



Arkansas Rock City Regional *FIRST*® Robotics Competition Event Description

Little Rock will host an annual *FIRST* Robotics Regional competition at Barton Coliseum on the Arkansas State Fairgrounds March 6-7, 2015. More than 60 Arkansas and regional high schools will bring 3000 students, teachers, mentors, sponsors and family members to participate in the “Arkansas Rock City Regional” *FIRST* Robotics Competition. This high-tech sporting event will produce excitement and energy for participants and spectators alike, as teams compete for honors and recognition that reward design excellence, sportsmanship, teamwork and more. Governor Asa Hutchinson will be our keynote speaker at 8:30 am on Friday, March 6. Teams are currently building their robots to compete in the 2015 game “Recycle Rush” which was revealed on January 3. The “Rock City Regional” will be a premier STEM event for high school students in Arkansas and the country and we are pleased to be able to bring this competition to the Central Arkansas area.

FIRST (www.usfirst.org) offers a distinctive robotics competition that is unlike any other organization in the United States. In 2015, the *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC) expects to reach 85,000 students representing approximately 3,000 teams. FRC teams come from nearly every state in the United States, as well as from Brazil, Canada, China, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Chile, Germany, Israel, Turkey, Australia and The Netherlands. FRC teams participate in 100 different events with the top 600 teams qualifying to go to the *FIRST* Championship on April 22-25, 2015 at the Edward Jones Dome and America’s Center Convention Complex in St. Louis, Missouri. Six of the teams competing at the “Arkansas Rock City Regional” will qualify to compete at the *FIRST* World Championship. Arkansas teams have done very well with 60% of them winning Regional level awards in the past three seasons and Championship awards including Championship Chairman’s Award, World Champions, Division Champions and World Champion Rookie All-Stars.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a not-for-profit organization, founded by inventor Dean Kamen, dedicated to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. The *FIRST* Robotics Competition is a program that challenges high school students – working with professional mentors – to design and build a robot to contend in competitions that measure the effectiveness of each robot, the power of collaboration and the determination of students. All *FIRST* events are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact:

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FOR INSPIRATION AND RECOGNITION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY