

STATE OF THE STATE

SOCAL EDITION



FIRST
ROBOTICS
COMPETITION

REBUILT

PRESENTED BY **HAAS**
Gene Haas Foundation



REGIONAL DIRECTORS (RD)



DAVID BERGGREN

SENIOR REGIONAL DIRECTOR -
San Diego, Orange, Imperial, San
Bernardino, Riverside



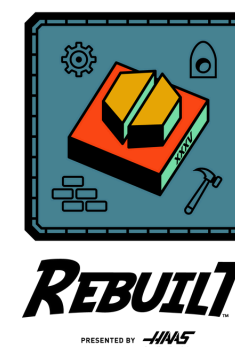
AIMEE BECK

REGIONAL DIRECTOR - Los
Angeles, Santa Barbara, Ventura,
San Luis Obispo, Kern

FIRST SENIOR MENTORS (FSM)

- DAN GLENN - San Diego, Orange and LA South
- FIONA MCGINNIS - Tri-Coastal
- DAVID VORACEK - LA North & Kern County

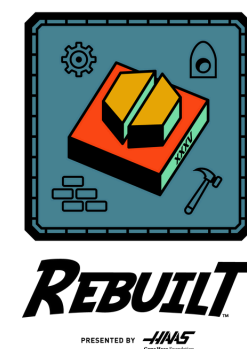
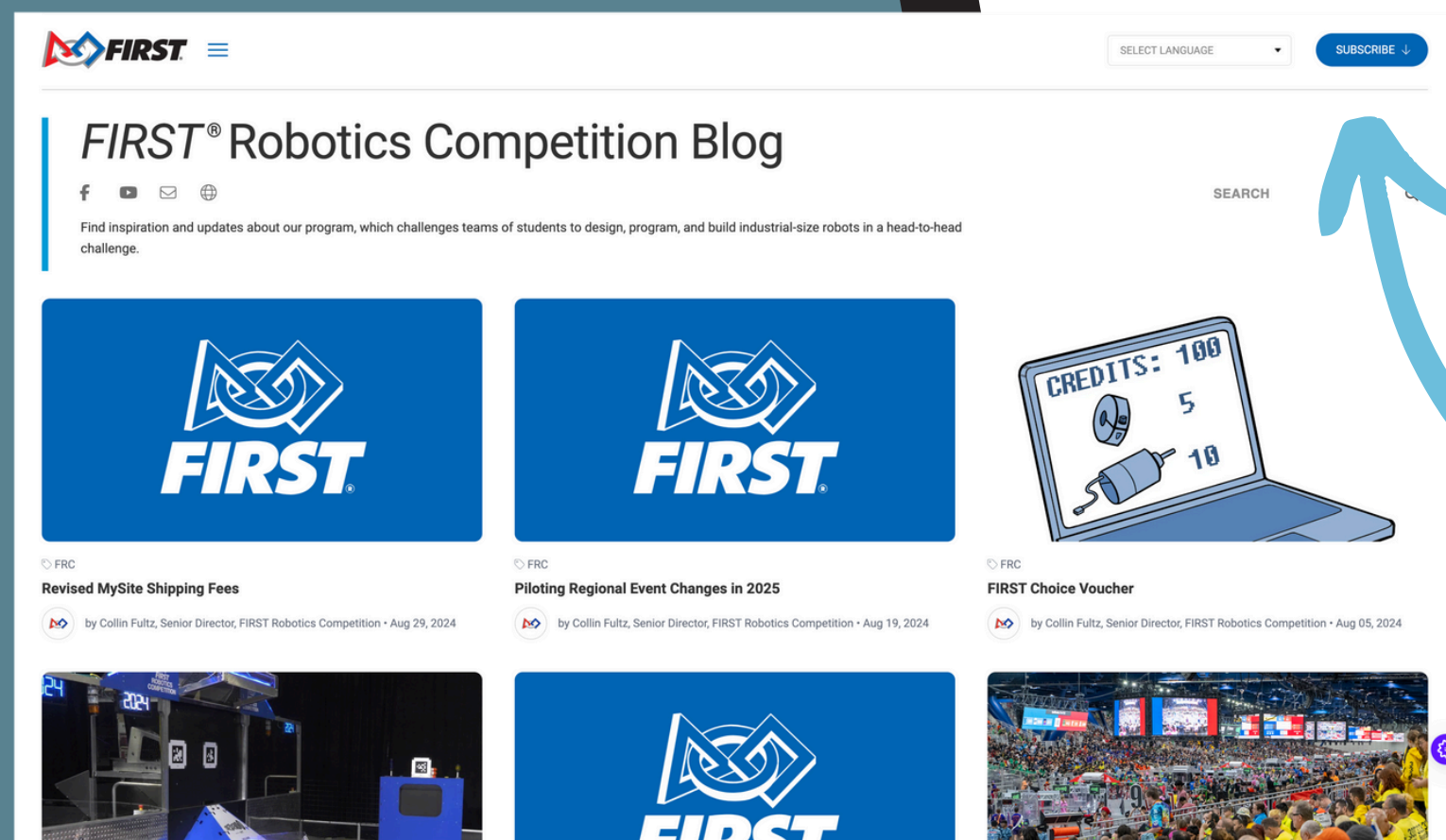
CONTACT INFO >



