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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 16-17

Sacramento, California, March 11, 2025— High-school students from across Northern California, with an additional team from Missouri, 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, 34 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.

The event will be held for a second year at Pleasant Grove High School in Elk Grove. Pleasant Grove also hosts the Capital City Classic the last weekend in October each year.

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 Sunday, March 16 and Monday, March 17 to earn a spot at the international *FIRST*[®] Championship to be held April 16-19 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.

[REEFSCAPE presented by Haas](#) is part of the 2024-2025 [FIRST[®] DIVESM presented by Qualcomm](#) season. In REEFSCAPE, teams will use their engineering skills to strengthen one of the ocean's most diverse habitats and make waves to build a better world. Two competing Alliances will score coral, harvest algae, and attach to the barge before time runs out, and Alliances earn additional rewards for meeting specific scoring thresholds and for cooperating with their opponents.

"Our events are the culmination of countless hours of preparation by our teams of students, coaches, and mentors," said Collin Fultz, senior program director of *FIRST* Robotics Competition, adding, "The event is part competition and part celebration of what our teams have achieved this year. While only a few teams at the event will be crowned champions, all our participants leave the season as better problem-solvers, more gracious professionals, and more prepared to tackle the challenges of the future."

With a limited timeframe, students work with professional engineering mentors to design a robot that solves a problem following a standard set of rules that limits available materials and parts. 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. 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 PG&E, UC Davis and SMUD. 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 Velma Lomax at vlomax@firstinspires.org or visit at <https://cafirst.org/frc/>

When: Sunday March 16 and Monday March 17, 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, 4698 Raider Robotics, 5274 Rosemont; **Yolo County:** 1678 Davis, 5458 Woodland; **Solano County:** 701 Vanden, 2288 Hydra Robotics; **Placer County:** 3257 Placer 4H; **El Dorado County:** 3189 El Dorado; **Butte County:** 4643 Oroville

Traveling from Missouri is [4522 Team SCREAM](#) from Sedalia. The team won the 2024 World Championship along with 1690 Orbit from Israel and 321 RoboLancers from Philadelphia, PA. 4522 will be facing here 254 The Cheesy Poofs who was the captain of the opposing alliance in the Einstein Field Championship Final.

*Previous *FIRST*® World Championship winners competing here along with 4522 Team SCREAM include: 254 Cheesy Poofs (five), 1671 Buchanan Bird Brains (one), 1678 Citrus Circuits (one), and 5499 Bearium (one). The Cheesy Poofs won the Regional last year along with 604 Quixsilver from San Jose and 4135 Iron Patriots from Modesto.*

REEFSCAPE uses concepts an [award-winning submittal](#) by students on 1318 Issaquah Robotics Society from the [2021 Game Design Challenge](#). Last year's game CRESCENDO used a concept submitted by Team 1678 Citrus Circuits from Davis, California entitled [Storm Surge](#). Almost 1,400 teams submitted entries in 2021.

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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