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FIVE HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS QUALIFY FOR INTERNATIONAL ROBOTICS CHAMPIONSHIP

Students Advanced Following Competitions Putting Custom-Built Robots to the Test; Others Win Honors for Design, Sportsmanship, Partnership

Davis, California, March 29, 2023– Attended by thousands of fans, families, educators and industry leaders, the *FIRST*[®] Robotics Competition Sacramento Regional awarded 16 teams with honors that rewarded design excellence, competitive play, sportsmanship and high impact partnerships between schools, businesses and communities. Held at the University of California, Davis Pavilion at the ARC March 25 and 26, 46 high school student teams competed to earn a spot at the *FIRST*[®] Championship, to be held April 19-22 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas.

With the hope of winning one of the several coveted awards, high school students worked with professional Mentors to design and build a robot over a six-week period that solved a problem using a kit of parts and a standard set of rules, while also developing high-impact partnerships between schools, businesses, and communities.

CHARGED UPSM presented by Haas is part of the 2023 *FIRST*[®] ENERGIZESM presented by Qualcomm season that includes programs for a range of ages and robot complexity. In CHARGED UP, teams are inspired to see the potential of energy storage in a new light as they compete to charge up their communities. Using renewable energy can transform our communities, but only if it is effectively stored and delivered to those who need it. The power of engineering can help make a meaningful difference. Notably, the [game reveal teaser](#) released October 11, 2022 highlighted Sacramento's Tower Bridge. This year's challenge addresses global challenges related to United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #7 – focused on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.

“Each team clearly demonstrated teamwork, professionalism and strategic thinking in solving the competition’s challenges,” Regional Director Janet McKinley said. “The noise level from the audience cheering on the teams was tremendous. Students, school groups, community members and professional team mentors filled the stands and helped to bring a level of fun and excitement to the competition. With the sustained support of the Sacramento community, this robotics competition will continue to grow and inspire students to study math, science and engineering.”

[FIRST has a proven impact](#) to significantly improve students’ attitudes towards math, science and teamwork.

To learn more about *FIRST*, go to www.firstinspires.org

Winners of the FIRST® Robotics Competition 2023 Sacramento Regional Awards include:
(*Advances to FIRST® Championship to be held in Houston, Texas)

On-field competition

Regional Winners 254 Cheesy Poofs, San Jose, CA *
Regional Winners 1678 Citrus Circuits, Davis, CA *
Regional Winners 3189 Circuit Breakers, Rocklin, CA *
Regional Finalists 5419 Berkelium, Berkeley, CA *
Regional Finalists 2551 Penguin Empire, Novato, CA *
Regional Finalists 5458 Digital Minds, Woodland CA

Judged engineering and community impact team awards

Regional FIRST Impact Award**: 1072 Harker Robotics, San Jose, CA *
Regional Engineering Inspiration Award: 4135 Iron Patriots, Modesto, CA *
Autonomous Award sponsored by Ford: 5026 Iron Panthers, Burlingame, CA
Creativity Award sponsored by Rockwell Automation: 2204 Rambots, Hayward, CA
Team Sustainability Award: 3501 Firebots, Sunnyvale, CA
Excellence in Engineering Award: 1678 Citrus Circuits, Davis, CA
Gracious Professionalism Award: 4159 CardinalBotics, San Francisco, CA
Imagery Award in honor of Jack Kamen: 2637 Phantom Catz, Rolling Hills, CA
Industrial Design Award sponsored by General Motors: 5458 Digital Minds, Woodland CA
Innovation in Control Award: 5419 Berkelium, Berkeley, CA
Judges' Award: 6941 IronPulse Robotics, Shanghai, China
Quality Award: 254 Cheesy Poofs, San Jose, CA
Team Spirit Award: 5700 SOTA Cyberdragons, San Francisco, CA

Individual recognitions

Woodie Flowers Finalist Award: Ryan Cahoon (766) *
Volunteer of the Year: Evan Forbes
FIRST® Dean's List Finalist Award: Sanaya Bhasin (1458) *
FIRST® Dean's List Finalist Award: Hongfei Liu (6941) *

Press Notes:

254 Cheesy Poofs from San Jose (as a Hall of Fame team), 1678 Citrus Circuits from Davis (at Hueneme Port Regional), 2637 Phantom Catz (at Orange County Regional) and 5274 (at Ventura County Regional) already qualified for the World Championships.

The winning alliance of Teams 254, 1678 and 3189 set the world high score for the 2023 season of 187 points without penalties in a semifinal match of the playoffs.

**The FIRST Impact Award is the most prestigious award of the event and recognizes the team that embodies the goals and purpose of *FIRST* and best represents a model for other teams to emulate.



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

About FIRST®

[FIRST](https://www.firstinspires.org/)® 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](https://www.firstinspires.org/).

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