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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPETE TO QUALIFY FOR THE *FIRST*® INTERNATIONAL ROBOTICS CHAMPIONSHIP

*Students Learn Problem-Solving and Teamwork in Addition to Designing and Building Robots by
Working with Professional Mentors to participate at the Sacramento Regional, March 15-16*

Sacramento, California, March 10, 2024— High-school students from California, Hawaii, China and Chinese Taipei will have the opportunity to showcase their hard work after an intense two months of designing and building an original robot in the *FIRST*® Robotics Competition (www.firstinspires.org). This week, 38 teams of students and engineering and technical mentors will demonstrate their skills 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.

This year, the event has moved from the University of California, Davis to Pleasant Grove High School in Elk Grove. Pleasant Grove has hosted the Capital City Classic in October for several years.

Founded by inventor Dean Kamen, *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a robotics community preparing young people for the future. More than 1,500 students will compete at the Sacramento Regional on Friday, March 15 and Saturday, March 16 to earn a spot at the international *FIRST*® Championship to be held April 17-20 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas. An estimated 86,700 students on nearly 3,500 teams are expected to participate in this year's program.

[CRESCENDO presented by Haas](#) is part of the [2024 FIRST IN SHOWSM presented by Qualcomm](#) season. In CRESCENDO, teams are encouraged to see all that is possible, when combining their creative ideas and innovations with engineering and design. Through collaboration and communication, participants around the world will celebrate the role that the arts play in STEAM. Students will learn that our skills make it possible to create art and experiences that bring us together, entertain us and move us.

"I can't wait to see how these students explore and combine STEM and the arts for creative problem-solving both on the field, and off," said Chris Moore, CEO of FIRST. "With the support of their teammates and mentors, student participants will be empowered to turn their big ideas into bold actions. Students around the world will work towards creating a brighter future while expanding their STEM skills and practicing Gracious Professionalism®."

Working with adult mentors, students have limited time to design, build, program, and test their robots to meet the season's challenge. Once these young inventors build a robot, their teams will participate in one or more of the global 171 Regional and District events that measure the effectiveness of each robot, the power of collaboration, and the determination of students. Events begin in late February and listings are available [here](#).

FIRST Robotics Competition Sacramento Regional sponsors and volunteers come from some of the most highly regarded organizations in the area, including UC Davis. Sponsors provide resources including time and talent from professional Mentors, services, equipment, financial contributions, and volunteers.

For more information about *FIRST* Northern California, please contact Janet McKinley at jmckinley@firstinspires.org or visit at <https://cafirst.org/frc/>

When: Saturday March 15 and Sunday March 16, 2024

Time: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Where: Pleasant Grove High School
9531 Bond Road, Elk Grove, California

Details: Admission is free and open to the public. More information: www.firstinspires.org

Press Notes:

Each day begins with Opening Ceremonies at 9:00 AM, and matches beginning at 9:20 AM. Playoffs commence on Saturday at 1 PM.

Local teams attending, listed by high school, include:

Sacramento: 2073 Pleasant Grove (host site), 3598 School of Engineering and Sciences, 5274 Rosemont;
Yolo County: 1678 Davis, 5458 Woodland; **Solano County:** 701 Vanden; **Placer County:** 3257 Placer 4H;
El Dorado County: 3189 El Dorado; **Butte County:** 4643 Oroville; **San Joaquin County:** 1662 Jim Elliot Christian

Traveling from China: 8015 The Cheetahs from the Shanghai Qibao Dwight High School. They were on the winning alliance at the 2023 Istanbul Regional. Traveling from Chinese Taipei: 6947 Savage Tumaz from the Taipei Fuhsing Private School

CRESCENDO uses concepts from two award-winning submittals from the [2021 Game Design Challenge](#). Team 1678 Citrus Circuits from Davis, California was one of three winning entries with [Storm Surge](#). CRESCENDO uses a similar donut-shaped game object and scoring system as presented by Citrus Circuits. Team 3061 Huskie Robotics from Naperville, Illinois was among the 20 finalists in the Challenge with [Operation Radiation](#). CRESCENDO employs a triangular chain set up for the 20-second endgame climb akin to that proposed by Huskie Robotics. Almost 1,400 teams submitted entries in 2021.

Previous FIRST® World Championship winners competing here include: 254 Cheesy Poofs (five) and 1678 Citrus Circuits (one). These two teams plus 3189 Circuit Breakers allied to win last year's Regional.

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. Boosted by a global support system of volunteers, educators, 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, build, and showcase their achievements during annual challenges. 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. [Alumni](#) of *FIRST* programs gain access to exclusive scholarships, internships, and other opportunities that create connections and open pathways to a wide variety of careers. Learn more at firstinspires.org.

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