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 Haymarket VA Event Sponsored by Booz Allen Hamilton at Battlefield High School March 1-3, 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 Haymarket VA Event Sponsored by Booz Allen Hamilton will be held at Battlefield High School, 15000 Graduation Dr, Haymarket, VA 20169.

Friday, March 1:  Teams arrive & set up (this day only not open to public)
Saturday, March 2: Opening Ceremonies 10:30am
   Qualifying heats 11am-7pm (lunch break 1-2pm)
Sunday, March 3: 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 2nd 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 Livefeed Sponsored by Northrop Grumman will be viewable online the days of the event, with both a **Primary Camera View** and a **Quad View**.

**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 title sponsor, Booz Allen Hamilton, and our many corporate sponsors who make our programs possible and available for students across our service area.