

**FIRST. IN SHOW.**

PRESENTED BY **Qualcomm**

# CRESCENDO <sup>SM</sup>

PRESENTED BY **HAAS**  
Gene Haas Foundation

## TEAM GUIDE



FIRST CHESAPEAKE  
DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP  
PRESENTED BY VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Schedule

Time	Competition Schedule	Time	Activities Schedule
<b>Wednesday, April 3, 2024</b>			
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Pits and Inspection Open		
<b>Thursday, April 4, 2024</b>			
8:00 AM	Pits, Inspections, and Machine Shop Open	8:30 AM	Mentors Lounge Opens
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Field Open for Measurement and Calibration	9:30 AM - 3:30 PM	VSU Exposition
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	<a href="#">Driver's Meeting</a> .	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Townhall with CHS Staff
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Practice Matches	3:00 PM	Safety Captains' Meeting
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch Break	3:30 PM	VSU Exposition closes
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Qualification Matches	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Team Social
7:00 PM	Pits Close		
<b>Friday, April 5, 2024</b>			
8:00 AM	Pits Open and Machine Shop Open	8:30 AM	Mentor Lounge Opens
9:00 AM	Opening Ceremonies	9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	VSU Spring Undergraduate Research Fair
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Qualification Matches	9:30 AM	Tech Row Exhibition Opens
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch Break	9:30 AM - 3:30 PM	VSU Exposition
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Qualification Matches	11:00 AM	FLL Challenge DMV Invitational
7:00 PM	Pits Close	12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	VIP Social Event
		3:30 PM	Tech Row & VSU Expo close
		3:00 PM	Safety Captains' Meeting
<b>Saturday, April 6, 2024</b>			
8:00 AM	Pits and Machine Shop Open	8:30 AM	Mentor Lounge Opens
9:00 AM	Opening Ceremonies	9:30 AM	Technology Row Exhibition Opens
9:30 AM - 11:30 PM	Qualification Matches	10:00 AM	Safety Captains' Meeting
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Alliance Selection	3:30 PM	Technology Row Exhibition Closes
12:00 PM	Machine Shop Closes		
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch Break		
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Playoff Matches and Awards Note: Awards will begin around 2:30		
3:00 PM	Practice Field and Machine Shop Close		
~5:30 PM	Pits Close (30 minutes following the end of Closing Ceremonies)		

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# Venue and security

Virginia State University  
Multi-Purpose Center  
20809 2nd Ave, Petersburg, VA 23803

