

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

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### **25 Local Robotics Teams Advance to *FIRST* Inspires World Championship in Houston, Texas; *FIRST* Chesapeake District Championship Showcases Innovative Robotics Talent**

(Richmond, Virginia, April 17th, 2023) – The *FIRST* Chesapeake District Championship sponsored by Booz Allen Hamilton, held from April 5th to 8th, brought together 60 exceptional *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. These teams of high school students and volunteer mentors showcased their innovative robots, designed to compete in a challenge course that simulated building an electric grid. Out of the 60 participating teams, 20 will advance to the prestigious *FIRST* Championship presented by BAE Systems, taking place in Houston, Texas, from April 20th through 22nd.

The *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) is a prestigious robotics program aimed at high school students, providing them with the opportunity to design, build, and program robots to compete in challenging and engaging games. As part of the *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) worldwide community, FRC emphasizes mentor-based learning, fostering teamwork, leadership, and STEM skills in students as they develop innovative solutions to complex problems.

The *FIRST* Championship will offer an unparalleled stage for the most exceptional teams from across the U.S. and 27 other countries to engage in exhilarating head-to-head robotics competitions. Throughout the season, the talented teams from *FIRST* Chesapeake have consistently performed at the highest level, setting the world high score for a non-penalty playoff match score. As they gear up for the world championship, there is a growing anticipation that one of these extraordinary teams may return home with the coveted world championship title.

In addition to the 20 *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams, five teams from the District's *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC) will bring their agile robots to compete on the world stage. The *FIRST* Tech Challenge offers students aged 12-18 a platform to engage in robotics competitions designed to build science, technology, engineering, and math skills while fostering innovation, collaboration, and problem-solving.

“We are incredibly proud of all the teams who participated in the *FIRST* Chesapeake District Championship,” said Scott Turnbull, Executive Director of *FIRST* Chesapeake. “The talent, creativity, and dedication displayed by these students from all corners of the district are truly inspiring. We are excited to see the 20 FRC teams advancing, along with the five FTC teams representing our District at the *FIRST* Championship in Houston.”

For more information about *FIRST* Chesapeake, and *FIRST* Inspires, please visit the official websites at [www.firstchesapeake.org](http://www.firstchesapeake.org), and [www.firstinspires.org](http://www.firstinspires.org).

*FIRST* Chesapeake congratulates the following teams for advancing to the *FIRST* Championship:

#### *FIRST* Robotics Competition Teams

- 2363 - Triple Helix Robotics of Newport News, Virginia
- 1731 - Fresta Valley Robotics Club of Warrenton, Virginia
- 1727 - REX Lutherville of Timonium, Maryland
- 8592 – Newton<sup>2</sup> of Fairfax, Virginia
- 401 - Copperhead Robotics of Blacksburg, Virginia
- 5804 - TORCH of Richmond, Virginia
- 836 - The RoboBees of Hollywood, Maryland
- 2199 - Robo-Lions of Sykesville, Maryland
- 4099 - The Falcons of Poolesville, Maryland
- 384 - SPARKY 384 of Henrico, Virginia
- 422 - The Mech Tech Dragons of Richmond, Virginia
- 1123 - AIM Robotics of Fairfax, Virginia
- 5724 - Spartan Robotics of Salem, Virginia
- 2106 - The Junkyard Dogs of Goochland, Virginia
- 1599 – CircuiTree of Mechanicsville, Virginia
- 6802 - Mean Caimans of Cedar Bluff, Virginia
- 5338 – RoboLoCo of Leesburg, Virginia
- 9072 - TigerBots of Hanover, Maryland
- 5587- Titan Robotics of Alexandria, Virginia
- 1629 - Garrett Coalition (GaCo) of Accident, Maryland

#### *FIRST* Tech Challenge Teams

- 19458 - Equilibrium.Exe of Potomac, Maryland
- 17080 - Newt.Exe of Potomac, Maryland
- 7393 - Electron Volts of Silver Spring, Maryland
- 6417 - Blu Cru of Rockville, Maryland
- 19818 - Jade Innovations of Boyds, Maryland

**About FIRST Chesapeake:** FIRST Chesapeake is a non-profit organization focused on promoting STEM education and fostering a love for science and technology among young people throughout the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. As part of the global FIRST community, FIRST Chesapeake hosts robotics competitions, workshops, and events that encourage students to pursue careers in STEM.



Team 8592 – Newton<sup>2</sup> of Fairfax, Virginia balances on a charging station.



Booz Allen Hamilton welcomes students during Opening Ceremonies at FIRST Chesapeake District Championship.



Team 112 NASA Knights scores a cube in their Alliance's Grid.