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COMMUNICATION

- All Crucial Communication only goes to **Lead Coach 1 & 2** (new name)
- Important info shared through the *FIRST* Robotics Competition Blog
 - **Subscribe** at <https://community.firstinspires.org/topic/frc>



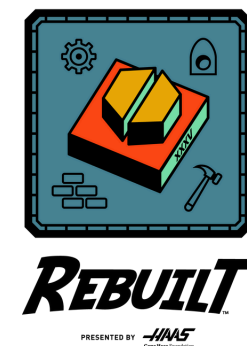
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DISTRICTS

CALIFORNIA FRC

ADVANCEMENT

- Teams will compete and earn points in 2 **District Qualifier** events in California only.
- Teams will be ranked based on the region they are located in (Northern or Southern California) and advance to one of **two State Championships**.
- The top 60 teams in each area (North and South) will advance to a State Championship.
- Each State Championship will advance its winning alliance and Cultural Award winners (*FIRST* Impact Award, Engineering Inspiration, and Rookie All-Star) to the ***FIRST* Championship**.
- The remainder of California's *FIRST* Championship slots will be allocated according to District Points across the state (i.e. with no North/South distinction), following the same allocation process in any other district.

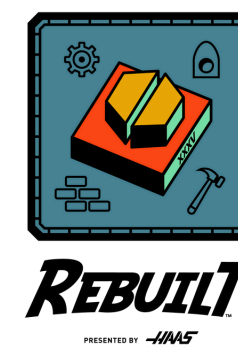


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AWARDS - same awards as Regional Events with a few minor tweaks.

- **Dean's List Finalist Award** is only presented at the District Championship.
 - Each District event will have 1 or 2 State Championship Dean's List Semi-Finalists.
 - Teams will submit their Dean's List Nominees and the student will be assigned to interview at one of their 2 District events.
 - Semi-Finalists will have a second interview at their team's designated State Championship (regardless of whether or not the team is competing, and regardless of where a student qualified).
- The **Woodie Flowers Finalist Award** is only presented at the State Championship.
 - Nominees are recognized at each District event.
 - The exact number of Woodie Flowers Finalist Awards is to be determined.

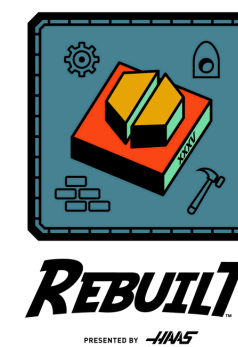


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AWARDS - same awards as Regional Events with a few minor tweaks.

