

THE AWARDS

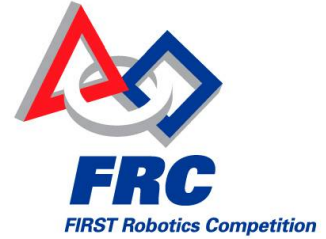


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5 THE AWARDS

5.1 FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION AWARDS

This chapter contains descriptions of the *FIRST* Robotics Competition Awards as well as any required submission criteria. Note an asterisk designates a new or “changed” award in the listing. The “Rockwell Automation Innovation in Control” Award was previously known as the RadioShack Innovation in Control Award. Unless otherwise noted all awards are given at both the Regional events and the *FIRST* Championship.

FIRST will hold an Awards Celebration at each Regional and at the Championship presenting these awards.

5.2 AWARDS AT A GLANCE

Award	Description	Selected By	REG	DIV	CMP
Autodesk Visualization	This award honors excellence in student animation.	Reg: Students CMP: Autodesk	X		X
Autodesk Inventor	This award honors excellence in student mechanical design, coordination, and presentation.	Autodesk			X
Chairman’s	The Chairman’s Award represents the spirit of <i>FIRST</i> . It honors the team that, in the judges’ estimation, best represents a model for other teams to emulate, and which embodies the goals and purpose of <i>FIRST</i> . It remains <i>FIRST</i> ’s most prestigious award.	Chairman’s Judge Panel (application and interview process)	X		X
Champion	This award celebrates the alliance that wins the final match of the Championship Playoffs	Performance Based			X
Championship Finalist	This award celebrates the alliance that makes it to the final match of the Championship Playoffs	Performance Based			X
Chrysler Team Spirit	This award celebrates extraordinary enthusiasm and spirit through exceptional partnership and teamwork.	Judges	X		X
Delphi “Driving Tomorrow’s Technology”	This award celebrates an elegant and advantageous machine feature. This award recognizes any aspect of engineering elegance including, but not limited to: design, wiring methods, material selection, programming techniques, and unique machine attributes. The criteria for this award are based on the team’s ability to concisely describe verbally, as well as demonstrate, this chosen machine feature.	Judges	X		X
Division Champion	This award celebrates the alliance that wins the final match in their division at the Championship.	Performance Based		X	
Division Finalist	This award celebrates the alliance that makes it to the final match in its division at the Championship.	Performance Based		X	

Engineering Inspiration	This award celebrates a team's outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering and engineers, both within their school as well as their community. Criteria include: the extent and inventiveness of the team's efforts to recruit students to engineering, the extent and effectiveness of the team's community outreach efforts, and the measurable success of those efforts.	Judges	X		X
Founders Award	Each year <i>FIRST</i> presents this award to honor an organization or individual that has contributed significantly to the growth of <i>FIRST</i> .	Not a Team Award			X
General Motors Industrial Design	This award celebrates form and function in an efficiently designed machine that effectively achieves the game challenge.	Judges	X		X
Highest Rookie Seed	This award celebrates the highest-seeded rookie team at the conclusion of the qualifying rounds.	Performance Based	X	X	
Imagery	This award celebrates attractiveness in engineering and outstanding visual aesthetic integration from the machine to team appearance.	Judges	X		X
Johnson & Johnson Gracious Professionalism	This award celebrates outstanding sportsmanship and continuous gracious professionalism in the heat of competition, both on and off the playing field.	Judges	X		X
Judges Award	During the course of the competition, the judging panel may encounter a team whose unique efforts, performance, or dynamics merit recognition.	Judges	X		X
Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers Entrepreneurship	This award celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit. This award recognizes a team, which since its inception has developed the framework for a comprehensive business plan in order to scope, manage, and obtain team objectives. This team displays entrepreneurial enthusiasm and the vital business skills for a self-sustaining program.	Judges	X		X
Motorola Quality	This award celebrates machine robustness in concept and fabrication.	Judges	X		X
Regional Finalist	This award celebrates the alliance that makes it to the final match of the competition.	Performance Based	X		
Regional Winner	This award celebrates the alliance that wins the final match of the competition.	Performance Based	X		
Rockwell Automation Innovation in Control	This award celebrates an innovative control system or application of control components to provide unique machine functions.	Judges	X		X

