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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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140 VA, MD, and DC middle and high school teams compete at Championship ROBOTICS events Apr 8-9 at Hampton Coliseum

FIRST Chesapeake Robotics District Championships Sponsored by Newport News Shipbuilding

Hampton, VA, March 28, 2022: One hundred and forty of the best and brightest middle and high school robotics teams from Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia will compete in the **FIRST** Chesapeake Championships Sponsored by Newport News Shipbuilding at the [Hampton Coliseum](#) April 8-9, 2022.

To mark the occasion of our first large-scale championship in three years, **FIRST** Chesapeake will offer double the excitement by hosting the [FIRST Tech Challenge District Championship](#) in tandem with the [FIRST Robotics Competition District Championship](#).

The events are free and open to the public.

FIRST Chesapeake is recognized for its highly competitive robotics teams and strong corporate mentoring program. Working closely with teachers and volunteer mentors, student teams conceptualize, design, build, program, modify and test remote-controlled robots to participate in a competition that changes each year. Teams begin with a common core set of parts but determine on their own how to accomplish tasks. Because there are no building instructions, no two robots are alike.

This season, over 300 robotics teams in VA/MD/DC, as well as teams from around the world, met for a series of local competitions to earn spots in the Championships that will play out at the Hampton Coliseum. Top performers from the Hampton Coliseum event will go on to compete at the [FIRST World Championship presented by Qualcomm](#), in Houston, April 20-23.

“This is not like a science fair. It is a fast-paced sports-based competition.” said **Leighann Scott Boland**, Executive Director for **FIRST** Chesapeake. “We are thrilled to be presenting these Championships in partnership with Newport News Shipbuilding. As the largest commercial manufacturer within the Commonwealth, they represent the pinnacle of technological advancement. We are so proud of what our students have accomplished and are pleased to share their hard work with the Hampton Roads community. Major corporations, including the Shipyard, tell us that **FIRST** experience is something they look for in their prospective employees.”

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

The **FIRST** Chesapeake Championships Sponsored by Newport News Shipbuilding will be held at the [Hampton Coliseum](#), 1000 Coliseum Drive, Hampton, VA 23666, April 8-9, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free parking and free admission. Live Feeds will be viewable online the days of the event, with both a [FIRST Tech Challenge Stream](#) and a [FIRST Robotics Competition Stream](#).

A free Technology and Scholarship Row will also be at this event from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. each day. These free exhibits include demonstrations, information, and giveaways by some of the top employers in the Hampton Roads area, as well as technology-based universities. **Recruiters from Newport News Shipbuilding will be on-hand to answer questions about NNS Trades Opportunities for 2022 High School Seniors and Graduates** and will conduct some on-site interviews. Students are encouraged to apply prior to visiting Technology Row by visiting [buildyourcareer.com](#) and searching for “High School Senior” by location Newport News, VA. Pay begins at \$21/hr and sign-on and relocation bonuses are available. Students must be 18 by June 2022 to apply.

[***FIRST Chesapeake***](#) is an independent non-profit that brings STEM-based leadership programs to middle and high school students in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. More than 7,000 students participate in the 300+ teams administered by ***FIRST*** Chesapeake.

Newport News Shipbuilding is the sole designer, builder and refueler of U.S. Navy aircraft carriers and one of two providers of U.S. Navy submarines. With approximately \$4 billion in revenues and more than 23,000 employees, they are the largest industrial employer in Virginia and the leading shipbuilding company in the United States. They build the most advanced ships in the world using their expertise in nuclear propulsion, naval design and manufacturing. They are currently building the new [*Ford-class aircraft carriers*](#) and [*Virginia-class fast-attack submarines*](#), and performing Refueling and Complex Overhaul (RCOH) on Nimitz-class aircraft carriers. They provide fleet services for their ships worldwide. Founded as the Chesapeake Dry Dock and Construction Co. in 1886, Newport News Shipbuilding has built more than 800 ships, including both naval and commercial ships. Located in Newport News, Va., their facilities span more than 550 acres, strategically positioned in one of the greatest harbors on the East Coast.

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

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