

**Our Ideal *FIRST* Robotics Competition Judging Panel would include:**

- A diverse group of judges who reflect the modern workplace and can serve as role models for the students.
- A mix of veteran (experienced) and rookie (new) judges.
- Both 'technical' and 'non-technical' experts to effectively interview/evaluate the award categories.
- A mix of experienced and younger professionals. Unique perspectives are part of the deliberations.
- Professionals who are willing to work hard, have fun, be a role model and inspire the students.

**Judging is a Big Time Commitment**

- **The commitment for a Local District event is two full days** (The local events are 2 days – Saturday and Sunday). Specific times and schedules will be sent out closer to the event.
- Judges are expected to fully participate, arrive on time and stay for the duration of the event.
- Judges are discouraged from taking phone calls or hold business meetings – these two days should be dedicated to immersing yourself in the judging process.
- Judges are expected to attend judge training (which will occur prior to the beginning of the event, usually as a breakfast session on day one of judging).

**We Need Your Experience and Subject Matter Expertise**

- Judges serve as ambassadors and role models to the *FIRST* kids. Many awards are based on areas that you have proven expertise in – come to the event ready to share that knowledge and expertise.

**We Strive to Avoid Conflicts of Interest**

- In order to avoid any perception of a conflict – we try to avoid selecting Judges who have recently mentored an *FIRST* Robotics Competition team. There are many other wonderful volunteer event roles where their expertise can be put to use.

**We Need Team Players**

- There are well established rules and processes in place for *FIRST* judging – please honor them and trust that your Judge Advisor has the experience to lead the judging team to the right outcome.
- Judges must be willing to work collaboratively in the deliberation room in order to reach consensus and strive for the most optimal decisions.
- There is no role that is too small in the judges' room – every judging role is critical – we will try to match judges to roles that use their skill sets, however that may not always be possible.

**Come Prepared**

- Read all of the materials that are sent prior to the event, particularly the judges' manual. It should take you less than an hour, but will make all of the difference.
- You will be required to register in *FIRST*'s volunteer system (VIMS) and submit to a background screening that must be completed several weeks prior to the event. Additional details are forthcoming.
- Judging can be physically demanding. Judges are required to stand for long periods and move between judging areas throughout the day. Be sure to wear comfortable clothing and walking shoes.

**Double the Fun – Championship Requirements**

- Judges at the *FIRST* Chesapeake District Championship must have prior experience in judging **at least one of the District events**.
- The time commitment for the Championship event is **two full days** (March 30 & 31, 2018)

**Interested in becoming a judge?** Contact **Kristin Clemons, Director of Programs**, [kclemons@firstchesapeake.org](mailto:kclemons@firstchesapeake.org) or **804.239.2228** to learn more about judging a *FIRST* Chesapeake event.