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**TEENS FROM SAN DIEGO SHOWCASE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING SKILLS  
AT 8TH ANNUAL SAN DIEGO *FIRST*® ROBOTICS COMPETITION – “AERIAL ASSIST”**

***Over 1,500 Students Learn Problem Solving and Teamwork in Addition to Designing and Building Robots by Working with Professional Mentors to Participate at the San Diego *FIRST*® Robotics Competition, March 6-8, 2014***

[San Diego, CA, March 3, 2014] — Over 1,500 high-school students from San Diego, Germany, Canada, Alaska, Nevada and Southern California will have the opportunity to showcase their hard work after an intense six weeks of designing and building an original robot in the [8th Annual San Diego \*FIRST\*® \(For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology\) Robotics Competition](#).

At the Valley View Casino Center (formerly Sports Arena), 60 teams of students and engineering and technical Mentors will demonstrate their skill for science, mathematics, and technology. They will compete for honors and recognition that reward design excellence, competitive play, sportsmanship, and high-impact partnerships between schools, businesses, and communities.

Founded by inventor Dean Kamen, who introduced the IBOT Mobility System and the Segway® Human Transporter (HT), *FIRST* was created to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people, their schools, and their communities. Now in its 23rd season, the *FIRST* Robotics Competition anticipates close to 52,000 students on 2,720 teams in the U.S. and 16 countries worldwide to compete in 54 Regional Event and 40 District Competitions.

Students and their robots will compete at the 8th Annual San Diego *FIRST* Robotics Competition in March to earn a spot at the World Championship to be held April 23-26 at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis, MO. Last year, a San Diego team [The Holy Cows](#), earned their way to the Championship and won the highest honor (Chairman’s Award) and the honor of leading the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade with their robot.

On Friday, Councilmember Sherri Lightner will be issuing a *FIRST* Robotics Day Proclamation from the City of San Diego and *FIRST* President Donald Bossi will presenting during Opening Ceremonies

on Saturday.

The 2014 game, [AERIAL ASSIST<sup>SM</sup>](#), is played by two Alliances of three teams each. Alliances compete by trying to score as many balls in goals as possible during a two-minute and 30-second match. Additional points are earned by robots working together to score goals, and by throwing and catching balls over a truss suspended just over five feet above the floor as they move the ball down the field.

“*FIRST* isn’t about competing, it’s about cooperating, and recognizing that if you have the right tools, you’ll be able to make this world a better place for yourself and for the country,” said Dean Kamen, president of DEKA Research and Development and *FIRST* Founder, adding, “There is no stimulus package that will have as much return as stimulating a bunch of kids to become the workforce of the future, the problem solvers, the creators of the future.”

This season, participating *FIRST* students are eligible to apply for more than \$19 million in scholarships from 150 leading universities and colleges.

Over a six-week timeframe, students work with professional engineering Mentors to design a robot that solves a problem using a Kit of Parts and a standard set of rules. Once these young inventors create the robot, their teams participate in regional competitions that measure the effectiveness of each robot, the power of collaboration, and the determination of students.

The 8th Annual San Diego *FIRST* Robotics Competition Sponsors and Volunteers come from some of the most highly regarded organizations in the area including Qualcomm, Leidos, Teradata, Outerwall, National Defense Education Program, and Space Grant Education and Enterprise Institute. Sponsors provide resources including time and talent from professional Mentors, services, equipment, financial contributions, and Volunteers.

## ABOUT *FIRST*®

Accomplished inventor Dean Kamen founded *FIRST*® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) in 1989 to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. Based in Manchester, N.H., *FIRST* designs accessible, innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology, and engineering. With support from over 200 of the Fortune 500 companies and more than \$19 million in college scholarships, the not-for-profit organization hosts the *FIRST*® Robotics Competition (FRC®) for students in Grades 9-12; *FIRST*® Tech Challenge (FTC®) for Grades 7-12; *FIRST*® LEGO® League (FLL®) for Grades 4-8; and Junior *FIRST*® LEGO® League (Jr.FLL®) for Grades K-3. Gracious Professionalism® is a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. To learn more about *FIRST*, go to [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org).

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