Rookie All Star	This award celebrates the rookie team exemplifying a young but strong partnership effort, as well as implementing the mission of <i>FIRST</i> to inspire students to learn more about science and technology.	Judges	X		X
Rookie Inspiration	This award celebrates a rookie team's outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering and engineers both within their school, as well as in their community.	Judges	X		X
Underwriters Laboratories Industrial Safety	This award celebrates the team that progresses beyond safety fundamentals by using innovative ways to eliminate or protect against hazards. The winning team consistently demonstrates excellence in industrial safety performance that shines throughout the competition from uncrating to re-pack.	Safety Advisors	X		X
Website	The Website Award recognizes excellence in student-designed, built, and managed <i>FIRST</i> team websites.	Website Evaluators (prior to the event)	X		X
Woodie Flowers	The Woodie Flowers Award celebrates effective communication in the art and science of engineering and design. Dr. William Murphy founded this prestigious award in 1996 to recognize mentors who lead, inspire, and empower using excellent communication skills.	Panel of prior WFA Winners	X		X
Xerox Creativity	This award celebrates creative design, use of a component, or a creative or unique strategy of play.	Judges	X		X

5.3 THE AUTODESK DESIGN COMPETITION

5.3.1 AUTODESK INVENTOR AWARD (Championship Only)

5.3.1.1 Purpose of Award:

This award honors excellence in student mechanical design, coordination, and presentation.

5.3.1.2 Award Overview

Autodesk wants to honor those young inventors and engineers that make the *FIRST* Robotics Competition possible! Once again we are excited to offer the Autodesk Inventor Award. With Autodesk Inventor we have provided the tool that allows you to design without limits. Now we want to see what you do with this tool. We know that before your team can start building your robot you need to design it. We want to see the exciting journey of how your designs evolved into a real-life robot! Autodesk Inventor allows you to quickly and easily design and modify your robot using the same iterative techniques employed by professional engineers.

From concept through completion, the Autodesk Inventor Award was created to help experience your ideas before they're real.

Additional information about this award, along with the specific award criteria, judging process and deadlines will be posted on the Autodesk website:

www.autodesk.com/firstbase

5.3.2 THE AUTODESK VISUALIZATION AWARD

5.3.2.1 Purpose of Award

This award honors excellence in student animation.

5.3.2.2 Award Overview

All *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams are invited to create a submission for the Autodesk Visualization Award (AVA) using Autodesk 3ds Max® software. Additional information about this award, along with the specific award criteria, judging process and deadlines will be posted on the Autodesk website: www.autodesk.com/firstbase

At the regional level the Autodesk Visualization Award will be peer judged at each event by one student animator from each team competing for the AVA at that event. At the Championship level the AVA submissions will be professionally judged and then five finalists will be advanced for final peer voting.

Note: *FIRST* will continue to showcase Autodesk Visualization animations at each regional event. We are committed to honoring the student teams who undertake this challenge by showing the animations created by each team participating at the Regional event. Autodesk will continue to support this effort by providing a compilation DVD for each Regional event.

5.4 CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

The *FIRST* Robotics Competition is about much more than the mechanics of building a robot or winning a competitive event. It is about the partnership among people who are part of the *FIRST* community and the impact on those who participate in *FIRST* programs with a united goal of achieving *FIRST*'s mission. *FIRST*'s mission is to change the way young people regard science and technology and to inspiring an appreciation for the real-life rewards and career opportunities in these fields.

The concept of the Chairman's Award includes Regional Chairman's Awards, which enable *FIRST* to recognize more teams for their exemplary efforts in spreading the *FIRST* message, as well as their talents in organizing materials for their presentations.

The winning entries of the Regional Chairman's Awards will travel to the Championship for the continuing process of consideration for the most prestigious 2008 Chairman's Award.

5.4.1 Overview

The Chairman's Award was created to keep the central focus of the *FIRST* Robotics Competition as our ultimate goal for transforming the culture in ways that will inspire greater levels of respect and honor for science and technology, as well as encourage more of today's youth to become scientists, engineers, and technologists

The Chairman's Award represents the spirit of *FIRST*. It honors the team that, in the judges' estimation, best represents a model for other teams to emulate, and which embodies the goals and purpose of *FIRST*. It remains *FIRST*'s most prestigious award.

FIRST will present a Regional Chairman's Award at each regional competition. There are forty-one (41) regional competitions scheduled for the 2008 season, therefore, there will be forty-one Regional Chairman's Award winners. Only the winners of the Regional Chairman's Award will be eligible to compete for the Chairman's Award presented at the *FIRST* Championship.

Hall of Fame members, a/k/a teams that have already won the Chairman's Award are ineligible to compete for the Regional Chairman's Award. However, as *FIRST* believes that the process of submitting for the Chairman's Award is a very valuable exercise in itself, *FIRST* encourages Hall of Fame members to complete a submission which will be used by Hall of Fame judges to verify that each Hall of Fame team is maintaining its Hall of Fame status. Accordingly, all submissions by Hall of Fame teams will be electronically routed to a folder judging as part of the Hall of Fame.