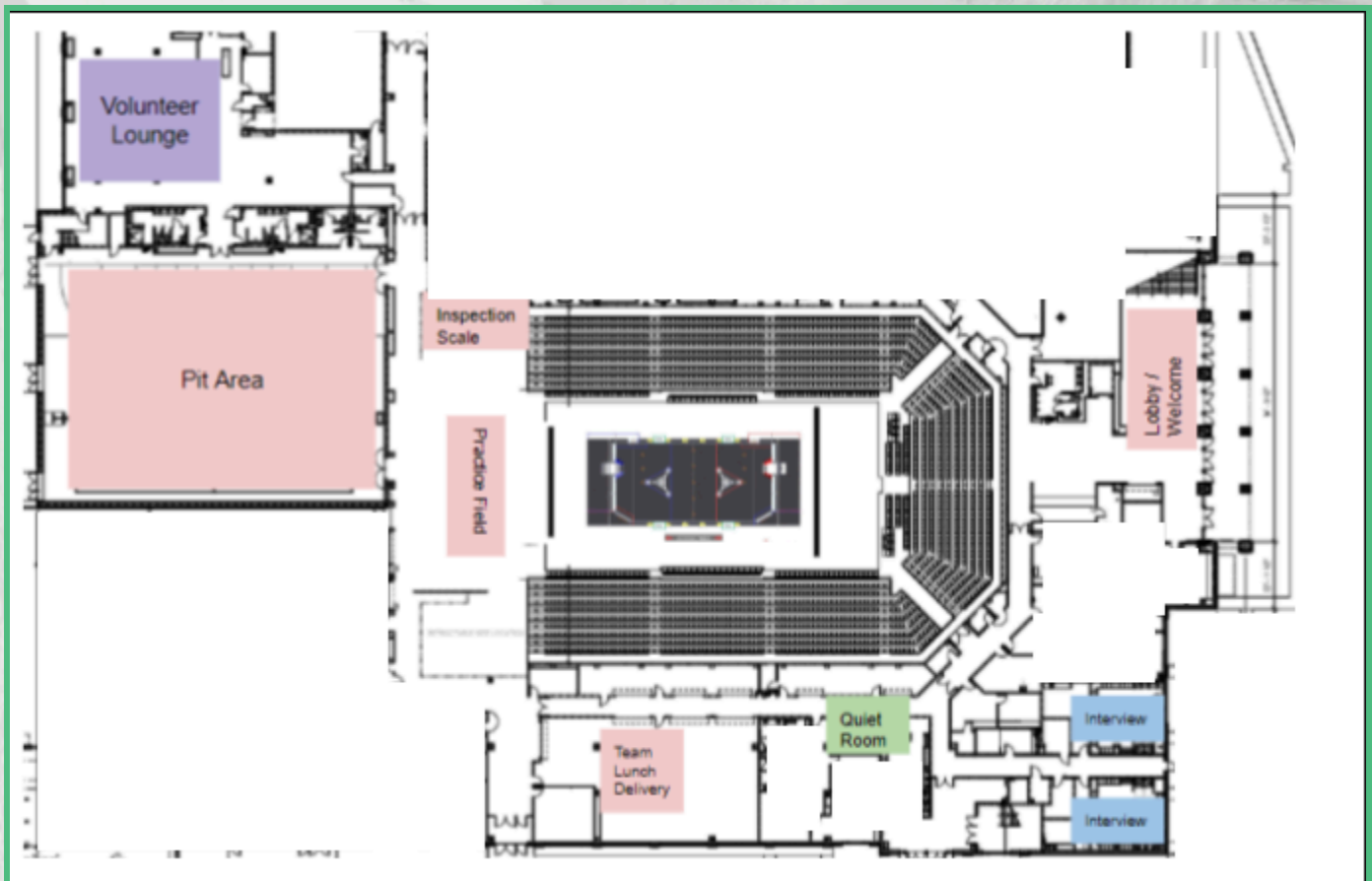
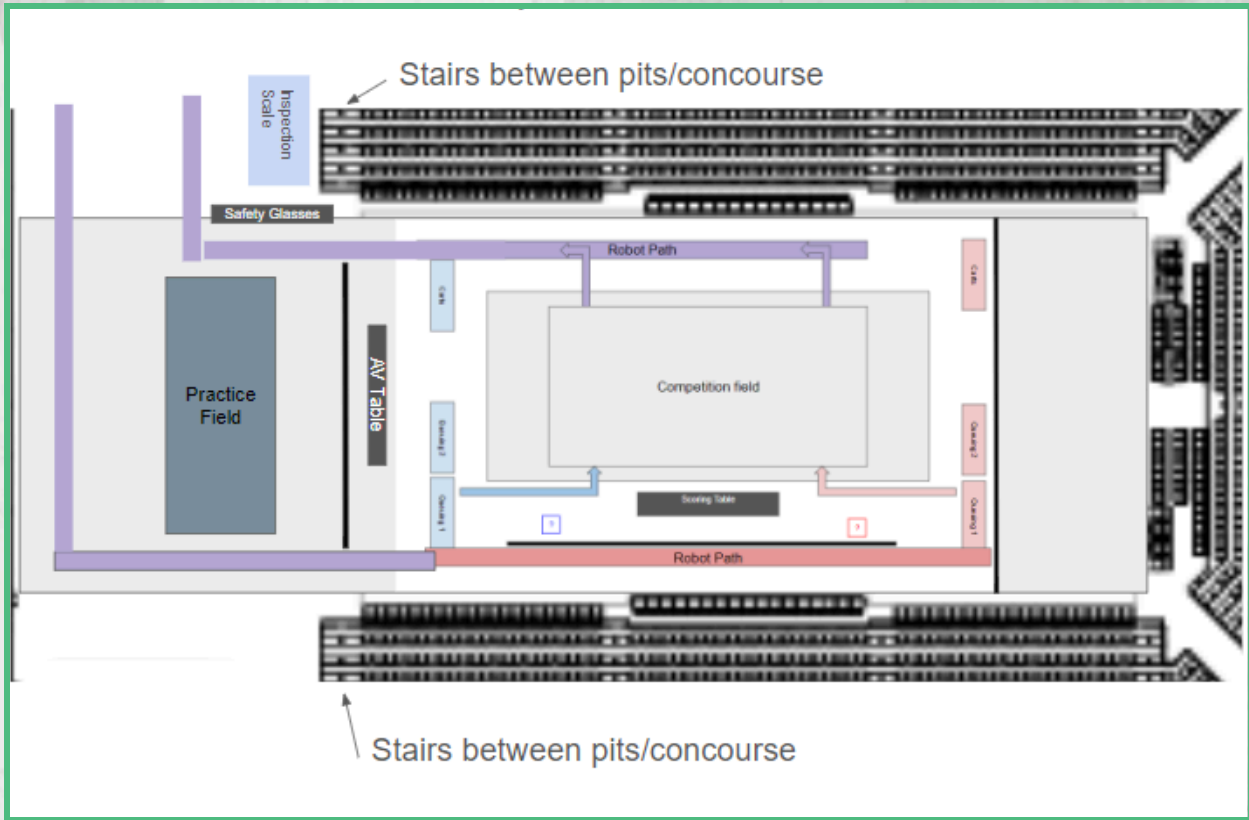
Team access to the Center will be granted through the main floor front lobby doors (see map in the parking section for the marked entrance) except for during team load-in.