- Some awards are classified as **Cultural Awards** by FIRST.
 - The three Cultural Awards are the FIRST Impact Award, Engineering Inspiration Award, and Rookie All-Star Award.
 - Teams who win the FIRST Impact Award at a District Qualifier event will automatically qualify to compete for the award and to compete with their robot at the State Championship.
 - Teams who win Engineering Inspiration or Rookie All-Star will qualify to compete for **that award only**, unless they earn enough points to qualify to compete with their robot.
 - Teams who do not qualify with their robot may be interviewed in-person at their State Championship or may be offered a remote interview.



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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

CALIFORNIA FRC

WEEK	DATES	SOCAL	NORCAL
1	3/6 - 3/8	CA District Hueneme Port Event	TBD
2	3/13 - 3/15	CA District Ventura Event CA District Los Angeles Event	CA District San Francisco Event
3	3/20 - 3/22	CA District San Diego Event presented by Qualcomm	CA District Sacramento Event
4	3/27 - 3/29	CA District Glendale Event CA District San Gabriel Valley Event	CA District Central Valley Event CA District Pinnacles Event
5	4/2 - 4/4	CA District Aerospace Valley Event CA District Orange County Event	CA District Contra Costa Event CA District East Bay Event
6	4/9 - 4/12	CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP - SOUTHERN	CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP - NORTHERN

KEY DATES

DEADLINES & DUE DATES

Event Registration - *Preferencing*

- 1st Event Registration – Round 1 Preference
 - Opens 9/25, 9:00 am PT
 - Closes 10/2, 9:00 am PT
- 2nd Event Registration – Round 2 Preference
 - Opens 10/16, 9:00 am PT
 - Closes 10/23, 9:00 am PT
- Unrestricted Event Registration
 - Opens 11/6
 - Closes 11/18

Event Registration - *Payment Due Dates*

- Initial - 11/18
- Additional - 1/21

Kit & Kick Off Registration

- Opens 9/25
- Closes 11/18

Drive Base & Black Tote Opt Out

- Open Now
- Closes 9/23

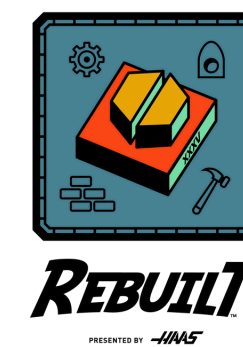
FIRST Choice

- Priority List
 - Opens 1/10
 - Closes 1/19
- Regular Ordering
 - Opens 1/30

FRC Kickoff

Saturday, 1/10/2026

[CALENDAR](#)



