



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Rebecca Berggren

FIRST Robotics

rberggren@cafirst.org / 619.838.4860

LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPETE TO QUALIFY FOR FIRST® INTERNATIONAL ROBOTICS CHAMPIONSHIP, MARCH 13-14

*Over 1,500 High School Students Learn Problem-Solving and Teamwork in Addition to
Designing and Building Robots by Working with Professional Mentors*

[San Diego, Calif., Mar 11, 2020] — Over 1500 high-school students from San Diego, California, Hawaii, Arizona, Wisconsin, and Mexico will have the opportunity to showcase their hard work after designing and building an original robot in the FIRST® Robotics Competition (www.firstinspires.org). This week at the [Del Mar Arena](#), 58 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](#), FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was created to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people, their schools, and their communities. The FIRST Robotics Competition anticipates approximately 3,900 teams in the U.S. and more than 35 other countries worldwide to compete in 77 Regional and District Championships and 105 District Events

More than 1,500 students will compete at the [14th Annual San Diego Regional presented by Qualcomm](#) to earn a spot at the international FIRST® Championship to be held April 15th - 19th at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas.

INFINITE RECHARGESM is part of the 2020 FIRST season, [FIRST® RISESM](#), powered by [Star Wars: Force for Change](#). FIRST has teamed up with [Lucasfilm](#) and parent company Disney as part of the [Star Wars: Force for Change](#) philanthropic initiative to inspire the next generation of heroes and innovators, creating a place where collaboration and collective wisdom can elevate new ideas and foster growth. FIRST RISE empowers FIRST participants to explore the future of

cities and architecture, building communities filled with inspiration, creativity, and – most importantly – hope.

In INFINITE RECHARGE, two alliances work to protect *FIRST* City from approaching asteroids caused by a distant space skirmish. Each alliance, along with their trusty droids, races to collect and score Power Cells in order to energize their Shield Generator for maximum protection. To activate sections of the Shield Generator, droids manipulate their Control Panels after scoring a specific number of Power Cells. Near the end of the match, droids race to their Rendezvous Point to get their Shield Generator operational in order to protect the city.

“Qualcomm Incorporated is excited to return as the title sponsor of the San Diego Regional competition,” said Angela Baker, Senior Director, Government Affairs, Qualcomm Incorporated. “The next generation of technological progress will require innovative thinkers with a passion for science, engineering, technology and math. Through our support of *FIRST*, Qualcomm is helping to build the pipeline of STEM leaders who will drive the new Invention Age.”

This season, participating *FIRST* students are eligible to apply for more than \$80 million in scholarships being made available by nearly 200 scholarship providers.

With limited time and resources, 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.

14th Annual San Diego Regional sponsors and volunteers come from some of the most highly regarded organizations, including Qualcomm Incorporated, ViaSat, BD Biosciences, Booz Allen Hamilton, Leidos, General Atomics Sciences Education Foundation and Nordson. Sponsors provide resources including time and talent from professional Mentors, services, equipment, financial contributions, and Volunteers.

About *FIRST*®

[FIRST](#)® is a robotics community that prepares young people for the future through a suite of inclusive, team-based robotics programs for ages 4-18 (PreK-12) that can be facilitated in school or in structured afterschool programs. An international not-for-profit organization founded by accomplished inventor Dean Kamen in 1989, *FIRST* has a [proven impact](#) on STEM learning, interest, and skill-building well beyond high school. Boosted by a global support system of mentors, coaches, volunteers, alumni, and sponsors that include over 200 of the Fortune 500 companies, teams operate under a signature set of [FIRST Core Values](#) to conduct research, fundraise, design, and build robots, then compete and celebrate at local, regional, and international events. High school students are eligible for more than \$80 million in college scholarships. Learn more at firstinspires.org.

###