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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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***FIRST* Chesapeake Robotics District Bethesda MD Event Sponsored by Leidos at Walt Whitman HS, March 11-12**

Thirty-six of the best and brightest high school robotics teams from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia will compete in the [***FIRST* Chesapeake District Bethesda MD Event Sponsored by Leidos**](#) at [**Walt Whitman High School**](#) March 11-12, 2023.

The event is free and open to the public.

[***FIRST* Robotics Competition**](#) (FRC) is recognized as the premier international high school engineering challenge. Working closely with teachers and volunteer mentors, student teams have a short period of time to conceptualize, design, build, program, modify and test remote-controlled robots to participate in a competition that changes each year. Teams work with a common core set of parts but determine on their own how to accomplish tasks. Thus, no two robots are exactly alike.

This year's game, [**CHARGED UP**](#) Presented by Haas, inspires teams to see the potential of energy storage in a new light as they compete in alliances to charge up their communities. Teams earn points by piloting their remote-controlled robots to create sustainability links in their grid and to engage with their power station.

Approximately 112 FRC teams in DC/MD/VA vie throughout March in [**qualifying matches**](#) to earn spots at the [***FIRST* Chesapeake District Championship Sponsored by Booz Allen Hamilton**](#) at the [**George Mason University EagleBank Arena**](#), April 6-8. Top performers at the District event will go on to compete at the [**2023 *FIRST* World Championship presented by Qualcomm**](#), in Houston, TX, April 19- 22.

“We’re so proud of what these students accomplish”, said Scott Turnbull, **FIRST** Chesapeake Executive Director. “Not only do they gain technical and engineering skills, but they are also learning critically important life skills such as teamwork and problem solving. With the support of our nearly 3,000 volunteers, we are helping to build tomorrow’s technology leaders.”

Participants in **FIRST** programs also qualify to apply for more than \$80 million in [college scholarships](#).

The **FIRST** Chesapeake District Bethesda MD Event Sponsored by Leidos will be held at Walt Whitman High School - 7100 Whittier Blvd, Bethesda, MD 20817.

Saturday, March 11: Opening Ceremonies 10:30am

Qualifying Matches 11am-7pm (lunch break 1-2pm)

Sunday, March 12: Opening Ceremonies 9am

Qualifying Matches 9:30am-12:30pm (lunch break 1-2pm)

Playoff Matches and Awards 2-6pm (estimated)

A [Live Stream](#) will be viewable online the days of the event.

Virginia **FIRST** dba [FIRST Chesapeake](#) administers the [FIRST Tech Challenge Program](#) 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. Follow Us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

FIRST Chesapeake thanks our many [corporate sponsors](#) who make our programs possible and available for students across our service area.

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