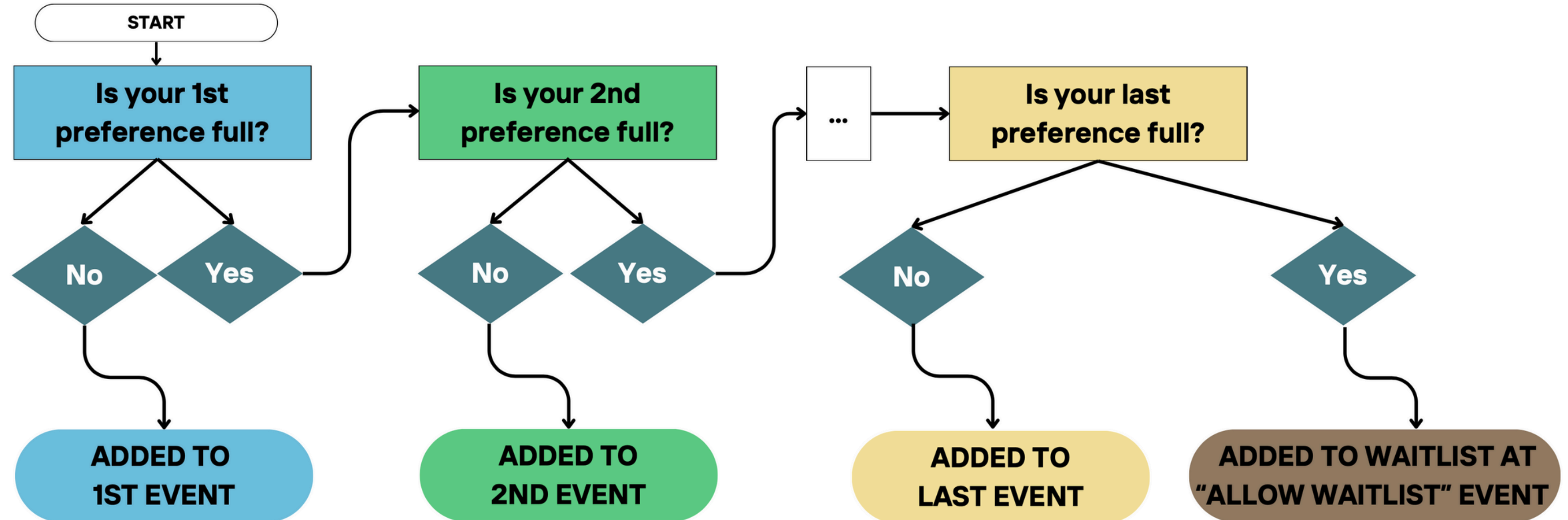
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EVENT PREFERENCES

- **SELECT YOUR HOME EVENT FIRST**
 - Reserves will be large again this year
- Each registered team gets a random number from 1 to x (number of teams)
- For first round, system starts with preferencing team 1, then 2, ...
- Reverse order for round 2



PREFERENCING



YOUTH PROTECTION

***FIRST* Youth Protection resources**

- [Youth Protection Program Guide](#)
- [Youth Protection Training Videos](#)

***FIRST* Code of Conduct**

- Exhibit Gracious Professionalism® at all times. Gracious Professionalism is a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. With Gracious Professionalism, fierce competition and mutual gain are not separate notions.
- Ensure the safety of all participants in *FIRST* activities.
- Not engage in any form of bullying, harassment, use of profane or insulting language, or any actual or threatened violence.
- Adhere to all *FIRST* Youth Protection Program (YPP) policies.
- Report any unsafe behavior to event or local *FIRST* leadership.
- Persons who do not comply with this Code of Conduct may be barred from participating in *FIRST* activities.

***FIRST* Team Safety meeting**

- Conduct a safety meeting at the beginning of the school year/season
- Meeting Key Items :
 - a. Safety Meeting Guidelines
 - b. [Safety Requirements](#)
 - c. [Boundaries](#)
 - d. Reporting Safety Concerns
 - e. Open Discussion



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AB 506

AB506 require volunteers working with youth 16+ hrs/month or 32+ hrs/year to complete:

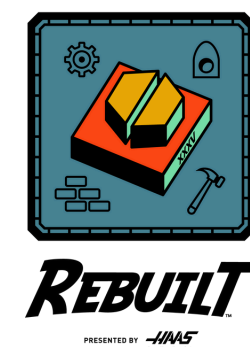
1. Livescan Fingerprint Check (one-time)
2. Mandated Reporter Training (one-time, free online)

These are in addition to *FIRST*'s background check & YPP training.

[Instructions to complete AB506 screening](#)

Lead Coach 1 & 2 must complete before event preference.

Allow 2–3 weeks for processing.



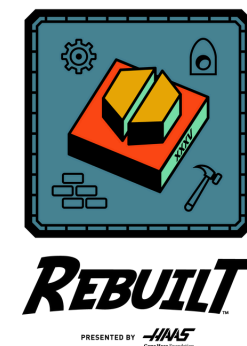
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AB 506 - LIVESCAN OPTIONS

We'll have fingerprinting services available at the following California events.
Advance sign-up is required.

