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The Best and Brightest High School Robotics Teams Compete at the *FIRST* Chesapeake District Northern Virginia Event – Battlefield High School

Haymarket, VA - (March 3rd and 4th, 2018) ... Hundreds of the best and brightest high school students in Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Maryland will meet at Battlefield High School to test their teamwork and ingenuity at the *FIRST* ROBOTICS Competition *FIRST* Chesapeake District Northern Virginia Event. The event is free to the public on Saturday, March 3rd and Sunday, March 4th, 2018.

WHAT: [FIRST Chesapeake District Northern Virginia Event](#)

WHO: 30+ high school teams and their robots from Virginia, DC and Maryland.

WHEN: March 3rd and 4th. Free and open to the public from 8:00am-6:00pm.

WHERE: [Battlefield High School, 15000 Graduation Drive, Haymarket, VA](#)

More than 30 *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams from Virginia, Washington, DC, and Maryland will face off at the *FIRST* Chesapeake District Northern Virginia Event. Winners will advance to the [FIRST Chesapeake District Championship](#) at the University of Maryland's Xfinity Center, March 29th-31st, 2018. A *FIRST* LEGO League Expo will also be held on the Saturday of the competition. All are encouraged to come out and meet some of *FIRST*'s youngest future technology leaders, cheer on their favorite high school robotics team, and learn more about *FIRST* programs. Both events are free and open to the public.

This year's game, developed by *FIRST*® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), is called [Power Up](#). It includes the nostalgia of the video arcade with the excitement of a sports-based robotics competition. The game scenario includes 2, three-team alliances of video game characters and their human operators who are trapped in an arcade game. Each alliance has 3 ways to help defeat the "boss": Tipping a scale or the alliance's switch in their favor to earn points, exchanging power cubes for power ups (force, boost, and levitate) to gain a temporary advantage, and climbing a tower to face the "boss" and escape the game.

The 2018 fast-paced challenge not only requires a great design; it also requires well-timed and creative strategies to achieve optimal scores. Teamwork, innovation, and coopertition® will play a tremendous role at the competitions. "While spectators may come to the event thinking it's all about the robot, they'll quickly see that the robot is a vehicle that reinforces STEM-based concepts and teaches valuable life skills such as leadership and creativity. We invite families, educators, community leaders, and the public to join us and see ways that they can get involved in helping *FIRST* Chesapeake build tomorrow's technology leaders in their communities", said *FIRST* Chesapeake Executive Director, Leighann Scott Boland.

Over the next three months, more than 91,000 high school students from around the World will design unique 120-pound robots to compete in the Power Up challenge. Almost 4,000 team members will compete at one or more of [7 District events](#) in Maryland and Virginia. 90,000+ individuals will watch the competitions on the Live Feed Sponsored by Northrop Grumman Corporation. March 29th-31st, 58 of the highest scoring teams will compete at the [FIRST Chesapeake District Championship](#) at University of Maryland's XFINITY Center for a chance to win a spot at the *FIRST* World Championship in Detroit.

Major sponsors include Micron, Booz Allen Hamilton, Bechtel, Leidos, Showbest Fixtures and Newport News Shipbuilding. For more details, visit <https://www.firstchesapeake.org/about/sponsors>

About *FIRST*® Chesapeake

FIRST Chesapeake was founded in 2015 as the [FIRST Robotics Competition Program](#) brand for the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. *FIRST* Chesapeake and its *FIRST* partners are planning exceptional events for students K-12 for the 2018 season and beyond. To learn more about *FIRST* Chesapeake and other *FIRST* programs, click [here](#). Follow *FIRST* Chesapeake on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)