- The Center has a [clear bag policy](#). Team students and mentors will receive wristbands at team check-in that will allow them to bypass this requirement. All other visitors will be required to comply with the policy.
- No outside food or drink will be allowed in except for one empty, refillable bottle per person.

**Note: teams will be allowed to load water bottles for team use during scheduled team load-in through the loading dock only.**

The competition field will be on the main floor of the Center with the pit areas in the auxiliary gym. A practice field like those at District events will be available near the main competition field.

Approximate layout of the main floor of the venue:



# Parking

Parking is available onsite for free in the parking lots highlighted below. The lots are not secured so teams are encouraged to not leave anything of value in vehicles. Overnight parking for trailers will be located in the parking lot marked below.



# Team Load-In and Load-Out

Team load-in will begin at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, April 3rd. The pits will open at that time and teams will be able to set up their pits and start the inspection process.

- Since the pits are open, teams will **NOT** be limited to only 5 per team.
- Please keep in mind that not all venue spaces will be available during this timeframe so teams are asked to keep numbers reasonable.
- At least one adult team mentor must be present at all times when students are onsite.
- **Teams: Please be sure to bring your driver buttons from your previous events.**

Loading door access will be available until 9:00 PM on Wednesday and will again be available from 8:00 am - 10:00 am on Thursday for team load-in.

Volunteers will be available in the load-in area to direct traffic. Teams are asked to arrive in the direction marked to make this process as efficient as possible.

The same process as load-in is expected to be followed during load-out.

