Volunteer Orientation

FIRST Robotics Competition
FIRST Chesapeake Division
2020
Dear Friend of FIRST Chesapeake,

Welcome to a very special group of people. As a volunteer, you will be joining over 3,400 individuals who are currently working to inspire thousands of young people to become science and technology leaders and innovators each year. You are the lifeblood of our organization. Thank you!

Please know that I am always available to hear your thoughts about how we can make your volunteer experience even more rewarding or how we can strengthen FIRST Chesapeake as an organization. Don’t hesitate to email, phone, or just say something at an event.

On behalf of the FIRST Chesapeake staff and board, I would like to extend our appreciation for your interest and support. Our programs and events would not be possible without you. With your help, we are building tomorrow’s technology leaders.

Sincerely-

Leighann Scott Boland

Executive Director, FIRST Chesapeake
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Combining the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. We call FIRST Robotics Competition the ultimate Sport for the Mind. High-school student participants call it “the hardest fun you’ll ever have.” Under strict rules and limited resources, teams of 20 or more students are challenged to raise funds, design a team "brand," hone teamwork skills, and build and program industrial-size robots to play a difficult field game against like-minded competitors. It’s as close to real-world engineering as a student can get. Volunteer professional mentors lend their time and talents to guide each team.
Volunteering for FIRST

Teams are our Customers!

- Volunteers are important role models for teams. Team and student experience is a priority. We want to ensure that we are keeping the best interest of the teams in mind with every interaction.
- Gracious Professionalism sets the tone for events and provides a positive experience for our customers to be inspired.
- Have fun! At the end of day, we hope you leave inspired by the FIRST Community.
- **Looking for instructions, descriptions, policies, and forms to ease you into your volunteer experience?** This general volunteer resources [page](#) has a number of documents to help support FIRST volunteers in their event volunteer journey.
- Role specific training will be provided the day of the event by key volunteers.
What is Gracious Professionalism®

• A way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community.
• Gracious professionals learn and compete like crazy, but treat one another with respect and kindness in the process.
Volunteer Check-In

- Check-in every day when you arrive!
- Please complete Consent and Release form online prior to arriving
  - *FIRST Chesapeake Consent and Release*
  - Conflict of Interest will be available at the event
- What to bring
  - Photo ID
  - Water bottle
  - Outside food is/is not permitted
  - Personal Safety glasses
  - NOTE: For security reasons, all bags may be checked upon entering the venue.
What you will receive at Check-In

- Volunteer name badge and lanyard
  - Note: If you already a badge and lanyard from a competition this season, please bring it with you

- Volunteer t-shirt
  - Note: If you already a t-shirt from a competition this season, please bring it with you

- Volunteer pin

- Season Pin

- Years of Service pin (if applicable)

- Alumni patch (if applicable)
Dress code and personal items

• Volunteers should wear clean, appropriate, comfortable clothing and **closed toe-closed heel shoes**.
  – No torn clothing or clothes with holes
  – Shorts need to be mid thigh
  – No bare midriffs

• Wear the volunteer shirt and name badge at the event during your volunteer shift.
  – Some roles (Judge, Referee, Safety Advisor) will require special attire at the event, which will be provided at the event.

• You may want to bring
  – Personal Safety Glasses, glasses can be borrowed at the event
  – Water Bottle
  – Any other personal items needed during the day
    • Note: While jackets and other personal items may be left in the volunteer lounge at your own discretion, be advised that you leave valuables at home.
Be a safety role model!

- We are all responsible for ensuring safety at events.
- For more information on Youth Protection Program (YPP) Policies
- Closed toe-closed heel shoes are required in the Pits and Field areas.
- Safety Glasses must be non-reflective and worn in designated areas
  - Safety Glasses may be borrowed at event
- Volunteers may not have responsibility of a child while they are serving in their volunteer role
- Children 12 years and under should be accompanied by an adult at all times while at the event
- In case of an incident (medical or non-medical), please report to your Volunteer Coordinator or Event/Venue Staff immediately.
Volunteer Code of Conduct

- Exhibit Gracious Professionalism at all times
- Ensure the safety of participants and volunteers
- Do not engage in any form of bullying, harassment, use of profane or insulting language, or any actual or threatened violence.
- Do not use drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products while performing volunteer duties
- Adhere to all FIRST Youth Protection Program (YPP) Policies
- Report any unsafe behavior to event or local FIRST leadership
Reminders

- Don’t forget your smiling face
- Take a breath to alleviate a stressful situation
- Be on time
- Drink plenty of water
- Wear comfortable shoes
- Wear volunteer shirt and name badge at all times
- Be a safety role model
- Remember your gracious professionalism: Make team experience a priority
- HAVE FUN!