

FIRST Hosts 20,000+ Students at World's Largest Robotics Competition

will.i.am, U.S. Chief Technology Officer Megan Smith, NASA Administrator Maj. Gen. Charles Bolden, U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Michelle D. Johnson, and Top Inventors Celebrate Student Achievements in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math During FIRST Championship in St. Louis

Championship Presenting Sponsor Qualcomm Incorporated and Dean Kamen Cheered on Young Innovators from 42 Countries as their Robots Competed at Annual Robotics Event

ST. LOUIS, MO., April 30, 2016 — This week, more than 20,000 students from around the globe traveled to St. Louis, putting their engineering skills to the test at the annual **FIRST**® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Championship, held at various venues throughout the city.

The four-day event came down to a heart-pounding conclusion Saturday night in front of a roaring crowd of more than 40,000 when four teams from Hermosa Beach, California; Tremont, Illinois; Cleveland, Ohio; and Glen Allen, Virginia of the Carver Subdivision won the coveted **FIRST Robotics Competition** Championship Winning Alliance. In this year's game, **FIRST STRONGHOLD**™, Alliances worked together to breach their opponents' fortifications, weaken their tower, and capture the opposing tower. Robots scored points by breaching opponents' defenses and tossing boulders through goals in the opposing tower. During the final 20 seconds of the match, robots were allowed to surround and scale the opposing tower to capture it.

In all, over 20,000 students, ages 6 to 18, participated in **FIRST** Championship events in St. Louis.

Among the participants from around the globe, many earned honors for design excellence, competitive play, research, business plans, website design, teamwork, and partnerships. A not-for-profit organization founded in 1989 by inventor Dean Kamen, **FIRST** inspires young people's interest and participation in science and technology.

In St. Louis, more than 900 teams from 42 countries competed in the four **FIRST** programs: **FIRST**® **LEGO**® **League** (grades 4 to 8, 9 to 14-year-olds in the U.S, Canada, and Mexico; 9 to 16-year-olds outside the U.S., Canada, and Mexico); **FIRST**® **Tech Challenge** (grades 7 to 12, 12 to 18-year-olds); and **FIRST**® **Robotics Competition** (grades 9 to 12, ages 14 to 18). In addition to the high-energy robotics matches, 60 teams of 6 to 9-year-olds participated in the **FIRST**® **LEGO**® **League Jr.**(grades K-3, ages 6-9), World Festival Expo.

2016 **FIRST** Championship Winners

FIRST® **Robotics Competition Championship** – **FIRST** Robotics Competition combines sports excitement with the rigors of science and technology. Under strict rules, limited resources, and time limits, teams are challenged to fundraise, design a brand, exercise teamwork, and build and program robots to perform tasks against competitors.

Approximately 78,500 students on 3,140 teams from 24 countries competed during the 2016 season.

- The **Winning Alliance** of the **FIRST** Robotics Competition Championship was Team 330, The Beach Bots, Hermosa Beach, CA; Team 2481, Roboteers, Tremont, IL; Team 120, Cleveland's Team, Cleveland, OH; and Team 1086, Blue Cheese, Glen Allen, VA of the Carver Subdivision.
- Team 987 HIGHROLLERS, Las Vegas, NV, won the **Chairman's Award**, the highest honor given at the **FIRST** Robotics Competition Championship, recognizing the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the purpose and goals of **FIRST**.

Championship Finalists

Tesla Subdivision

- Team 2056, OP Robotics, Stoney Creek, Ontario, Canada
- Team 1690, Orbit, Binyamina, HaZafon, Israel
- Team 3015, Ranger Robotics, Spencerport, NY
- Team 1405, Finney Falcons, Penfield, NY

Subdivision Winners

Archimedes Subdivision

- Team 1501, Team THRUST, Huntington, IN
- Team 1986, Team Titanium, Lee's Summit, MO
- Team 5050, Cow Town Robotics, Carleton, MI
- Team 4828, RoboEagles, Raleigh, NC

Carson Subdivision

- Team 2122, Team Tators, Boise, ID
- Team 2052, KnightKrawler, New Brighton, MN
- Team 3538, RoboJackets, Auburn Hills, MI
- Team 41, RoboWarriors, Warren, NJ

Carver Subdivision

- Team 330, The Beach Bots, Hermosa Beach, CA
- Team 2481, Roboteers, Tremont, IL
- Team 120, Cleveland's Team, Cleveland, OH
- Team 1086, Blue Cheese, Glen Allen, VA

Curie Subdivision

- Team 694, StuyPulse, New York, NY
- Team 3339, BumbleB, Kfar Yona, HaMerkaz, Israel
- Team 379, RoboCats, Girard, OH
- Team 1511, Rolling Thunder, Penfield, NY

Galileo Subdivision

- Team 195, CyberKnights, Southington, CT
- Team 987, HIGHROLLERS, Las Vegas, NV
- Team 1197, TorBots, Torrance, CA
- Team 1065, The Moose, Kissimmee, FL

Hopper Subdivision

- Team 148, Robowranglers, Greenville, TX

- Team 1678, Citrus Circuits, Davis, CA
- Team 364, Team Fusion, Gulfport, MS
- Team 2990, Hotwire, Aumsville, OR

Newton Subdivision

- Team 217, ThunderChickens, Sterling Heights, MI
- Team 3476, Code Orange, Irvine, CA
- Team 4678, CyberCavs, Breslau, Ontario, Canada
- Team 188, Blizzard, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Tesla Subdivision

- Team 2056, OP Robotics, Stoney Creek, Ontario, Canada
- Team 1690, Orbit, Binyamina, HaZafon, Israel
- Team 3015, Ranger Robotics, Spencerport, NY
- Team 1405, Finney Falcons, Penfield, NY
- Team 4061, SciBorgs, Pullman, WA.

Save the date! The *FIRST* Championship will be held in:

Houston April 19-22, 2017 and St. Louis April 26-29, 2017 | Houston April 18-21, 2018 and Detroit April 25-28, 2018

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.

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FIRST Nevada Contact:

Angela Quick

Regional Director

FIRST Nevada

P (702) 888-3673

E aquick@firstinspires.org

W www.firstinspires.org | www.firstnevada.org

- See more at: <http://www.firstinspires.org/about/first-host-20000-students-at-worlds-largest-robotics-competition#sthash.HDKKF1iV.dpuf>

-Full Press Release from FIRST is located here: <http://www.firstinspires.org/about/first-host-20000-students-at-worlds-largest-robotics-competition>