- **SoCal Showdown** – El Segundo | Oct 11, 2025 | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- **Tidal Tumble** – Ventura | Oct 18, 2025 | 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- **Stay Classy Classic** – San Diego | Oct 25, 2025 (tentative)

Can't make it to one of these? No problem—you can also find a provider near you whenever it's convenient. [LiveScan locations](#)



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GRANTS & REGRANTING

APPLY FOR GRANTS!

- Do not pay registration if your team is waiting for grants/donations to come into *FIRST*
- *FIRST* will not will not refund money. paid if restricted grants come in after payment
- Unrestricted funds in your team's *FIRST* account can be used to pay registrations or regranted to your team

RESOURCE LINKS:

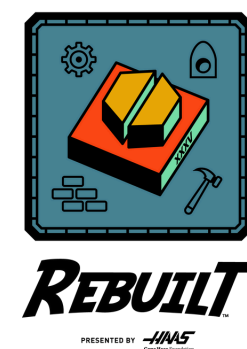
- *FIRST* Team Grant Opportunities
- Regranting info: Regranting, Process, Procedures, and W-9



Please keep FIRST finance informed of any payment delays or challenges.

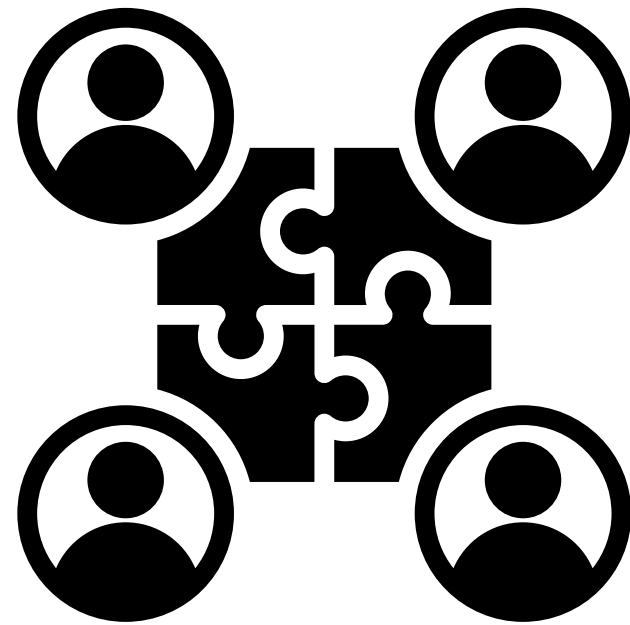
GRANTS

- Argosy Rookie Grant - \$3000 - deadline 9/11/25
- SuperStarter - \$500 - deadline 9/11/25
- Gene Haas Foundation
- BAE Systems - deadline 9/13/25
- NASA (rookie) - deadline 9/30/25
- Qualcomm (mentor)
- Boeing (mentor)
- Lockheed (mentor)

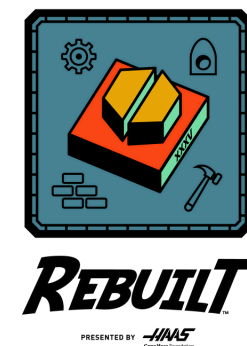


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HOW CAN YOU HELP?



- Team Growth
- Funding
- Volunteers
- Venues



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TEAM GROWTH



How do you participate?

1. **Introduce** your Regional Director to a school or group that did not participate in FRC in the 2024-25 season.
2. **Offer support** as necessary to help the new team join the program.
3. **Mentor** the new team during their first 2 years.

Why would you want to do this?

