



FIRST Fast Facts

Overview:

In 1989, Dean Kamen, a well known inventor and entrepreneur, created U.S. FIRST (www.usfirst.org) as an answer to the lagging interest America's youth shows towards science and math. He wanted to relay the excitement involved in the development of technology and create heroes out of engineers and scientists who have contributed so much to American prosperity. He took the best from a sporting event and combined it with an engineering challenge to create the FIRST Robotics Competition – a high-tech sporting event where students, mentors and sponsors can take six weeks to test skills in solving a problem posed to them.

Historical Milestones: In 1992, FIRST held its maiden robotics competition in a small New Hampshire school gym with 30 teams

Today, FIRST has 26 Regional Competition sites across the United States with more than 900 teams and 25,000 participants

Mission: To **reach out, expose** and **inspire** our next generation of scientist, researchers, and engineers while they are young enough to make career decisions

- To encourage teamwork, creative thinking and excitement for things academic
- To create opportunities for disadvantaged students by developing their technological skills while breaking down gender, race and cultural barriers
- To create role models and mentors to students from the engineering and academic communities in cities

Key Dates:

- Kick-off - Jan. 10, 2004, Georgia Institute of Technology
- Peachtree Regional, March 18-20, 2004 Gwinnett Civic Center, Duluth, Georgia
- FIRST Championships, April 15-17, 2004, Georgia Dome, Atlanta

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