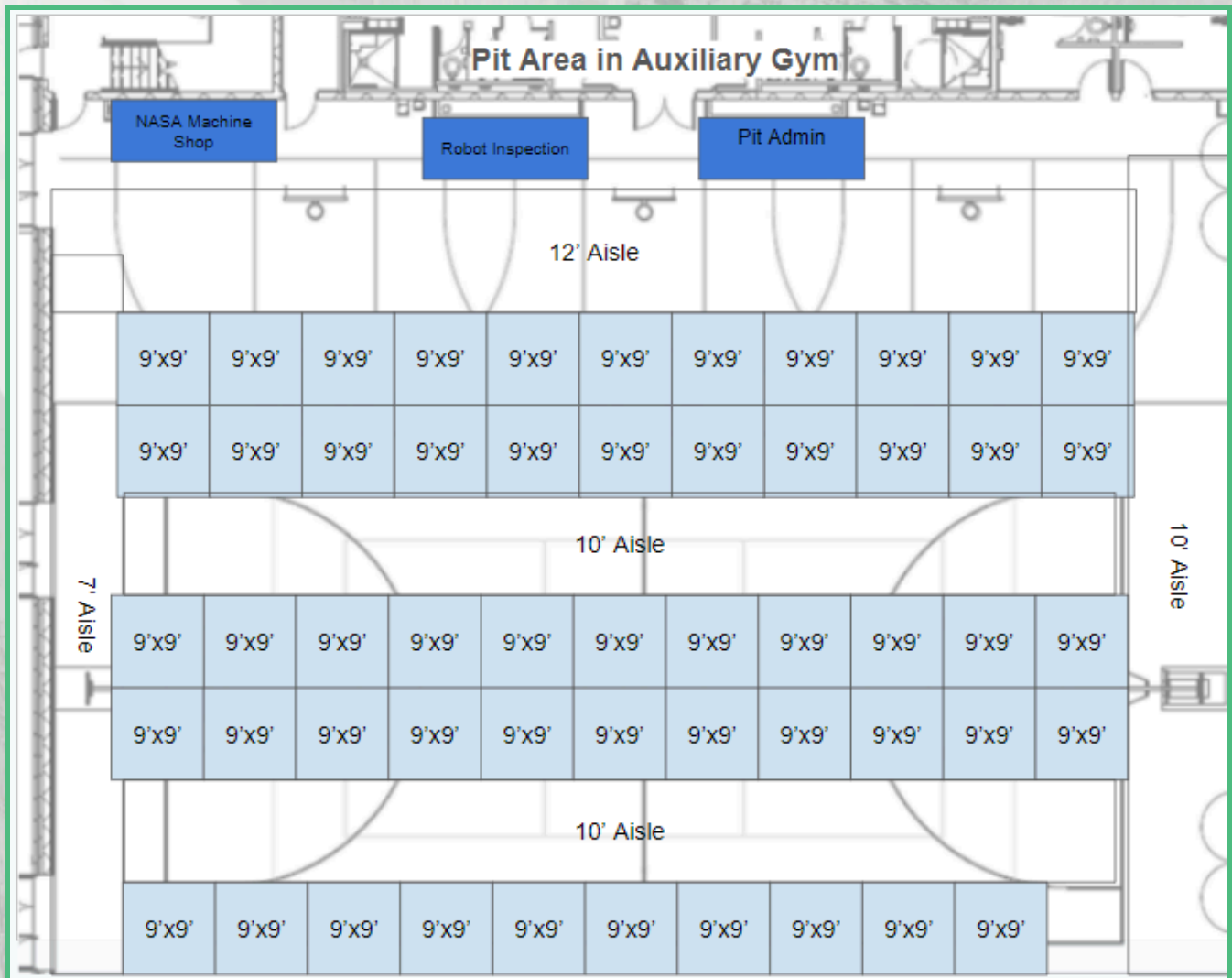


# The Pit Area

Teams will be assigned a **9-foot by 9-foot** space in the auxiliary gym.

Only teams that request a pit table using the request form at least one week before the event will receive one.