5.4.2 First-Year (Rookie) and NASA Grant Teams:

Because the Chairman's Award recognizes sustained excellence and impact, not just a one-year team effort, it is not possible for a first-year (rookie) team to receive this honor. However, *FIRST* invites and encourage rookies to develop a Chairman's Award submission which may be evaluated by the judges determining the winner of the **Rookie All-Star Award**. This submission will document where your team started its *FIRST* journey and will also provide background for documenting the results of your team's efforts – it will be a great way to start your team's efforts to win the Chairman's Award.

Rookie Teams: If you prepare a Regional Chairman's Award, print a copy to give the Judges when they visit you at your Pit Station, judges will not be viewing them online.

Teams receiving **NASA Grants** must provide a copy of this submission as part of the grant.

All teams are encouraged to print a copy of their final submission for their records and to confirm for themselves that the submission was accepted.

5.4.3 Submission Information

The criteria for the 2008 Chairman's Award are essentially identical to those in the past, with special emphasis on recent accomplishments in both the 2007/2008-year and the preceding two years. The judges focus on teams' activities over a sustained period, as distinguished from just the six-week design-and-build time frame.

The *FIRST* Robotics Competition is not about machines; it is about the experience of people working together toward a shared goal. Documenting and preserving your team's *FIRST* experience becomes an important component of the over-all *FIRST* experience.

As in the past, teams may only submit at one Regional competition for judging. Teams submitting for both the Chairman's Award and the Woodie Flowers Award should note that both awards are judged at the same event. Students working on the Woodie Flowers Award submission and those team members working on the Chairman's Award submission should coordinate to select the best event for the team.

5.4.3.1 Submission Content

The Chairman's Award is presented to the team judged to have created the best partnership effort among team participants and which best exemplified the true meaning of *FIRST* through measurable impact on its participants, school, and community at large. There is no single "best way" for a team to win the Chairman's Award. Many factors come into play. The primary factors the judges will evaluate are:

- 1) How strongly does the submission document the impact *FIRST* has on the learning experience of the students, school curriculum, engineers, and/or community during the 2007/2008 team year as well as in prior years?
- 2) Has the team explained/demonstrated why/how it should be a role model for other *FIRST* teams to emulate?
- 3) How well has the team communicated its excitement and impact within the entire school, community, and beyond (state/nation) through participation in *FIRST* during the 2007/2008 team year as well as in prior years?

- 4) Has the team documented an innovative way to spread the *FIRST* message?
- 5) How strong of a year-round team partnership effort is reflected during the 2007/2008-team year as well as in prior years? (You can define partnership in many ways, including: the partnership among the team's students/corporate sponsor/engineers; school/university sponsor/engineers; students/adults; community/team)
- 6) As a whole, does the content of the documentation exemplify the true meaning of *FIRST*?

Your Chairman's Award submission should include documentation for all the above factors.

5.4.3.2 Submission Format

Regional Chairman's Award submissions will be submitted on line. The submission, excluding the Executive Summary, will be limited to 10,000 characters, including spaces and punctuation, and may include up to four (4) photographs totaling no more than 1.0Mb of memory.

Submission Process

The URL for the Chairman's Award Submission is <http://www.firstawards.org/> Follow the directions shown on the site to submit your team's entry. Teams may only submit at one regional event at which the team will compete. This site will be available beginning January 16, 2008 at noon EST.

Submitters can easily enter information, save it, and return to the site to edit the Chairman's Award submission until they are ready to submit it for final judging. All entries will be final on Thursday, February 21, 2008 at 11:59 p.m. EST. No entries will be accepted or altered after this date.

Chairman's Award submitters will go to the website and enter the required information.

Team Number:

Regional Selection:

Executive Summary – Teams ***must complete the following fields*** in order to be considered for this award. The information included in the Executive Summary is not included in the total character/word count for the Chairman's Award Submission.

- Team Name
Corporate/University Sponsors
- Briefly describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on team participants with special emphasis on the 2007/2008 year and the preceding two years (500 characters allowed, including spaces and punctuation)
- Examples of role model characteristics for other teams to emulate (500 characters allowed, including spaces and punctuation)
- Describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on your team and community with special emphasis on the 2007/2008 year and the preceding two years (500 characters allowed, including spaces and punctuation)
- Team's innovative methods to spread the *FIRST* message (500 characters allowed, including spaces and punctuation)
- Describe the strength of your partnership with special emphasis on the 2007/2008 year and the preceding two years (500 characters allowed, including spaces and punctuation)
- Team's communication methods and results (500 characters allowed, including spaces and punctuation)

- Other matters of interest to the *FIRST* judges, if any (500 characters allowed, including spaces and punctuation)
- Upload pictures (maximum of 4 allowed, not to exceed 1.0Mb in total)
- Essay (10,000 characters allowed, including spaces and punctuation, or approximately 1500 words)
- Electronic signature of Team Captain/Student Representative certifying that the document is complete and accurate
- Electronic signature of adult team mentor certifying that the document is complete and accurate
-

Once the Chairman's Award submissions are completed, they are sorted and posted on a private, password-protected site where only the judges can read the entries. Each regional will have all the candidates who successfully completed the submission listed and the judges will review the submissions. Teams should always print and bring a hard copy of their submission to the event.

