

Award Descriptions

Updated 2/23/21

Award and Description	Criteria
Inspire Award	
<p>This judged award is given to the team that best embodies the ‘challenge’ of the <i>FIRST</i> Tech Challenge program. The team that receives this award is a strong ambassador for <i>FIRST</i> programs and a role model <i>FIRST</i> team. This team is a top contender for many other judged awards and is a gracious competitor. The Inspire Award winner is an inspiration to other teams, acting with <i>Gracious Professionalism</i>® both on and off the playing field. This team shares their experiences, enthusiasm and knowledge with other team, sponsors, their community, and the judges. Working as a unit, this team will have showed success in performing the task of designing and building a robot.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team must submit an engineering portfolio. The engineering portfolio must include summary information about the robot design, information about the team, and a team plan. The entire engineering portfolio must be high quality, thoughtful, thorough, concise and well-organized.
Think Award	
<p><i>Removing engineering obstacles through creative thinking.</i></p> <p>This judged award is given to the team that best reflects the journey the team took as they experienced the engineering design process during the build season. The engineering content within the portfolio is the key reference for judges to help identify the most deserving team. The team’s engineering content must focus on the design and build stage of the team’s robot. Journal entries should include descriptions of the underlying science and mathematics of the robot design and game strategies, the designs, redesigns, successes, and opportunities for improvement. A team is not a candidate for this award if their portfolio does not contain engineering content.</p> <p>**For remote events, sharing a screen that displays specific pages from the engineering notebook will suffice. In no way will a team be expected to upload their entire engineering notebook.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering portfolio must have engineering content. The engineering content could include entries describing examples of the underlying science, mathematics, and game strategies in a summary fashion. • The engineering portfolio must provide examples that show the team has a clear understanding of the engineering design process including examples of lessons learned. • The portfolio should inspire the judges to want to see the specific detailed engineering content in the engineering notebook. • Portfolio format is less important but enables the judges to understand the team’s design maturity, organizational capabilities and overall team structure. • Portfolio could reference specific experiences and lessons learned but should capture the summary of the current status of the team and their robot design. • Portfolio could also summarize experiences and lessons learned from outreach with concise tables of outcomes

Connect Award	
<p><i>Connecting the dots between community, FIRST, and the diversity of the engineering world.</i></p> <p>This judged award is given to the team that most connects with their local science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) community. A true <i>FIRST</i> team is more than a sum of its parts and recognizes that engaging their local STEM community plays an essential part in their success. The recipient of this award is recognized for helping the community understand <i>FIRST</i>, the <i>FIRST</i> Tech Challenge, and the team itself. The team that wins the Connect Award aggressively seeks and recruits engineers and explores the opportunities available in the world of engineering, science and technology. This team has a clear team plan and has identified steps to achieve their goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team must submit an engineering portfolio. • Portfolio must include a plan that covers the team’s goals for the development of team member skills, and the steps the team has or will take to reach those goals. Examples of what the plan could include are timelines, outreach to science, engineering, and math communities, and training courses. • Portfolio must include a summary of how they acquired new mentors or acquired new knowledge and expertise from their mentors.
Collins Aerospace Innovate Award	
<p><i>Bringing great ideas from concept to reality.</i></p> <p>The Collins Aerospace Innovate Award celebrates a team that thinks outside the box and has the ingenuity, creativity, and inventiveness to make their designs come to life. This judged award is given to the team that has the most innovative and creative robot design solution to any specific components in the <i>FIRST</i> Tech Challenge game. Elements of this award include elegant design, robustness, and ‘out of the box’ thinking related to design. This award may address the design of the whole robot or of a sub-assembly attached to the robot. The creative component must work consistently, but a robot does not have to work all the time during matches to be considered for this award. The team’s engineering portfolio must include a summary of the design of the component or components and the team’s robot to be eligible for this award. Entries must describe how the team arrived at their solution.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team must submit an engineering portfolio. • The engineering portfolio must include examples of the team’s engineering content that illustrate how the team arrived at their design solution. • Robot or robot sub-assembly must be creative, elegant and unique in its design. • Creative component must be stable, robust, and work reliably.
Control Award, sponsored by Arm, Inc.	
<p><i>Mastering Robot intelligence.</i></p> <p>The Control Award celebrates a team that uses sensors and software to increase the robot’s functionality in the field. This award is given to the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team must submit an engineering portfolio. The engineering portfolio must include engineering content that documents the control components.

