



Chesapeake District *FIRST* Robotics Competition

VIP Judge Role & Expectations

Local District and Championship Events

- **Our Ideal FRC Judging Panel includes:**
 - A diverse group reflecting the modern workplace that will 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 award categories.
 - A mix of experienced and young professionals, bringing their unique perspectives to the deliberations.
 - Professionals who are willing to work hard, have fun, be a role model and inspire the students.
- **Judging takes time, but it's worth it!**
 - **The commitment for a Local District event is two full days** (The local events occur over two days on a Saturday and Sunday). Specific times and schedules will be sent closer to the event.
 - Judges are expected to fully participate, arrive on time, and stay for the entire event.
 - These two days should be dedicated to enjoying yourself as a judge – please try not to schedule calls on these days.
 - Judges must attend judge training which is during the breakfast session on the first day of the event.
- **Your Experience and Subject Matter Expertise Matters**
 - Judges serve as ambassadors and role models to the *FIRST* kids. Many of the awards are based on areas that you have proven expertise in – come to the event ready to share that knowledge and expertise.
- **We Strive to Avoid Conflicts of Interest**
 - In order to avoid any perception of a conflict – we avoid selecting Judges who have recently mentored an FRC team. Specifically, active mentors will not be allowed to serve as an FRC judge at events where their team is competing, nor will they be allowed to serve as a District or Championship Chairman's judge or Engineering Inspiration judge at the District Championships.
 - Serving as a judge is a trusted position, anything that occurs in the judges' room (deliberations, processes, etc), stays in the judges room forever – no exceptions.
- **We Need Team Players**
 - 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.
 - Judges must be willing to 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 – we will try our best to match judges to roles that use their skill sets.
- **Before the Event**
 - Read **all** of the materials that are sent prior to the event, including the judges' manual. It should take you less than an hour, but will make all of the difference.
 - You will be required to register in *FIRST*'s volunteer system (VMS) and submit to a background screening – this must be completed at least 2 weeks prior to the event.
- **Double the Fun – You May be able to Judge at the District Championship!**
 - Individuals who have judged at least once at a District event during the season may qualify as a Championship judge (April 12-13, 2019 at George Mason University)

QUESTIONS? Info@FIRSTChesapeake.org