In preparing this document, bear in mind that students, engineers, teachers, community, school, sponsors, families, and other supporters, as well as the machine itself are all integral parts of your team experience. Your submission does need to clearly convey the factors outlined above.

- **Important Note:** Chairman's Award Judges look for and review the information entered in the *Yearbook Page* as part of the Chairman's Award submission. This information is entered as part of the Team Information Management System (TIMS) at www.usfirst.org/community/frc Refer to Section 1 Communications for more details about the *Yearbook Page*.

5.4.3.3 Submission Deadline

Chairman's Award submissions are **due no later than Thursday, February 21, 2008. 11:59 p.m. EST.**

5.4.4 Judging Process

5.4.4.1 The Regional Award Process:

By 10 a.m. on Friday mornings of each Regional Competition a list of interview times (which will either be pre-assigned by the judges or available for self selection by the teams, at the option of the judges) for the submitting teams will be available at the Pit Administration station. Interviews will take place during the day on Friday. A panel of judges will review the Chairman's Award entries at each Regional and will conduct on-site Chairman's Award interviews with those teams who have entered a submission for that regional event. Judges will select one winner for the Regional Chairman's Award at each regional competition.

Interviews are limited to ten (10) minutes with not more than three (3) team members (student or adult mentors). The team selects these representatives. During the first five (5) minutes of the interview, the team members give a presentation to the judges, and the judges will use the second five (5) minutes for their questions and answers.

NOTE 1: If the presentation requires special equipment, the team is responsible for bringing it to the interview, and the time required to set up the equipment will count as part of the team's allotted 5 minutes.

NOTE 2: Teams are encouraged to bring copies of documentation, supporting their submission, to leave with the judges. This documentation may include, but is not limited to:

- Letters of reference

- Newspaper and magazine articles
- Program Books

As part of the Chairman's Award judging process, *FIRST* judges will also review the Executive Summary page *AND* the yearbook page for each of the submitting teams. Your team's submission will be a key factor in the selection process, along with the judges' own observations of the team at the competitions.

5.4.4.2 The Chairman's Award Championship Award Process

At The Championship, a panel of judges will review the winning forty-one (41) Regional Chairman's Award submissions and will select one ultimate Chairman's Award winner. This winning team has the additional honor of choosing one of its junior or senior student members to be the recipient of the Allaire Medal.

5.4.5 The Allaire Medal - Leadership Exemplified

The Chairman's Award is presented at the Championship to the *FIRST* team judged to have the best partnership effort. The Allaire Medal recognizes leadership exemplified and is awarded to an individual student on the winning Chairman's Award team.

Named in honor of Paul A. Allaire, a long-serving *FIRST* Chairman of the Board, the Allaire Medal is given to the student who has demonstrated outstanding leadership on his/her *FIRST* team, within his/her school and community, and whose personal character best embodies the spirit of *FIRST*.

The team receiving The Chairman's Award at the Championship will select the Allaire Medal recipient. The adult and student team members determine the winner. The recipient must be a high school junior or senior who has been accepted into a four-year degree program at a college or university. The Allaire Medalist receives the Allaire medallion and up to \$10,000 in total scholarship support for undergraduate tuition, room and board, fees, and books at his or her intended university or college.

5.5 CHAMPION (CHAMPIONSHIP ONLY)

This award celebrates the alliance that wins the final match of the Championship Playoffs.

5.6 CHAMPIONSHIP FINALIST (CHAMPIONSHIP ONLY)

This award celebrates the alliance that makes it to the final match of the Championship Playoffs.

5.7 CHRYSLER TEAM SPIRIT AWARD

This award celebrates extraordinary enthusiasm and spirit through exceptional partnership and teamwork.

5.8 DELPHI "DRIVING TOMORROW'S TECHNOLOGY™" AWARD

This award celebrates an elegant and advantageous machine feature. This award recognizes any aspect of engineering elegance including, but not limited to: design, wiring methods, material selection, programming techniques, and unique machine attributes. The criteria for this award are based on the team's ability to concisely describe verbally, as well as demonstrate, this chosen machine feature.