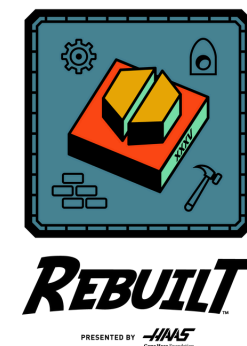
- A \$500 grant for your team
- Recognition as a SuperStarter at all *FIRST* California FRC District Qualifiers and State Championships.
- Receive a SuperStarter digital badge and certificate
- Enhancing your Impact Award submission.

FUNDING



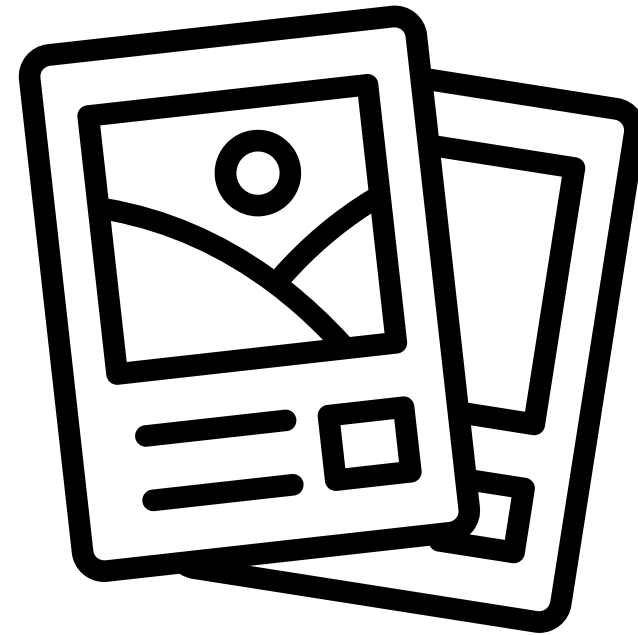
In order to grow *FIRST*, we also need to grow financial support in the region:

- **Introduce us to potential region sponsors**
 - companies, organizations, foundations, individuals
- **Spread the word through associations you are members of: ex - ASME, SWE, IEEE, SHPE**
 - Invite your Regional Director to speak



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HOW TO VOLUNTEER >



Digital volunteer
flyers coming soon.

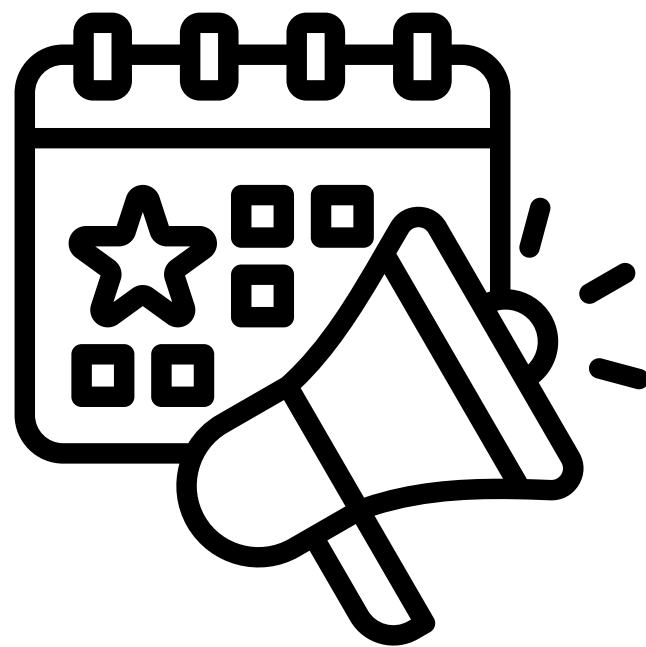
VOLUNTEERS

FRC events are successful due to volunteers. With our shift to Districts and providing teams 2 plays, we need more volunteers than ever. (Approximately 2000 volunteer roles)

- We will be looking to **teams to provide volunteers.**
- **Invite employees** at your workplace to volunteer at an FRC Regional.
- **Dollars for Doers:** Many companies offer a corporate giving program that matches your volunteer hours with monetary donations.

