

FIRST Robotics Chesapeake District Championship at GMU April 12-13

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Fifty-eight of the best and brightest high school robotics teams from Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia will compete in the [FIRST Chesapeake District Championship](#) at [George Mason University](#) April 12-13, 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, as well as teams from across the US, vied during a series of [district matches](#) in March to earn spots at the District Championship at GMU. 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 often called 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 build their technical and engineering skills, while also learning

valuable life skills such as teamwork and problem solving. Major corporations tell us that **FIRST** experience is something they look for in their future employees.”

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

The **FIRST** Chesapeake District Championship will be held at GMU’s [EagleBank Arena](#), 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax, VA 22030. Free parking and free admission.

Friday, April 12: Opening Ceremonies 8:30am
Qualifying heats 9am-6pm (lunch break noon-1pm)

Saturday, April 13: Opening Ceremonies 8:30am
Qualifying heats 9am-noon (lunch break noon-1:30pm),
Elimination rounds 1:30-4:30pm
Awards ceremonies: 4:30pm-5:30pm (estimated)

A Technology and Scholarship Row will also be at this event from 9am-3pm each day. These free exhibits include demonstrations, information, and giveaways by some of the top employers in the DC Metro Area, as well as technology-based universities.

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 middle and high school 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.

<https://www.firstchesapeake.org/first-programs/frc/first-chesapeake-district-events/first-chesapeake-district-championship>