

***FIRST* Chesapeake District Blacksburg VA Event at Blacksburg High School March 29-31**

Contact:

Leighann Scott Boland

Executive Director, ***FIRST*** Chesapeake

lboland@firstchesapeake.org

c/804 514 7712

Forty of the best and brightest high school robotics teams from Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia will compete in the [***FIRST* Chesapeake District Blacksburg VA Event**](#) at [Blacksburg High School](#) March 29-31, 2019.

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 six weeks 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, [Destination: Deep Space, presented by Boeing](#), simulates a mission to an alien planet where teams work in alliances and pilot their remote-controlled robots to secure hatches and load cargo on space ships.

Approximately 130 FRC teams in VA/MD/DC vie throughout March in [qualifying matches](#) to earn spots at the [***FIRST* Chesapeake District Championship**](#) at [George Mason University](#) in Fairfax, VA April 10-13. Top performers at the District event will go on to compete at the [***FIRST* World Championship presented by Qualcomm**](#), in Detroit, MI April 24-27.

"FRC is known far and wide as the 'ultimate sport for the mind,'" said Leighann Scott Boland, executive director for ***FIRST*** Chesapeake. "We're so proud of what these students accomplish. They gain technical and engineering skills along with learning critically important life skills like teamwork and problem solving."

Participants in **FIRST** programs also qualify to apply for more than \$80 million in [college scholarships](#).

The **FIRST** Chesapeake District Blacksburg VA Event will be held at Blacksburg High School, 3401 Bruin Ln, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

Friday, March 29: Teams arrive & set up (this day only not open to public)

Saturday, March 30: Opening Ceremonies 10:30am

Qualifying heats 11am-7pm (lunch break 1-2pm)

Sunday, March 31: Opening Ceremonies 9am

Qualifying heats 9:30am-12:30pm, (lunch break 1-2pm)

Elimination rounds 2-5pm

Awards ceremonies: 5pm-6:30pm (estimated)

This event will also feature a [FIRST LEGO League Jr](#) Expo on Saturday March 30th at 10am. **FIRST** LEGO League Jr. is designed to introduce STEM concepts to kids ages 6 to 10. See what our youngest future technology leaders are learning and discovering with this year's challenge, MISSION MOON.

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](#).

[FIRST](#) (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is an international non-profit that engages kids in kindergarten through high school in exciting, mentor-based, research and robotics programs that help them become science and technology leaders, as well as well-rounded contributors to society.

[FIRST Chesapeake](#) is an independent non-profit that brings STEM-based leadership programs to students in Virginia and high school students in the District of Columbia and Maryland. More than 6,700 students participate in the 300+ teams administered by **FIRST** Chesapeake. Almost 57,000 people attended **FIRST** Chesapeake events last year and another 90,000 viewed them online.

FIRST Chesapeake thanks our many [corporate sponsors](#) who make our programs possible and available for students across our service area.