VENUES

As we grow *FIRST*, we need to add more events at lower cost venues.



- **Let us know about potential venues for District Events or Off-Season events**
 - Example:
 - Schools that have 2 gyms (1 for field/spectators and 1 for pits)
 - Schools that have 1 gym and another location for pits
 - Other low-cost venues (ex: The Port of Hueneme)

PROGRESSION OF PROGRAMS

FIRST LEGO League

Season kickoff of UNEARTHED: Aug 5, 2025

- **FLL California - Southern:** <https://cafirst.org/fll-ca-southern/>
 - Program Delivery Partners: Cathy Schulz, Paul Kass, Sarah Rodriguez

FIRST Tech Challenge

Season kickoff of DECODE: Sept 6, 2025

- **SoCal FTC:** <https://socalftc.org/calendar/#page-content>
 - Program Delivery Partners: Theresa Klemm, Patrick Brophy
- **San Diego FTC** - <https://www.sdftc.org/2023-24season.html>
 - Program Delivery Partners: Matt Nilsen

WAYS TO SUPPORT:

- Mentor
- Host Events
- Volunteer at Event

PDP CONTACT INFO



Receive one of these



A white form titled "GRACIOUS PROFESSIONALISM Caught in the Act!" with a small circular logo in the top left corner. The form asks: "Have you noticed someone at the Hueneme Port Regional demonstrating Gracious Professionalism?" followed by fields for "Their Name:", "Their Team / Affiliation:", and "Your Name:". Below these is a large box labeled "Description of their Gracious Professionalism:". At the bottom of the form is a circular logo with the text "GRACIOUS PROFESSIONAL" and "FIRST CALIFORNIA" around a central graphic of three stylized figures.

and get one of these pins



Coined by Dr. Woodie Flowers, **Gracious Professionalism** is part of the ethos of *FIRST*. It's a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community.

Gracious professionals learn and compete like crazy but treat one another with respect and kindness in the process.

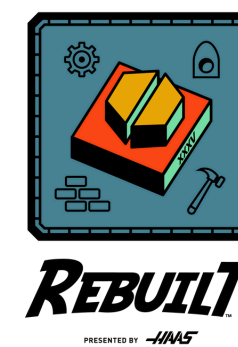
- *FIRST* California **Gracious Professional** Pins awarded at all CA FRC District Qualifiers and State Championships.
- Good Stuff with Woodie Flowers [videos](#)