5.9 DIVISION FINALIST (CHAMPIONSHIP ONLY)

This award celebrates the alliance that makes it to the final match in its division at the Championship.

5.10 DIVISION CHAMPION (CHAMPIONSHIP ONLY)

This award celebrates the alliance that wins the final match in their division at the Championship.

5.11 ENGINEERING INSPIRATION AWARD

This award celebrates a team's outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering and engineers, both within their school as well as their community. Criteria include: the extent and inventiveness of the team's efforts to recruit students to engineering, the extent and effectiveness of the team's community outreach efforts, and the measurable success of those efforts. This is the second highest team award *FIRST* bestows.

5.12 THE FOUNDER'S AWARD (CHAMPIONSHIP ONLY)

Each year *FIRST* presents this award to honor an organization or individual that has contributed significantly to the growth of *FIRST*.

Past winners of the Founder's Award include:

1993 Motorola, Inc.

1994 Honeywell

1995 Walt Disney World's Epcot

1996 The City of Manchester, NH

1997 Francois Castaing of Chrysler Corporation

1998 Johnson & Johnson

1999 NASA

2000 William Murphy, Founder of Cordis Corporation & Small Parts, Inc.

2001 Autodesk, Inc.

2002 John Doerr, partner, Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers

2003 Innovation First

2004 FedEx Corporation

2005 The LEGO Group

2006 United Technologies Corporation

5.13 GENERAL MOTORS INDUSTRIAL DESIGN AWARD

This award celebrates form and function in an efficiently designed machine that effectively achieves the game challenge.

5.14 HALL OF FAME (CHAMPIONSHIP ONLY)

FIRST Robotics created The Hall of Fame to recognize the teams that have had the most impact on *FIRST* growth. A team earns permanent Hall of Fame status by winning the Championship Chairman's Award, *the* most prestigious *FIRST* award. Unlike other Halls of Fame, the model teams in the *FIRST* Hall of Fame are not retired, but begin a new phase of participation,

requiring additional activities to achieve Hall of Fame Star Status. To achieve Hall of Fame Star Status, a team must submit a Chairman's Award entry, using the same criteria as all other Chairman's Award applicants as described above in "Submission Process." These submissions need to include all activities that the team has participated in during 2008 that enhance the community's awareness of *FIRST*. Hall of Fame Chairman's Award submissions will not be included in the Regional Chairman's Award judging process.

5.14.1 DVD Submission

FIRST encourages teams to enhance each submission by creating a DVD, which should be mailed to *FIRST* headquarters, attention Wendy Trommer, postmarked no later March 28, 2008. Teams are encouraged to bring a copy of the DVD and have equipment to show it in their booths at The Championship.

Congratulations to all the previous Chairman's Award winners! This year's forty-one (41) Regional Chairman's Award winners will vie for the one spot reserved for the 2008 winner.

5.14.2 Display Specifications

To be determined and communicated at a later date.

5.15 HALL OF FAME TEAMS HIGHEST ROOKIE SEED AWARD

This award celebrates the highest-seeded rookie team at the conclusion of the qualifying rounds.

5.16 IMAGERY AWARD

This award celebrates attractiveness in engineering and outstanding visual aesthetic integration from the machine to team appearance.

5.17 JOHNSON & JOHNSON - GRACIOUS PROFESSIONALISM AWARD

This award celebrates outstanding sportsmanship and continuous gracious professionalism in the heat of competition, both on and off the playing field.

5.18 JUDGES' AWARD

During the course of the competition, the judging panel may encounter a team whose unique efforts, performance, or dynamics merit recognition.

5.19 KLEINER PERKINS CAUFIELD & BYERS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD

This award celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit. This award recognizes a team, which since its inception has developed the framework for a comprehensive business plan in order to scope, manage, and obtain team objectives. This team displays entrepreneurial enthusiasm and the vital business skills for a self-sustaining program.

5.20 MOTOROLA QUALITY AWARD

This award celebrates machine robustness in concept and fabrication.

5.21 REGIONAL FINALIST (REGIONAL ONLY)

This award celebrates the alliance that makes it to the final match of the competition.

5.22 REGIONAL WINNER (REGIONAL ONLY)

This award celebrates the alliance that wins the final match of the competition.

5.23 ROCKWELL AUTOMATION INNOVATION IN CONTROL AWARD

This award celebrates an innovative control system or application of control components to provide unique machine functions

5.24 ROOKIE ALL-STAR AWARD

This award celebrates the rookie team exemplifying a young but strong partnership effort, as well as implementing the mission of *FIRST* to inspire students to learn more about science and technology.

NOTE: This is essentially the “Chairman’s Award for Rookie teams”. We encourage, but do not require, rookie teams to enter a Chairman’s Award submission relative to this award.

