



PRESS RELEASE

Third Annual *FIRST* Robotics Competition Pine Tree District Event

31 high school teams from ME, NH, MA, and CT to compete in the Pine Tree District Event!

Check out the 2015 FRC game, RECYCLE RUSH, on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6UYFKNGHJ8>

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WHAT: Third Annual NE FIRST Robotics Competition Pine Tree District Event

WHEN: Friday, March 13th and Saturday, March 14th

WHERE: Androscoggin Bank Colisee, 190 Birch Street, Lewiston, ME

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days

The event is Free and Open to the Public

Lewiston, ME – It is week 3 of the NEFIRST Robotics Competition district qualifying events across New England! 31 high school FRC teams will put their STEM and teamwork skills to the test on March 13 and 14 at the Androscoggin Bank Colisee in Lewiston, ME. The event is free and open to the public.

Teams participating in the third annual NE FIRST Pine Tree District Event worked intensely between January 3 and February 17 to design, build, program and test robots to play this year's FRC game, RECYCLE RUSH. Their robots will be required to move and stack totes, place recycling bins on top, then toss pool noodles, representing litter, into the bins.

This is the third year that the Androscoggin Bank Colisee has hosted an NEFIRST qualifying event, in partnership with the Robotics Institute of Maine. Inventor Dean Kamen founded FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) in 1989. Since then, FIRST has grown to five programs for grades K-12 that involve 400,000 students, 38,700 teams and 180,000 team mentors and volunteers in the U.S. and internationally.

More than 180 high-school level teams in New England will participate in 10 FIRST Robotics Competition district qualifiers in New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Teams that participate at the third annual Pine Tree District Event will earn points toward qualification to the NEFIRST New England Championship at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Mass. April 9-11. Winners of the New England Championship will qualify to participate in the FIRST World Competition April 22-25 at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis, MO.

Event Schedule:

Friday, March 13:

10:30am Opening Ceremonies
11am to 5pm Qualification Matches

Saturday, March 14:

9:00am Opening Ceremonies
9:30am to Noon Qualification Matches
12:30pm Alliance Selection
2pm to 4pm Playoff Rounds and Awards

About RIM

The Robotics Institute of Maine (RIM) is managed by the Manufacturers Association of Maine and headquartered in Portland, Me. RIM's goal is to introduce more Maine students to the exciting and demanding challenge of robotics competitions so that they gain a new perspective on science and technology. RIM works across Maine, providing resources, coordination and support to teams and volunteers.

About NE FIRST

Six states in the Northeast (Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire) are now united as one region to support events for high-school-level FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) teams. Following the success of FRC program restructuring in other states (Michigan) and regions (Mid-Atlantic), NE FIRST provides a cost-effective way for teams across New England to play more, with two qualifying events for one registration fee; to lower costs by allowing teams to play closer to home; to improve teams' ability to fundraise and do outreach in their communities, and to reward and advance teams based on their performance on and off the field.

A 501(c)(3) not for profit organization, ingenuityNE, supports NE FIRST events across the six New England states.

About FIRST®

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was founded in 1989 by inventor Dean Kamen to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. Based in Manchester, NH, the 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization designs programs that motivate young people to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math, while building self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills.

With support from three of every five Fortune 500 companies and more than \$21 million in college scholarships, FIRST hosts the following robotics programs:

The FIRST® Robotics Competition (FRC®) for Grades 9-12
The FIRST® Tech Challenge (FTC®), also for Grades 7-12
The FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL®) for Grades 4-8
The Junior FIRST® LEGO® League (Jr.FLL®) for Grades K-3

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