MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
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FIRST Chesapeake Robotics District Richmond VA Event Sponsored by Dominion Energy at Arthur Ashe Jr Athletic Center, March 7-8

Forty of the best and brightest high school robotics teams from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia will compete in the FIRST Chesapeake District Richmond VA Event Sponsored by Dominion Energy at Arthur Ashe Jr Athletic Center March 7-8, 2020.

The event is free and open to the public.

FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) is recognized as the premier international high school engineering challenge. Working closely with teachers and volunteer mentors, student teams have a short period of time to conceptualize, design, build, program, modify and test remote-controlled robots to participate in a competition that changes each year. Teams work with a common core set of parts, but determine on their own how to accomplish tasks. Thus, no two robots are exactly alike.

This year’s game, INFINITE RECHARGE, simulates an asteroid shower on a space colony where teams work in alliances and pilot their remote-controlled robots to collect and store power cells to power a shield generator.

Approximately 130 FRC teams in DC/MD/VA vie throughout March in qualifying matches to earn spots at the FIRST Chesapeake District Championship Sponsored by Newport News Shipbuilding at the Hampton Coliseum, April 2-5. Top performers at the District event will go on to compete at the FIRST World Championship presented by Qualcomm, in Detroit, MI April 29- May 2.

Helping to bring STEM-based leadership robotics programs to students K-12.
“We’re so proud of what these students accomplish”, said Leighann Scott Boland, FIRST Chesapeake Executive Director. “Not only do they gain technical and engineering skills, but they are also learning critically important life skills such as teamwork and problem solving. With the support of our 3,400 volunteers, we are helping to build tomorrow’s technology leaders.”

Participants in FIRST programs also qualify to apply for more than $80 million in college scholarships.

The FIRST Chesapeake District Richmond VA Event Sponsored by Dominion Energy will be held at Arthur Ashe Jr Athletic Center- 3001 N Arthur Ashe Blvd, Richmond, VA 23230.

Friday, March 6: Teams arrive & set up (this day is for teams only and is not open to public)
Saturday, March 7: Opening Ceremonies 10:30am
    Qualifying heats 11am-7pm (lunch break 1-2pm)
Sunday, March 8: Opening Ceremonies 9am
    Qualifying heats 9:30am-12:30pm, (lunch break 1-2pm)
    Playoff Matches 2-5pm
    Awards ceremonies: 5pm-6:30pm (estimated)

A Live Feed Sponsored by Northrop Grumman will be viewable online the days of the event, with both a Primary Camera View and a Full Field View.

FIRST Chesapeake is an independent non-profit that brings STEM-based leadership programs to middle school and high school students in Virginia and high school students in the District of Columbia and Maryland. More than 7,000 students participate in FIRST Chesapeake events and workshops each year. Last year, 60,000 people attended FIRST Chesapeake events and another 100,000 viewed them online.

FIRST Chesapeake thanks our many corporate sponsors who make our programs possible and available for students across our service area.

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