## [Pit Table Request Form](#)





## Seating and ADA Access

Seating is accessible from the concourse level of the Center, on the second level. Stairs to the pit area will be available on each side of the viewing area. ADA seating is available along the concourse. Elevator access between the concourse and main level is available behind the lobby area and near the Chesapeake lounge. We strive to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals, including individuals with disabilities, to engage fully. To request accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact the event manager, Anne Shade [ashade@firstchesapeake.org](mailto:ashade@firstchesapeake.org), ahead of the event.

## Drivers' Meeting

A Drivers' meeting will be held at 9:30 AM on the competition field. Drive teams are asked to sit in the stands for the meeting. Teams can submit questions using the link below. No live questions will be allowed.

[Driver's Meeting Question Form](#)

## Safety All-Star

The safety captains are invited to participate in the Safety All-Star program per the [Safety Manual](#). Teams will receive the nomination cards from Pit Admin. Safety captain meetings will be held at 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM each day on the concourse behind section 109.

## Judging

Judging will proceed similarly to the District Events with judge interviews in the team pit areas with just a few exceptions:

- Only winners of the District event Engineering Inspiration, Impact, and Rookie All-Star will qualify for those awards at the DCMP.
- Interviews will be scheduled for those three awards & Dean's List by the Judge Advisor.
  - Engineering Inspiration interviews will occur on Friday, April 5th
  - Impact Award interviews will occur on Friday, April 5th
  - Dean's List District Semi-finalists interviews will occur on Saturday, April 6th
  - Rookie All-Star interviews will occur Saturday, April 6th

The interview schedule and locations will be posted at Pit Admin by Thursday at lunch. Interviews will begin on Friday morning. Teams should talk to the Pit Admin Supervisor if they have a conflict with their interview time.

# Concessions and Boxed Lunches

The venue is making some box lunches available for order for \$11.99 each. There is a minimum of 6 boxes per order. Each boxed lunch comes with a sandwich, a whole fruit, chips, and fresh baked cookie. Entree options include:

- Turkey Breast and Provolone
- Ham and Swiss
- Roast Beef and Cheddar
- Grilled Veggie
- Tuna Salad
- Grilled Mediterranean
- Soda (Pepsi) (\$1.59)
- Water (\$1.15)

## [Box Lunch Flyer](#)

**Box Lunch orders are due by March 29th.** Orders can be picked up at noon near the loading dock. Questions about the box order lunches can be sent to Farish Perlman, [farish.perlman@gmail.com](mailto:farish.perlman@gmail.com).

Please keep in mind that **outside food will not be permitted into the Center** at any point during the event. **Teams may bring bottled water in during load-in through the loading dock only.** Concessions will be available during the length of the event.

# Machine Shop

Machine shop services will be available thanks to NASA. Their mobile machine shop will be set up outside the venue and accessible through the loading doors in the back of the pit. A mentor should accompany students out to the machine shop. Please visit the Machine Shop table in the Pit for more details.

# Safety Glasses and Practice Field

Teams are asked to bring safety glasses for all their team members and supporters. Loaner safety glasses will not be available at the event.

The safety glasses table and the practice field will be co-located at this venue. If able, teams are encouraged to volunteer to manage the table for a 2-hour time slot. Those interested should fill out the spreadsheet with times.

## [Safety Glasses and Practice Field Sign-Up](#)

A reminder that per rule E117, teams will not be allowed to use the practice field until they have passed inspections.

# Incident Reporting

Report any medical or first aid-related incidents to the Pit Admin, *FIRST* volunteer, or staff member. First aid will be available on-site at Pit Admin. All medical incidents require a form to be completed at Pit Admin.

Any medical and non-medical incidents can be reported to *FIRST* using this online [form](#).

**Note: The submitted forms do not get sent to local *FIRST* Chesapeake leadership. Participants are encouraged to notify *FIRST* Chesapeake staff of their concerns so issues can be dealt with promptly.**

# Wireless Networks

Wireless access points of any kind, including mobile hotspots, are not permitted in the competition area per rule E301. The venue does have a guest wifi network that will be enabled. If issues arise on the field, the guest network may be taken offline.

