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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***FIRST* Tech Challenge North Central Virginia Qualifier Presented by *FIRST* Chesapeake Robotics in Partnership with NAVSEA**

40+ Middle and High School Robotics Teams to Compete at Orange County High School

Orange, VA (November 11, 2017)...More than 600 of the best and brightest middle and high school students in Virginia and Maryland will meet at Orange County High School to test their teamwork and ingenuity at the *FIRST* Tech Challenge North Central Virginia Qualifier. This event, on Saturday, November 11th, is free and open to the public.

WHAT: *FIRST* Tech Challenge North Central Virginia Qualifier Presented by *FIRST* Chesapeake Robotics and NAVSEA

WHEN: Saturday, November 11th, 7:00am-5:00pm

WHERE: Orange County High School – 201 Selma Rd. Orange, VA 22960

WHO: The best and brightest middle and high school students from Virginia and Maryland pit their robots against the [FIRST Relic Recovery Challenge](#) for a spot at the *FIRST* Tech Challenge Virginia Championship Sponsored by ECPI University.

The robots are coming! This event is the first of 7 robotics competitions held throughout Virginia in December and January. Winners will earn a chance to compete at the *FIRST* Tech Challenge Virginia Championship Sponsored by ECPI University in Richmond on February 24th. This year's challenge, Relic Recovery, uses a playing field where teams strategize, form alliances, and demonstrate gracious professionalism while finding "treasures" and returning them to their rightful place in history. Team robots are required to work autonomously, as well as with drivers, to score points using rotating and stationary goals. Families and the general public are invited to come out and cheer on their favorite team and learn more about *FIRST* programs. The event is free and open to the public.

NAVSEA (Naval Sea Systems Command) is an event partner at the *FIRST* Tech Challenge North Central Virginia Qualifier. With a force of 74,000 civilian and military personnel, NAVSEA engineers, builds, buys and

maintains the Navy's ships and submarines and their combat systems. Other major sponsors include Capital One, University of Virginia Engineering, PTC and Rockwell Collins Corporation. For sponsor details, visit www.firstchesapeake.org/about/sponsors.

About *FIRST*® Chesapeake Robotics

FIRST Chesapeake dba Virginia *FIRST* administers the [FIRST Tech Challenge Program](#) in Virginia and the [FIRST Robotics Competition Program](#) for Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Each year, *FIRST* Chesapeake directly impacts over 6,700 middle and high school students through robotics workshops and competitions. Over 56,000 individuals attend 15+ *FIRST* Chesapeake robotics competitions from December through April each year. To learn more about *FIRST* Chesapeake, go to www.firstchesapeake.org. Follow Us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

About *FIRST*®

Accomplished inventor Dean Kamen founded *FIRST*® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) in 1989 to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. Based in Manchester, N.H., *FIRST* designs accessible, innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology, and engineering. With support from over 200 of the Fortune 500 companies and more than \$25 million in college scholarships, the not-for-profit organization hosts the *FIRST*® Robotics Competition for students in Grades 9-12; *FIRST*® Tech Challenge for Grades 7-12; *FIRST*® LEGO® League for Grades 4-8; and *FIRST*® LEGO® League Jr. for Grades K-3. *Gracious Professionalism*® is a way of doing things that encourages high quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. To learn more about *FIRST*, go to www.firstinspires.org

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