



NORTH TEXAS FIRST® ROBOTICS COMPETITION FACT SHEET

HISTORY:

The North Texas *FIRST*® Robotics Competition was started in 2008. More than 1,225 high school students, ages 14 – 18 (grades 9 – 12) on 49 teams are participating in the 2011 Robotics Competition in Dallas. This year's competition will take place April 7 – 9 at the Dallas Convention Center.

The North Texas *FIRST* Robotics Competition is the only region to create the Quick Build program – a workshop that takes place at the kick-off event which expedites the robot build process by three weeks.

The competition is supported locally by JCPenney, Lockheed Martin, the Greater Texas Foundation, J. Paul Grayson Foundation and DeVry University.

PURPOSE:

The North Texas *FIRST* Robotics Competition builds life skills. *FIRST* rewards Gracious Professionalism™ which encourages teams to produce high-quality, well-informed work where each member adds value. The psychology of the competition is team focused – teams help other teams.

The competition teaches responsibility, communications and social skills, self-confidence, resourcefulness, leadership and meeting deadlines. It provides a career path for high school students with an interest in pursuing science, technology, engineering and math. Scholarship offerings to *FIRST* participants are from the finest science and engineering schools in the country.

ABOUT:

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 the support of many of the world's most well-known companies, the not-for-profit organization hosts the *FIRST* Robotics Competition and *FIRST* Tech Challenge for high-school students, the *FIRST* LEGO® League for children 9-14 years old, and the Junior *FIRST* LEGO League for 6 to 9 year-olds. To learn more about *FIRST*, go to www.usfirst.org.