<p>team that demonstrates innovative thinking to solve game challenges such as autonomous operation, improving mechanical systems with intelligent control, or using sensors to achieve better results. The control component should work consistently in the field. The team’s engineering portfolio must contain details about the implementation of the software, sensors, and mechanical control, but does not need to include copies of the code itself.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team must submit a Control Award submission form as a separate document. Teams should identify the control aspects of their robot that they are most proud of and should not exceed 2 pages.
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Motivate Award

<p><i>Sparking others to embrace the culture of FIRST!</i></p> <p>This team embraces the culture of <i>FIRST</i> and clearly shows what it means to be a team. This judged award celebrates the team that represents the essence of the <i>FIRST</i> Tech Challenge competition through Gracious Professionalism and general enthusiasm for the overall philosophy of <i>FIRST</i> and what it means to be a <i>FIRST</i> Tech Challenge Team. This is a team who makes a collective effort to make <i>FIRST</i> known throughout their school and community, and sparks others to embrace the culture of <i>FIRST</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Team</i> must submit an engineering portfolio. • The engineering portfolio must include a team organization plan, which could describe their future goals and the steps they will take to reach those goals. Examples of what the plan could include are team identity, fund-raising goals, sustainability goals, timelines, outreach to non technical groups, finances, and community service goals. • The team is an ambassador for <i>FIRST</i> programs. • Team can explain the individual contributions of each team member, and how these apply to the overall success of the team.
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Design Award

<p><i>Industrial design at its best.</i></p> <p>This judged award recognizes design elements of the robot that are both functional and aesthetic. The Design Award is presented to teams that incorporate industrial design elements into their solution. These design elements could simplify the robot’s appearance by giving it a clean look, be decorative in nature, or otherwise express the creativity of the team. The robot should be durable, efficiently designed, and effectively address the game challenge.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team must submit an engineering portfolio with an engineering content which could be CAD images or robot drawings of the team’s overall design and/or components. • Team also documents and implements strong industrial design principles, striking a balance between form, function, and aesthetics.
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Promote Award

<p>This judged award is optional and may not be given at all tournaments. Your judge advisor will have information about the judging for this Award.</p> <p>The Promote Award is given to the team that is most successful in creating a compelling video message</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video must meet the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Video Must follow <i>FIRST</i> branding and design standards ○ Video cannot be longer than 60 seconds.
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<p>for the public designed to change our culture and celebrate science, technology, engineering and math. Teams must submit a one-minute long public service announcement (PSA) video based on the PSA subject for the season.</p> <p>Teams may win the Promote Award only once at a Championship level event and only once at a qualifying level event.</p> <p>PSA Subject for 2020-2021 season: “Why does <i>FIRST</i> Tech Challenge work?”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Video must be of a high quality, as submissions may be used later to promote <i>FIRST</i>. ○ <i>Team</i> must have rights to music used in the video. ○ Music and permissions must be listed in video credits ○ Video must have strong production value. ○ Video must be submitted by the deadline given by the Tournament Director. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Team must present a thoughtful and impactful video which appeals to the public. ● Creativity in interpreting the yearly theme is required.
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Compass Award

<p><i>A beacon and leader in the journey of the FIRST Tech Challenge.</i></p> <p>This judged award is optional and may not be given at all tournaments. Your judge advisor will have information about the judging for this award.</p> <p>The Compass Award recognizes an adult coach or mentor who has given outstanding guidance and support to a team throughout the year and demonstrates to the team what it means to be a Gracious Professional. The winner of the Compass Award will be determined from candidates nominated by <i>FIRST</i> Tech Challenge student team members, via a 40-60 second video submission. The video must highlight how their mentor has helped them become an inspirational team. We want to hear what sets the mentor apart.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Video must meet the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Video must follow <i>FIRST</i> branding and design standards ○ Video cannot be longer than 60 seconds. ○ Video must be of a high quality, as submissions may be used at a later time to promote <i>FIRST</i>. ○ Team must have permission from the copyright owners for music used in the video. ○ Music and permissions must be listed in video credits ○ Video must be submitted by the deadline given by the tournament director. ● Video highlights the mentor’s contribution to the team and demonstrates what sets the mentor apart.
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Judges Choice Award

<p>This award is optional and may not be given at all tournaments. The judge advisor will communicate with the tournament director to learn if this award will be presented, and to decide who the appropriate reviewers for this award are.</p> <p>During the competition, the judging panel may meet a team whose unique efforts, performance or dynamics merit recognition, but doesn’t fit into any of the existing award categories. To recognize these unique teams, <i>FIRST</i> offers a customizable judges</p>	
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choice award. The judging panel may select a team to be honored, as well as the name of the Judges' Choice Award. The Judges Choice Award recognizes a team for their outstanding efforts but does not factor into the advancement criteria.

Winning Alliance Award – Traditional Events

This award will be given to the winning alliance represented in the final match.

Finalist Alliance Award – Traditional Events

This award will be given to the finalist alliance represented in the final match.

Top Ranked Teams – Remote Events