## Mentor Lounge

The mentor lounge will be available daily in the President's Suite behind section 109 from 8:30 am until an hour before pits close on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Coffee, water, and snacks will be available throughout the event as a thank-you for all the mentors supporting our teams.

## Anthem Singers

The National Anthem will be performed during both Friday and Saturday morning opening ceremonies by a chorus of students from CHS teams. Chorus student expectations:

- Know the words to the national anthem
- Be able to integrate into a chorus with minimal practice time
- Available to participate in practice on Thursday, April 4th @ 1:00 PM. Meet in the lobby at the Welcome table.
- Be able to arrive at the venue in time to report to the field by 8:30 AM on Friday and Saturday.

## Chesapeake Visitor Program and Student Ambassadors

Teams are welcome to invite current and future supporters of their teams to visit the event. Student Ambassadors will be available to greet visitors at the Welcome Table, give a behind-the-scenes tour, and connect them with teams as visitors' interest and time permits.

We are recruiting Student Ambassadors who can volunteer for three or more 2-hour shifts on Thursday, April 4, Friday, April 5, and/or Saturday, April 6, 2024.

No experience is necessary. We will have a mandatory Student Ambassador Training on **Thursday, April 4th**. Please meet near the Welcome Table in the lobby at 8:15 am– we will start training at **8:30 am**. Mentors are encouraged to sign students up ahead of the event [HERE](#). Priority will be given to students signed up in advance.

[Student Ambassador Sign-Up Form](#)

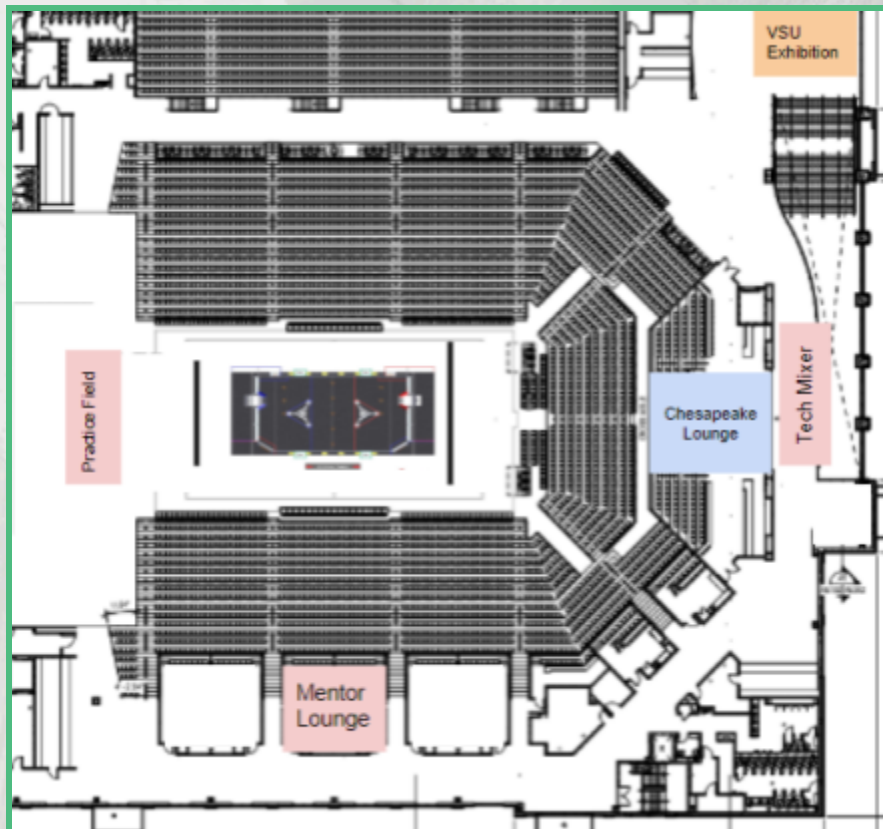
## VSU Exhibition and Tech Mixer (Technology Row)

Our host at Virginia State University will have tables for each of their schools and programs available on Thursday and Friday from 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM. Students are encouraged to visit the tables to learn more about VSU and meet students and faculty.