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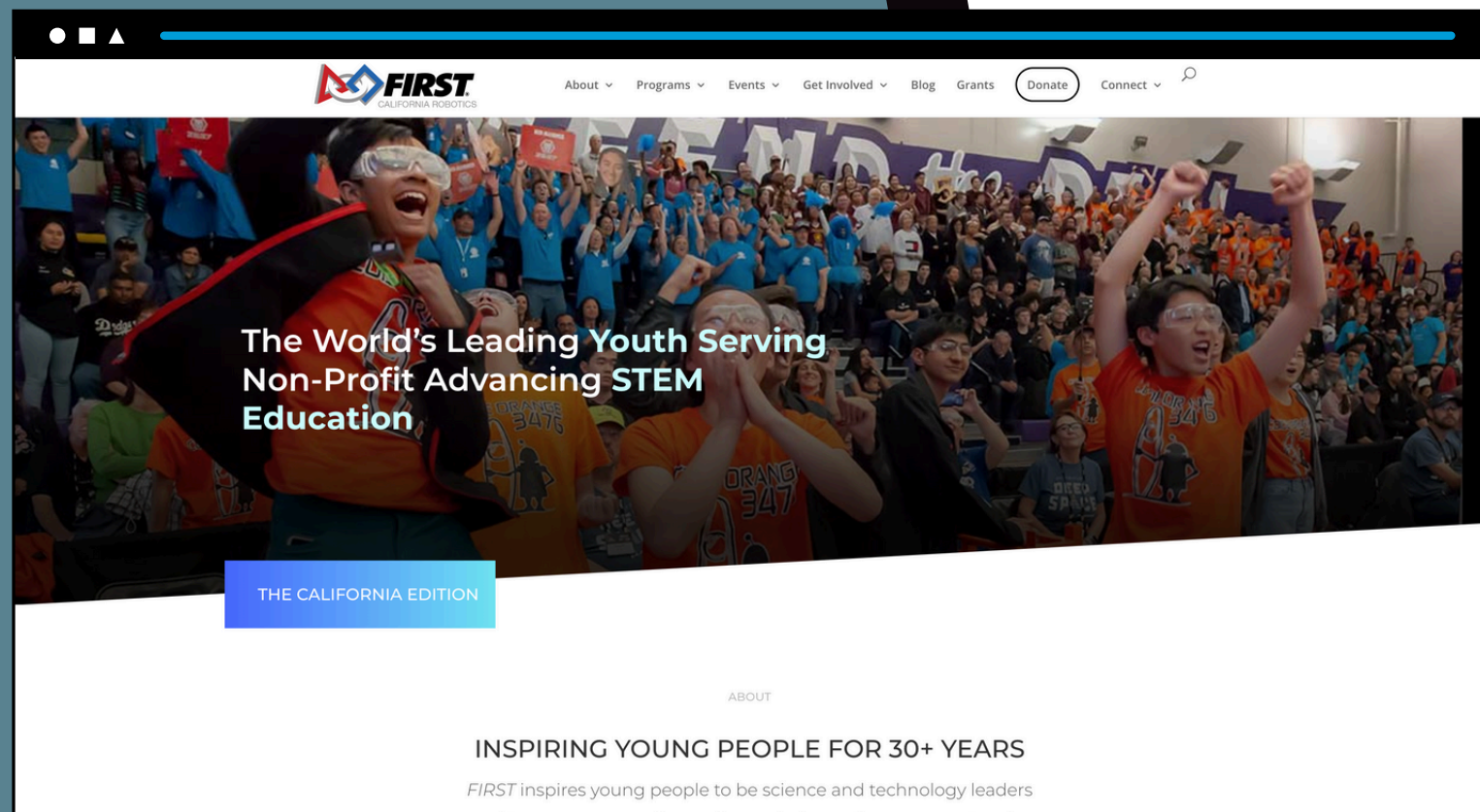
CONNECT/SHARE/SUPPORT

- **Regular Updates / Office Hours**
 - Monthly (may increase frequency during Season)
- **Local Mentor Slack Workgroup**
 - San Diego
 - Los Angeles
 - TriCoastal, Kern
- ***FIRST* Mentor Conference - next year**
- **Watch for a survey in the next few days**
- **Share your ideas**

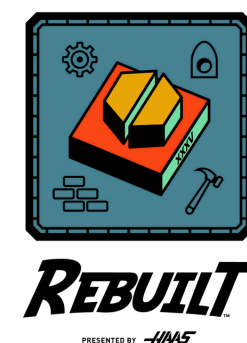


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FIRST CALIFORNIA

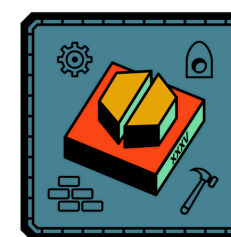


- **WEBSITE:** cafirst.org
- **NEWSLETTER:**
 - submit your [*FIRST* stories](#)
 - encourage all, parents, students, sponsors to sign up for the [*FIRST* CA newsletter](#)
- **SOCIAL MEDIA:**
 - LinkedIn: [*FIRST* California](#)
 - Instagram: [@firstroboticscalifornia](#)
 - Facebook: [*FIRST* California](#)
 - Hashtag: #FIRSTinCA
- **CALENDAR**
 - off-season events



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Q & A



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THANK YOU