



Chesapeake District FIRST Robotics Competition

VIP Judge Role & Expectations

Local District and Championship Events

- **Our Ideal FRC Judging Panel would include:**
 - A diverse group who reflect the modern workplace and can 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 is a Big Time Commitment**
 - **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 out closer to the event.
 - Judges are expected to fully participate and are expected to arrive on time and stay for the duration of the event.
 - Judges are discouraged from taking phone calls or hold business meetings – these two days should be dedicated to immersing yourself in the judging process.
 - Judges are expected to attend judge training (which will occur prior to the beginning of the event, usually as a breakfast session on day one of judging).
- **We Need Your Experience and Subject Matter Expertise**
 - 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 try to 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 Qualifier 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 and cannot be shared or discussed with others either during or after the event
- **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 to match judges to roles that use their skill sets, however that may not always be possible.
- **Come Prepared**
 - Read all of the materials that are sent prior to the event, particularly 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 (VIMS) and submit to a background screening – this must be completed several weeks prior to the event. Additional details will be forthcoming.
- **Double the Fun -- Championship Requirements**
 - Judges at the FIRST Chesapeake District Championship must have prior experience in judging **at least one of the District events**.
 - The time commitment for the Championship event is **two full days** (March 30 & 31, 2018)