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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# ***FIRST Tech Challenge Harrisonburg VA Qualifier 1 Event— 39 Middle and High School Robotics Teams to Compete at Harrisonburg High School***

Harrisonburg, Virginia. January 21, 2023...More than 300 of the best and brightest middle and high school students in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia will meet at Harrisonburg High School to test their teamwork and ingenuity at the *FIRST* Tech Challenge Harrisonburg VA Qualifier 1 Event. This event, on January 21, 2023, is free and open to the public.

**WHAT:** *FIRST* Tech Challenge Harrisonburg VA Qualifier 1

**WHEN:** January 21, 2023, 7:00am-5:00pm

**WHERE:** Harrisonburg High School- 1001 Garbers Church Rd. Harrisonburg, VA 23116

**WHO:** The best and brightest middle and high school students from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia pit their robots against the [POWER PLAY Challenge](#) Presented by Raytheon Technologies for a spot at the *FIRST* Chesapeake *FIRST* Tech Challenge Championship Sponsored by Capital One.

The robots are coming! Winners will earn a chance to compete at the *FIRST* Chesapeake *FIRST* Tech Challenge Championship Sponsored by Capital One in Severn, MD on February 11<sup>th</sup>. This year's challenge, POWERPLAY, uses a playing field where teams strategize, form alliances, and demonstrate gracious professionalism while moving cones and assembling them onto stationary and spring-mounted junctions. Team robots are required to work autonomously, as well as with drivers, to score points using teamwork and *coopertition*. 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.

Major sponsors for the season include Booz Allen Hamilton, Qualcomm, U.S. Dept of Energy- EERE, Dominion Energy, and Leidos. For sponsor details, visit [www.firstchesapeake.org/about/sponsors](http://www.firstchesapeake.org/about/sponsors).

## **About *FIRST*® Chesapeake**

*FIRST* Chesapeake dba Virginia*FIRST* administers the [FIRST Tech Challenge Program](#) in Virginia and the [FIRST Robotics Competition Program](#) for the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. Each year, *FIRST* Chesapeake directly impacts

over 8,000 middle and high school students through robotics workshops and competitions. Over 50,000 individuals attend 20+ *FIRST* Chesapeake robotics competitions and workshops from November through April each year. To learn more about *FIRST* Chesapeake, go to [www.firstchesapeake.org](http://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](http://www.firstinspires.org)

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