



Chesapeake District *FIRST* Robotics Competition

VIP Judge Role & Expectations

Local District and Championship Events

- **What We are Looking For:**
 - A diverse group who reflect the modern workplace and can serve as role models for the students.
 - A mix of veteran (experienced) and rookie (new) judges.
 - Both ‘technical’ and ‘non-technical’ experts to effectively interview and evaluate the teams.
 - A mix of seasoned and young professionals (minimum age is 23), bringing their unique perspectives.
 - Professionals who are willing to work hard, have fun, be a role model and inspire the students.
- **Judging is Fun, and So Worth it – BUT it is a Weekend Commitment**
 - **The commitment for a Local District event is two full days** (Events occur over two days, usually on a Saturday and Sunday from 7 am to 5 pm). Specific times and schedules will be sent closer to the date.
 - Judges are expected to fully participate, arrive on time and stay for the entire event both days.
 - Enjoy engaging with the kids!! Judges should not take phone calls or hold business meetings. Immerse yourself in the judging process and get to know these outstanding young people.
 - **Judges must attend judge training** (which occurs prior to the beginning of the event, usually as a breakfast session on day one of judging).
- **Share Your Experience and Expertise with Your Future Workforce**
 - What you are doing is unlike anything else. Judges serve as ambassadors and role models to the kids.
 - Many of the awards are based on areas that you have proven expertise in – be ready to share that knowledge with tomorrow’s technology leaders!
 - Teams have put a lot of time into their presentations and look forward to the judging process. Make sure this a positive experience by giving them your full attention. You may learn something new!
- **Meet Professionals from Your Community and Be Part of the Judging Team**
 - Enjoy yourself! Make sure to meet the other judges and learn more about their roles in your community.
 - There are well established rules and processes in place for *FIRST* judging – please honor them and trust that your Judge Advisor has the experience to lead the judging team to the right outcome.
 - Model *Gracious Professionalism* both in and out of the judging room. Judges must work collaboratively in the deliberation room in order to reach consensus and strive for the most optimal decisions.
 - There is no role that is too small in the judges’ room – every judging role is critical – every effort is made to match judges to roles that use their skill sets, however that may not always be possible.
- **We Do Our Best to be Fair and Impartial**
 - In order to make this experience the best for everyone, we try to make sure that the judging process is impartial and avoids any perception of a conflict of interest. We do this by:
 - Openly acknowledging any team affiliations prior to the start of judging.
 - Not allowing active mentors (from our District) to serve as FRC judges. Former mentors are encouraged to serve as judges if it has been more than 2 years since they worked with the team.
 - If necessary, the Judge Advisor reserves the right to replace/remove an existing judge that has a team affiliation/conflict from the judging panel.
 - To ensure that judging is as fair as possible across events, the judging process must remain confidential. Serving as a judge is a trusted position, everything that occurs in the judge’s room (including deliberations, processes, etc.) cannot be shared or discussed with others either during or after the event.
- **This is an Important Job -- Come Prepared**
 - Teams see you as a role model, so know your stuff. Read all of the materials that are sent prior to the event, particularly the judges’ manual. It takes less than an hour and will make all of the difference.
 - Prior to the event, you will be required to register in *FIRST*’s volunteer system (VIMS) and submit to a background screening.



- **Double the Fun – District Championship Judging Requirements**

- Reconnect with teams from your District judging and meet new ones at the *FIRST* Chesapeake District Championship sponsored by Newport News Shipbuilding. Eighty of the best and brightest high school teams from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia will compete for slots at the *FIRST* World Championship in Detroit!
- Judges at the District Championship must have prior experience in judging **at least one of the District events**.
- The time commitment for the Championship is **two full days** (Saturday and Sunday, April 4 & 5, 2020) at the Hampton Coliseum in Hampton, VA.

Can't Wait to Get Started?

- Contact the Senior Judge Advisors, Stephanie Lockhart and Carolyn Van Damme at seniorJA@firstchesapeake.org for more information.