afterschool programs. Boosted by a global support system of volunteers, educators, and sponsors that include over 200 of the Fortune 500 companies, teams operate under a signature set of *FIRST* Core Values to conduct research, fundraise, design, build, and showcase their achievements during annual challenges.

An international not-for-profit organization founded by accomplished inventor Dean Kamen in 1989, *FIRST* has a [proven impact](#) on STEM learning, interest, and skill-building well beyond high school. [Alumni](#) of *FIRST* programs gain access to exclusive scholarships, internships, and other opportunities that create connections and open pathways to a wide variety of careers.

FIRST is powered primarily by volunteers. Professionals from the business community serve as mentors for high school team members. Each team is responsible for their own fundraising, and are judged on many criteria from community outreach to robot creativity to team sustainability.

Learn more at firstinspires.org.