5.25 ROOKIE INSPIRATION AWARD

This award celebrates a rookie team’s outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering and engineers both within their school, as well as in their community. It is the 2nd highest honor *FIRST* bestows to a rookie team.

5.26 UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AWARD

This award celebrates the team that progresses beyond safety fundamentals by using innovative ways to eliminate or protect against hazards. The winning team consistently demonstrates excellence in industrial safety performance that shines throughout the competition from uncrating to re-pack.

5.27 XEROX CREATIVITY AWARD

This award celebrates creative design, use of a component, or a creative or unique strategy of play.

5.28 WEBSITE AWARD

The Website Award recognizes excellence in student-designed, built, and managed *FIRST* team websites. Eligible websites are scored *PRIOR* to the competition by a panel of evaluators. Two subcategories of awards will be given for website design:

- 7) “Website Excellence”
- 8) “Best Website”

Every submission that meets the *FIRST* website design standards of excellence will receive the Website Excellence award. Website Excellence award winners will receive an electronic certificate to include on their websites. At each Regional Competition, there will be one award for Best Website. The overall championship Best Website award winners will be chosen from among the regional winners.

5.28.1 Submission and Deadline Information

Only team websites that are entered into firstawards.org by **11:59 p.m. EST on February 14, 2008** will be evaluated. Team websites are eligible for these awards at every regional event in which the team is competing. You must enter your website separately into each event where you want it evaluated. The websites must be completed and functioning by the date of

submission. Any website found to be “down,” and not able to be viewed by the evaluators, will be disqualified at that particular event.

Any website, which in the evaluator’s opinion, contains distasteful or objectionable material will be disqualified from consideration in all events in which the website was entered. Any team whose website is disqualified will be notified by e-mail of the disqualification and the reason for it.

Only one electronic Website Excellence certificate will be awarded per team for the entire competition season. A team is eligible to win the Best Website award at multiple regional events.

5.28.2 Scoring Criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate the Website Awards:

5.28.2.1 General

The ideal website is a genuine reflection of the team, its participants, spirit, and goals. It should not be just a bulletin board with information accessible via a menu. It should tell an individual story and also detail how it is part of the larger *FIRST* community.

5.28.2.2 Content and Design

The content (text, pictures, music, etc.) and design of a website should work together to provide a pleasing user experience. Good content with a confusing interface, or vice versa, will not be scored as highly as a site with better balance.

5.28.2.3 Content (50 points)

- How well does the site explain *FIRST* and promote its vision?
- Is there a prominent link to the *FIRST* website on the website home page?
- Does the site use correct *FIRST* terminology and contain the updated *FIRST* logo?
- Does the website clearly tell the team story and contain the team name, *FIRST* program team number and physical location of the team?
- Does the website contain updated information dealing with the current season?
- Does the website include recognition of sponsors, mentors and volunteers?
- Does the website include helpful resources for other *FIRST* teams?
- Does the website contain helpful non-text content such as music, sound, animation , or video?
- Is this site dedicated exclusively to a *FIRST* team and its activities?
- Does this site follow copyright infringement rules correctly?

5.28.2.4 Visual Design (25 points)

- Does the website communicate a visual experience reflective of the identity of the team?
- Is the site engaging and does it encourage exploration?
- Does the font size and format make the site easy to read?
- Does the website contain visuals relating to the current game and the current season’s work as a team?
- Is the home page inviting to all readers, or is it cluttered with team member specific information?

5.28.2.5 Functionality and Interactivity. (25 points)

- Does the website work well and the homepage load quickly?
- Do the links work throughout the site?
- Is important information easily accessible?
- Do external links open new, separate browser windows?
- Can I easily return to the website from an outside link?

5.28.3 Evaluating Process

- Each website submitted for consideration will be reviewed by a panel of evaluators prior to each competition.
- There will be no on-site interviews. If the evaluators have questions about a particular website, they may contact the team via email prior to the competition to resolve their questions.
- Websites receiving a score of 80% or more, but not winning the Regional Best Website Award, will receive the Website Excellence Award.

5.28.4 Award Presentation

- Each team that wins Best Website at a competition will receive an award at that event.
- Teams that earn the Website Excellence award will receive an e-mailed, electronic certificate to place on their websites following the Championship.

