



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Meredith Novak
870.404.3260
mnovak@firstinspires.org

High School Students Compete at the 2018 Arkansas Rock City Regional *FIRST*[®] Robotics Competition Event

*Teams Compete in Regional Competition for
Coveted Awards and Chance to Compete at Championship*

Student teams from Arkansas, eight other states and Mexico will participate in the 2018 Arkansas Rock City Regional *FIRST* Robotics Competition presented by the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services for an opportunity to win regional recognition for design excellence, sportsmanship, teamwork and more and advance to the *FIRST* Championship competition. The public is encouraged to attend, catch the excitement of this intense competition and cheer on their favorite teams. This is held in partnership with [Arkansas *FIRST* Incorporated](#). All our events are free and open to the public.

[FIRST Power UpSM](#), the 2018 *FIRST* Robotics Competition game, includes two alliances of video game characters and their human operators who are trapped in an arcade game. Both alliances are working to defeat the Boss in order to escape. Each three-team alliance prepares to defeat the Boss in three ways:

1. Control the Switches and the Scale. Robots collect Power Cubes and place them on Plates to control Switches or the Scale. When the Scale or their Switch is tipped in their favor, it is considered owned by that Alliance. Alliances work to have ownership for as much time as possible.
2. Earn Power Ups. Robots deliver Power Cubes to their humans who then place them into the Vault earning the Alliance Power Ups. Alliances use Power Ups to gain a temporary advantage during the match. There are three Power Ups available to teams: Force, Boost, and Levitate. Force gives the alliance ownership of the Switch, Scale, or both for a limited period of time. Boost doubles the rate points are earned for a limited period of time. Levitate gives a robot a free climb.
3. Climb the Scale. Robots Climb the Scale in order to be ready to Face the Boss.

There are teams in the following Arkansas towns that will be competing at the event: Arkadelphia, Batesville, Bentonville, Booneville, Conway, DeWitt, Farmington, Fayetteville, Hope, Kirby, Mayflower, Mount Vernon, Mountain Home, Mulberry, Newark, North Little Rock, Pangburn, Pine Bluff, Pleasant Plains, Rogers, Searcy, Springdale and Texarkana. Teams will also be traveling from Alabama, California, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas and Mexico to compete with the Arkansas teams.

The *FIRST* Robotics Competition is a program that challenges high school students – working with professional Mentors – to design and build a robot to contend in competitions that measure the effectiveness of each robot, the power of collaboration and the determination of students. Teams in the Arkansas Rock City Regional *FIRST* Robotics Competition presented by the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services will vie for regional awards and a spot at the *FIRST* Championship to be held April 18-21, 2018 at the George R. Brown Convention Center and Minute Maid Park in Houston, Texas. The

competition is part of *FIRST*, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology.

Thursday, March 8	8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Robot testing and inspection 12:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Practice matches
Friday, March 9	8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. - Opening ceremonies 9:00 a.m. - 5:45 p.m. - Qualifying matches 5:45 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. - Awards ceremony
Saturday, March 10	8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - Opening ceremonies 9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. - Qualifying matches 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Final rounds matches 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Awards and closing ceremonies

Where: **Barton Coliseum**
 2600 Howard St
 Little Rock, AR 72206
 501.372.8341

About *FIRST*[®]

Accomplished inventor [Dean Kamen](#) founded *FIRST*[®] (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) in 1989 to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. Based in Manchester, N.H., *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. With support from over 200 of the Fortune 500 companies and more than \$50 million in college scholarships, the not-for-profit organization hosts the *FIRST*[®] [Robotics Competition](#) for students in Grades 9-12; *FIRST*[®] [Tech Challenge](#) for Grades 7-12; *FIRST*[®] [LEGO[®] League](#) for Grades 4-8; and *FIRST*[®] [LEGO[®] League Jr.](#) for Grades K-3. *Gracious Professionalism*[®] is a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. To learn more about *FIRST*, go to www.firstinspires.org