



For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (Including Oregon Robotics Tournament & Outreach Program)

Serving counties across the state

Overview

Accomplished inventor Dean Kamen founded FIRST® in 1989 to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. FIRST® designs accessible, innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). With support from three out of every five Fortune 500 companies and nearly \$50 million in college scholarships for 2017 alone, the not-for-profit organization hosts programs based on age group.

The FIRST® Robotics Competition for high school students combines the competition and excitement of sports with the intelligence of science and technology. In the FIRST® Tech Challenge, teams of 10+ students from grades 7-12 “build, program, and operate robots to compete in a head-to-head challenge in an alliance format”. In FIRST® LEGO® League for 4th-8th graders, participants research a real-world problem and are challenged to develop a solution. FIRST® LEGO® League Jr. for 6 to 10 year olds integrates building and presenting LEGO® designs. FIRST® programs provide students with STEM experiences as well as develop leadership, communication and collaboration skills.

The network of robotics tournaments, both in the U.S. and abroad, has proven to be extremely valuable in inspiring young people’s interest in science and technology and preparing them to enter tomorrow’s workforce. FIRST® has trademarked the concept of Gracious Professionalism® as a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. Coopertition® is another coined term that is at the core of programs. It is the idea that teams can and should cooperate even in the midst of competition.

FIRST® runs programs through local partnerships in each state. Oregon Robotics Tournament & Outreach Program (ORTOP), a 501c3 non-profit organization, delivers FIRST® programs to kindergarten to 12th graders. FIRST® in Oregon is funded by many sources including private grants, state funds, and corporate donations. FIRST® is almost entirely volunteer run.

FIRST Mission

“The mission of FIRST is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting Mentor-based programs that build science, engineering, and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.”

FIRST Vision

“To transform our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of becoming science and technology leaders.”

OregonASK
Expanded Learning Partnership

www.oregonask.org



Fast Facts

- 21st century work-life skills gained by participants include 98% improved problem solving skills, 95% increased time management skills, 93% increased conflict resolution skills, and over 76% strengthened communication skills.
- FIRST® students are 2 times as likely to pursue a college degree in engineering or science.
- Over 75% of FIRST® alumni are in a STEM field as a student or professional.
- 90% plan to take a more challenging math or science course after participating in FIRST® Robotics Competition
- Over 86% have more interest in doing well in school and 87% are more interested in attending college after participating in FIRST® Tech Challenge.
- Oregon students can apply for the 2017 \$50 million in FIRST® college scholarship funds.



"The most important thing I learned today was really how to work with my teammates, that everyone's views on something are really important and everyone's ideas are valuable"
- FIRST® LEGO® League team member

"FIRST® Robotics gets students excited about technology, discovery, professionalism and teamwork. We need scientists and engineers here in Oregon to compete in today's worldwide market. FIRST® gives kids real-world skills that are key to creating Oregon's future leaders and innovators, a stronger economy and a more competitive workforce."
- Robert "Buzz" Cross, retired Autodesk Sr VP Manufacturing Solutions

For more information about
FIRST® Robotics please visit
<http://www.firstinspires.org/>
and for Oregon Robotics Tournament & Outreach Program
visit <http://www.ortop.org/>
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