5.29 2008 WEBSITE AWARD SCORING SHEET

Event: _____

Team Numbers	#	#	#	#	#
Content (50 points)					
<p>How well does the site explain <i>FIRST</i> and promote its vision?</p> <p>Is there a prominent link to the <i>FIRST</i> website on the website home page?</p> <p>Does the site use correct <i>FIRST</i> terminology and contain the updated <i>FIRST</i> logo?</p> <p>Does the website clearly tell the team story and contain the team name, <i>FIRST</i> program team number and physical location of the team?</p> <p>Does the website contain updated information dealing with the current season?</p> <p>Does the website include recognition of sponsors, mentors and volunteers?</p> <p>Does the website include helpful resources for other <i>FIRST</i> teams?</p> <p>Does the website contain helpful non-text content such as music, sound, animation, or video?</p> <p>Is this site dedicated exclusively to a <i>FIRST</i> team and its activities?</p> <p>Does this site follow copyright infringement rules correctly?</p>					
Visual Design (25 points)					
<p>Does the website communicate a visual experience reflective of the identity of the team?</p> <p>Is the site engaging and does it encourage exploration?</p> <p>Does the font size and format make the site easy to read?</p> <p>Does the website contain visuals relating to the current game and the current season's work as a team?</p> <p>Is the home page inviting to all readers, or is it cluttered with team member specific information?</p>					

Functionality and Interactivity (25 points)					
Does the website work well and the homepage load quickly?					
Do the links work throughout the site?					
Is important information easily accessible?					
Do external links open new, separate browser windows?					
Can I easily return to the website from an outside link?					
Total Scores. (0-100 points)					

5.30 WOODIE FLOWERS AWARD

The Woodie Flowers Award (WFA) celebrates effective communication in the art and science of engineering and design. Dr. William Murphy founded this prestigious award in 1996 to recognize mentors who lead, inspire, and empower using excellent communication skills.

Each year, the students may submit an essay nominating one mentor from their team to be considered for this award. If a team already has a mentor who has won the Regional Woodie Flowers Award in a prior year, then that team may also re-submit that mentor in the current year. *FIRST* will recognize one adult mentor at each regional to receive the Regional Woodie Flowers Award. The current year Regional Woodie Flowers Award winners, along with those mentors who won a Regional Woodie Flowers Award in a prior year, and have been re-nominated, will be judged to receive the Woodie Flowers Award at the 2008 Championship in Atlanta.

5.30.1 Spirit of the Award

High school students on a *FIRST* Robotics Competition team will choose one adult team member as their WFA candidate (see Award Eligibility Requirements). The students will describe how this mentor has given them the best understanding of the challenges, opportunities, and satisfaction involved in the discipline of engineering and design. Professor Flowers will lead the past Championship Woodie Flowers Award (WFA) winners as they judge and select the 2008 Finalists and Championship winner based on student essays.

This award recognizes an individual who has done an outstanding job of motivation through communication while also challenging the students to be clear and succinct in recognizing the value of communication. As such, it is very important that this is a student led effort and a student decision.

Team mentors should direct their students to the online entry site and let the high school student nominators decide who to nominate. Adults can help edit, but this must be a student led effort, since any team mentor is eligible. Authors must be **clearly** identified as high school students in the online submission.

5.30.2 Award Eligibility Requirements

2008 Regional WFA – Each team may nominate one adult member from their team for the Regional Woodie Flowers Award. The adult mentor must be on the same team as the student nominators and only one adult member may be nominated per team. Previous year Regional WFA winners (2004 – 2007) are not eligible to win the Regional WFA in 2008.

2008 Championship WFA – All Regional WFA winners from 2004 through 2007 are eligible to be re-nominated for the 2008 Championship Woodie Flowers Award. However, if a team has multiple Regional WFA winners from 2004 through 2007, then the team may only re-nominate **one** of those previous winners. The re-nomination can be made as soon as the online submission process begins. In addition, all of the 2008 Regional WFA winners are automatically eligible to win the 2008 Championship Woodie Flowers Award, with one exception. Teams that have submitted a previous year Regional WFA winner for the 2008 Championship WFA and have a 2008 Regional WFA winner must select only **one** of those mentors to be submitted for the 2008 Championship WFA. In this case, student nominators will be asked by the WFA committee which Regional WFA winner from their team will be their 2008 Championship WFA candidate. A person may not win the WFA more than one time.

5.30.3 Judging Criteria

Two main aspects of this award are important: (1) the accomplishments in communication by the mentor and (2) the student's ability to communicate clearly and concisely through their written nomination.

Specific judging criteria are based on the team's description of how the mentor inspired each member of the team in some or all of the following ways:

Level of student participation

Creativity of effort

Clear explanation of mathematical, scientific, and engineering concepts

Demonstration of enthusiasm for science and engineering

Encouragement to work on projects as a team effort

Inspiration to use problem-solving skills

Inspiration to become an effective communicator

Motivation through communication

Each *FIRST* team completes a product development cycle as it designs a concept, develops a prototype, and builds and debugs a unique machine. This requires teamwork, attention to detail, scheduling, and hard work. The award-winning essay should answer this question; "How did the candidate inspire your team throughout this process?" If the essay best describes how this individual excels above all others as he or she inspires the team, then that mentor truly deserves to be recognized with the award that honors Professor Woodie Flowers and his contribution to engineering, education, and communication.