The Tech Mixer will be located in the concourse behind the Chesapeake Lounge on Friday and Saturday from 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM. The focus of the Tech Mixer is to provide hands-on, interactive demonstrations that give participants and spectators a glimpse of real-world applications of science and technology. Schools offering *FIRST* Scholarships are encouraged to exhibit and educate participants and the general public about STEM-based majors and careers at their institutions.

### *Back by Popular Demand!*

Come visit the Tech Mixer and play a round of Cyber Threat Defender, a multiplayer card game aimed at teaching cybersecurity fundamentals and strategies to players aged 11 and above. Each game session, lasting approximately 20 minutes, immerses players in learning basic cybersecurity terms, network infrastructure, and real-world challenges, fostering strategic thinking and understanding of defense measures. Games will be set up on Friday and Saturday! We will see you there.



# VSU Spring Undergraduate Research Fair

Those interested in learning more about the research performed by the undergraduate students of VSU are invited to visit the Spring Undergraduate Research Fair occurring on Friday, April 5th throughout campus.

Time	Topic	Location
9:00 – 9: 20	Opening Session	<a href="#">Engineering Bldg. Auditorium</a>
9:30 – 12:00	Oral Presentations	<a href="#">Engineering Bldg. (Room 119; 302)</a> <a href="#">Concurrent</a>
12:00 – 1:30	Plenary Session	<a href="#">Gateway Dining Hall</a>
2:00 – 4:00	Poster Session	<a href="#">Gateway Dining Hall</a>

More information can be found at the [Annual Undergraduate Research Symposia website](#).

## Townhall

Teams are invited to participate in a town hall with *FIRST* Chesapeake leadership on Thursday, April 4th during the field lunch break at noon. Questions can be submitted ahead of time. Live questions will also be taken as time allows. Please make your way down to the lower sections of seating to ask questions. Staff/volunteers will have microphones available there.

[Townhall Question Submission Form](#)

## Quiet Space

A quiet space will be available at the District Championship in room 112. The space will be available during the following hours and will consist of some tables and chairs removed from the noise of the main arena.

- Thursday and Friday - 8:30 AM until 6:30 PM
- Saturday- 8:30 AM until 2:30 PM

The pit admin will have details on the location for those who need it.

To help provide adult supervision of the quiet room, mentors are asked to provide a two-hour time block if they are able. Those providing support should have completed their YPP certification or be willing to do so before the event.

[Quiet Room Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

## Prayer Room

For those celebrating Ramadan during the event, a prayer room will also be made available for prayer times each day. Please check with Pit Admin for location details.

## *FIRST* in Social

Get ready for an electrifying night of fun, camaraderie, and innovation! We're excited to announce the *FIRST* in Social Event during the *FIRST* Chesapeake District Championship 2024, and your team is invited to join the celebration.

- Games: Engage in friendly competition with games
- Swag Swap: Bring items made by your team to swap with others – buttons, pins, toys, and more!
- Music: Groove to the beats provided by our fantastic local DJ
- Food: Enjoy a tasty selection of light food, hors d'oeuvres, and drinks

To ensure your team's spot at this unforgettable event, RSVP by March 28.

[\*FIRST\* in Social Reservation Form](#)

## Alumni Choice Award

*FIRST* Chesapeake is helping *FIRST* Alumni Relations pilot a new *FIRST* award at the DCMP. Teams are encouraged to invite their alumni to attend the *FIRST* Chesapeake District Championship. Alumni will visit Pit Admin to register and show their support for the team of their choice. Teams will receive a nomination heart for each vote they receive which they can choose to display in their pit area. Votes will be tallied at the end of Qualification matches to determine a winner!