



**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 Hartford

Mar. 25, 2025

HARTFORD, CONN. – Forty teams, totalling about 1200 students in grades 9–12 from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, will compete at the NE *FIRST* Hartford District Event, a *FIRST*® Robotics Competition qualifier, the weekend of March 29–30, 2025, at Hartford Public 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* Hartford District Event, with the hopes of qualifying to participate in the regional advancement tournament, the New England District Championship. The Hartford District Event is one of the last events for teams to attempt to qualify for the next level of competition.

The New England District Championship will host 96 top-ranked New England FRC teams April 3–5, 2025, at the Eastern States Exposition (The Big E) in West Springfield, Mass.

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For more information, visit NEFIRST.org

**LEARN MORE:
NEFIRST.ORG**

Public Event Schedule

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

- 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 30

- Event opens at 8 a.m.
- Opening ceremonies at 9 a.m.
- Qualification matches from 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- Playoff matches from 2-4:30 p.m.
- Awards ceremony at 5 p.m.
- Event closes at 6 p.m.

FIRST Robotics Competition Team List: NE FIRST Hartford District Event

#	Name	From	#	Name	From
155	The TechnoNuts	Berlin, CT	3654	TechTigers	Middletown, CT
173	RAGE Robotics 	Tolland, CT	4048	Redshift	Westborough, MA
175	Buzz Robotics	Enfield, CT	4987	MegaRams	Worcester, MA
178	The 2nd Law Enforcers	Farmington, CT	5142	RoboDominators	New Haven, CT
181	Birds Of Prey	Hartford, CT	5746	Human Error	Deep River, CT
195	CyberKnights	Southington, CT	5856	Bullbots	Waterbury, CT
228	GUS	Meriden, CT	6333	Scavenger Robotics	Putnam, CT
236	Techno-Ticks	Old Lyme, CT	6346	Cybears Robotics Team	Norwalk, CT
558	Elm City Robo Squad	New Haven, CT	7127	LongMetal Robotics	Longmeadow, MA
571	Team Paragon Robotics	Windsor, CT	7153	Aetos Dios	Manchester, CT
1027	Mechatronic Maniacs	West Springfield, MA	7407	Wired Boars	Wallingford, CT
1099	DiscoTechs	Brookfield, CT	7694	THE IRON LIONS	West Hartford, CT
1350	The Rambots	Providence, RI	7760	Griffin Innovations	Pomfret, CT
1991	The Dragons	Hartford, CT	7869	The Fun Gang	New Haven, CT
2168	Aluminum Falcons	Groton, CT	8889	Project W	Waterbury, CT
2170	Galvanized Guardians	Glastonbury, CT	9193	Short-Circuited Eagles	Waterbury, CT
3146	GRANBY GRUNTS	Granby, CT	9710	Discovery PolyBotz	Springfield, MA
3461	Operation PEACCE	Bristol, CT	10133	Manhattan Monsters	Waterbury, CT
3464	Sim-City	Simsbury, CT	10245	WAMS	Waterbury, CT
3634	Spark City	Bridgeport, CT	10266	Hopkins Galvanized Goats	New Haven, CT

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.