5.30.4 Entry Requirements

Students enter their candidate at the Woodie Flowers Award entry web page: www.firstawards.org They enter team and candidate information, reference information, and a **maximum** six hundred-word (600) essay written in English. Teams may also add up to six (6) pictures, totaling no more than 1.0 Mb. of memory. This essay should be a team effort and will stand alone as the team's entry to award their candidate the deserved recognition.

For students to re-nominate a past WFA winner (refer to Award Eligibility Requirements) for the Championship WFA, they must write a new six hundred-word essay.

As in the past, teams may only submit at one Regional competition for judging. Teams submitting for both the Chairman's Award and the Woodie Flowers Award should note that both awards are judged at the same event. Students working on the Woodie Flowers Award submission and those team members working on the Chairman's Award submission must

coordinate to select the best event for the team.

5.30.5 Submission Deadline

The Woodie Flowers Award entries are due at 11:59pm EST on February 21, 2008.

5.30.6 Entry Process

The Woodie Flowers Award submission is submitted on-line at www.firstawards.org Nomination entry directions are listed on this site. This site will be available beginning January 16th, 2007 at noon EST for regional WFA nominations and past WFA winner Championship re-submissions.

Student nominators must follow the directions listed on the screen. Please refer to section 5.30.2 for Regional WFA and Championship WFA eligibility requirements. As the student nominator fills out the required information, he/she will also choose their selected regional.

Student nominators can easily enter information, save it, and return to the site to edit their entry information until they are ready to submit it for judging. All entries will be final on February 21, 2008 at 11:59 p.m. EST (midnight). No entries will be accepted or altered after this date.

Students will go to the website to enter information in the following fields:

Team Number

Candidate Information:

First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name

Address, City, State, zip code

Employer

Occupation

Position on team

High School Student Nominator's information: (Student recommending candidate)

First Name, Last Name

Phone Number

High School

E-mail Address

Position on Team

Year in school (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th)

Adult Reference (On the same team)

First Name, Last Name

Phone Number

E-mail Address

Position on Team

Adult Reference (Any *FIRST* affiliation)

First Name, Last Name

Phone Number

E-mail Address

Regional Selection (Team must attend this Regional)

Upload Pictures (Up to 6, no more than 1.0 Mb total)

Essay (600 words max) - The students will see a quote from Dr. Murphy and/or Woodie about the value of concise and clear writing. Once candidates' information and essays are submitted, they are sorted and posted on a private, password-protected site where only the Judges can read the entries. Each Regional will have its candidates listed and the Judges will review the Prior Regional Woodie Flowers Award Winners.

5.30.7 Prior Year Regional WFA Winner Re-submission

Please see the 2008 Championship WFA Award Eligibility Requirements above. Student nominators must submit a new six hundred-word (max) essay in order for their previous year Regional WFA winner to be eligible for the 2008 Championship WFA. Student nominators will not be able to edit the original submission. Past winners without a new essay will not be eligible for the WFA in 2008. Judges will only read the new essay.

As noted in the Award Eligibility Requirements above, each *FIRST* team can have a maximum of one candidate for the 2008 Championship WFA.

5.31 FIRSTAWARDS.ORG SITE

FIRST will once again be using www.firstawards.org/ as a submission site for the Regional Chairman's Award, Hall of Fame, the Woodie Flowers Award and the Website Award. The *FIRSTawards.org* site will open for submissions at noon EST on January 15, 2008 and close for all submissions on Thursday, February 21, 2008 at 11:59PM EST. The submission requirements for each award are listed in the section for the specific award.

Teams should carefully read the following information about this site before proceeding.

5.31.1 Formatting

Entries cannot contain any formatting other than plain text. The only formatting supported is paragraph spacing by way of the 'return' key.

5.31.2 Accounts

Teams must register for a new *firstawards.org* account every year. A team's TIMS account and their *firstawards.org* account are not the same. Teams can only have one *firstawards.org* account. There are not separate logins for Chairman's and WFA entries.

5.31.3 Verification of Submission

Teams should always log in to the *firstawards.org* site to verify the content and the submission date of their entry after it has been submitted. For Chairman's, Hall of Fame, Rookie All Star and Woodie Flowers Award entries, teams should print a copy of the submission and bring it with them to the Regional Event. NASA Grant teams should download a copy to have should NASA request it. NASA does have access to this site, but in prior years some entries have not been completed successfully or the team did not check the NASA box and were required to supply a copy to NASA.