



Welcome To FIRST®!

"To transform our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of becoming science and technology heroes."
-Dean Kamen, Founder

Dear FRC Mentor,

The above quote is the very foundation of *FIRST*. *This vision is what sets us* apart from so many other youth programs. At *FIRST*, students work side by side with Mentors who bring a broad range of expertise to their team. The mentors of the *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) are the science and technology heroes, working with teams, giving their time, energy and expertise to show students the importance and excitement of math, science, technology and engineering.

With more than 2,000 FRC teams across the nation and around the world, there are many different types of mentors in *FIRST* programs. Mentors are facilitators, advisors, coaches, teachers, cheerleaders, and counselors. They lead by example, help to manage the project at hand, and are always proud of their teams' accomplishments, big and small. Mentors are teachers and engineers, Web designers and machinists, and they fill many roles in support of their teams.

Mentoring a *FIRST* team can be a rewarding experience for mentors and students alike. Mentors share their broad experiences, while students excite and invigorate by their enthusiasm and "can do" attitudes. Both benefit from the aspects of teamwork, communication, and meeting project deadlines. As a *FIRST* Mentor, you have the opportunity to inspire students and possibly change their lives forever. You have the ability to open a door for them that they may never have thought possible.

Each of us here at *FIRST* understands the impact that you, as an FRC Team Mentor, will have on our students, our teams, and our programs. We would like to welcome you to the *FIRST* Community and thank you for your time, energy, expertise and commitment in supporting a *FIRST* team. *Have a great 2012 Season!!*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jon Dudas'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Jon Dudas
President, *FIRST*

The links below will take you through some important information and resources as you begin your mentoring. You can find additional resources in the **FRC Mentor Resource Library** located at <http://usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/coachesmentors/>. These resource links were designed especially for you. We will be updating them as new information becomes available. If you need to reach us please feel free to e-mail us at mentorcoach@usfirst.org

What is *FIRST*?

Section	Description	Link
Who We Are	In this section you can learn more about <i>FIRST</i> mission.	http://usfirst.org/aboutus/vision?id=34
<i>FIRST</i> History	Learn more about the history of <i>FIRST</i> and each of its programs including the different games played so you can get a sense how each game is played and the hall of fame winners.	http://usfirst.org/aboutus/first-history?id=880
Gracious Professionalism™ And Coopertition™	What's your GPA? Gracious Professionalism is the code by which all <i>FIRST</i> teams play. Learn more about it by clicking the links to the right.	http://usfirst.org/aboutus/gracious-professionalism?id=36
Impact	Learn more about the impact <i>FIRST</i> Robotics Competition has on high-school students in the 2005 Brandeis Study.	http://usfirst.org/aboutus/impact?id=46
<i>FIRST</i> World Tube	Take a look at the videos compiled during the season from each of our programs. Each video shows different aspects of <i>FIRST</i> and can give you a great feel for the competition.	http://www.youtube.com/user/FIRSTWorldTube

What should I know as a *FIRST* mentor?

Section	Description	Link
Mentoring Guide	The FRC Mentoring Guide has a great description on the adult and student relationship, mentor roles and responsibilities and different techniques and tools on how to be an effective mentor to a <i>FIRST</i> Robotics Competition.	http://www.usfirst.org/uploadedFiles/Community/FRC/Team_Resources/Mentoring%20Guide.pdf
FRC Team Handbook	The FRC Team Handbook is the go-to resource document for how to get your team ready for the game season. It includes a descriptive timeline from pre-season to competition time and had great insight on recruiting mentors and team members as well as understanding the structure of a <i>FIRST</i> season and how to register your team.	http://www.usfirst.org/uploadedFiles/Community/FRC/Team_Resources/FRC%20Handbook.pdf
Mentor Resource Library	Looking for information on how to organized and manage your team? How to build your robot? What to do about financing your team? How to do well at competitions and how to be safe? Look no further than the Mentor Resource Library- the culmination of information for mentors and teams to help them throughout the year on usfirst.org.	http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/mentor-resources-library?id=14034
Senior Mentors	We all get by with a little help from our friends, right? At <i>FIRST</i> we aim to provide the best support possible to help teams move forward and excel	Senior Mentors: http://www.usfirst.org/community/volunteers/senior-mentor-program?id=3310

	<p>so we have a Senior Mentor program in many regions that helps guide teams through the season and answers many questions. They host conference calls open for all mentors on a variety of topics including mentor orientation, control systems, robot inspection and best practices during the season.</p>	
Communication	<p>What's the frequency? Communication is a huge part of having a healthy organization and a healthy team. There are many different ways that you can communicate with <i>FIRST</i> and get all the needed information about the season and any events that will be occurring throughout the year. As a registered mentor in the Team Information Management System (TIMS) you automatically get the team updates from frcteams@usfirst.org. Make sure you invite the other mentors on your team so they get the updates as well. Check Bill's Blog and the Team Update archive frequently!</p>	<p>FRC Team Support, Registration, Resources: frcteams@usfirst.org</p> <p>Bill's Blog: http://frcdirector.blogspot.com/</p> <p>Team Update Archive: http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/team-updates?id=450</p> <p>Regional Directors: http://www.usfirst.org/regional-contacts</p> <p>Senior Mentors: http://www.usfirst.org/community/volunteers/senior-mentor-program?id=3310</p> <p><i>FIRST</i> Forums: http://forums.usfirst.org/</p>