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## **TOP SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPETE TO QUALIFY FOR *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> INTERNATIONAL ROBOTICS CHAMPIONSHIP, APRIL 10-12, 2026**

*At the **FIRST Robotics Competition SoCal State Championship**, 1800+ Students from 60 teams learn Problem-Solving and Teamwork in Addition to Designing and Building Robots*

**[Anaheim, CA, April 4, 2026]** — Top high-school students from Southern California will have the opportunity to showcase their hard work after designing and building an original robot in the *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> Robotics Competition.

This weekend marks a major milestone as 60 teams of students and engineering and technical mentors will demonstrate their skill for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) at the Anaheim Convention Center Arena. They will compete for honors and recognition that reward design excellence, competitive play, sportsmanship, and high-impact partnerships between schools, businesses, and communities.

*FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a robotics community preparing young people for the future. More than 1,800 students - each having competed in at least two local District events to earn their spot - will compete at the [FIRST Robotics Competition SoCal State Championship](#), presented by Qualcomm, for the opportunity to advance to the *FIRST* International Championship, taking place April 29–May 2 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas.

REBUILT presented by Haas is part of the 2025-2026 *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> AGE presented by Qualcomm season. In REBUILT, teams will use their innovation and engineering skills to re-imagine the past and dig deeper into discoveries than ever before. Two competing alliances are invited to score fuel, cross obstacles, and climb the tower before time runs out. Alliances earn additional rewards for meeting specific scoring thresholds.

Qualcomm has been a proud sponsor of *FIRST* since 2006. “Our continued support is integral to developing a skilled STEM workforce capable of addressing global challenges,” said Angela Baker, Vice President Corporate Responsibility and Chief Sustainability Officer for Qualcomm Incorporated. “We commend the students’ achievements throughout this *FIRST* Age season and are proud to contribute to their ongoing success”.

With a limited timeframe, 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 District competitions that measure the effectiveness of each robot, the power of collaboration, and the determination of students.

*FIRST* Robotics Competition SoCal State Championship presented by Qualcomm sponsors and volunteers come from some of the most highly regarded organizations in the area. Sponsors provide resources including time and talent from professional Mentors, services, equipment, financial contributions, and volunteers.

For more information about *FIRST* Robotics Competition SoCal State Championship, please visit <https://cafirst.org/frc/socal-championship/>.

#### About *FIRST*®

*FIRST*® is a leading youth-serving nonprofit advancing STEM education, supporting more than 785,000 student participants globally each year. *FIRST* provides life-changing, team-based K-12 robotics programs that give young people the skills, confidence, and resilience to build a better world. Boosted by a global support system of volunteers, educators, donors, and sponsors, 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 in 1989, *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) has a proven impact on STEM learning, interest, and skill-building well beyond high school. For 36 years, students from all walks of life have built real-world skills, self-confidence, and a passion for STEM through our team-based robotics programs, gaining access to education and career discovery opportunities, connections to exclusive scholarships and employers, and a place in the *FIRST* community for life. Learn more at [firstinspires.org](http://firstinspires.org).

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