

Senior Mentor Call – *FIRST* Scholarship Program

Thursday, December 11, 2008

7:00 pm

Current Status of *FIRST* Scholarships

- FRC – Over \$9M / over 600 scholarship opportunities / over 120 scholarship providers
- FTC – Nearly \$7M / over 340 scholarship opportunities / over 85 scholarship providers
- 16 new scholarship providers
- 10 scholarships discontinued or put on hold this year (because of current economic downturn)
- Will probably add 5-10 more providers by the end of the season

Why Some *FIRST* Scholarships Go Unused

- Scholarships offered but not accepted
- Not enough applicants – lost opportunities

What Can Mentors and Coaches Do to Help Students Get *FIRST* Scholarships?

- Encourage awareness of careers in Engineering, Science, and Technology fields
 - Help students be aware of possibilities
- Encourage awareness of *FIRST* Scholarship Program
 - Students
 - Parents
 - All team mentors
 - High school guidance counselors
- Encourage students to research *FIRST* scholarships
 - How to use the *FIRST* website (www.usfirst.org/scholarships)
 - Visit website of scholarship providers
 - Scholarship activities at Regional and Championship Events
- Encourage/help students to apply for *FIRST* Scholarships
 - Workshop on how to apply (get guidance counselor involved)
 - Past scholarship winners
 - One-on-one help with applications
 - Student Essays – how to help
- Letters of Recommendation from mentors and teachers
 - Schedule time
 - Find out what scholarship provider is looking for
 - Be concise, be clear, be honest