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**FIRST Chesapeake District
Hampton Roads Competition
in Portsmouth, VA
Sponsored by Newport News Shipbuilding
Local Students to Join 40 Schools in
FIRST STEAMWORKSSM Challenge**

Portsmouth, VA - (February 2, 2017) -- More than 1,000 high school students will converge on Churchland High School to test their teamwork and ingenuity during the **FIRST** Chesapeake District Hampton Roads Event on March 18-19. This competition will bring together some of the best and brightest robotics teams from Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia.

WHAT: [FIRST Chesapeake District Hampton Roads Competition Sponsored by Newport News Shipbuilding](#)

WHO: High school students, engineers, computer programmers, teachers and mentors from 40 high school-based teams from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

WHEN: March 18-19, 2017. Free and open to the public from 9am-6pm both days.

WHERE: Churchland High School, 4301 Cedar Lane Portsmouth, VA 23703

40 **FIRST** Robotics Competition teams from Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia will face off at the **FIRST** Chesapeake District Hampton Roads Competition sponsored by Newport News Shipbuilding, a division of Huntington Ingalls Industries. This is just one of seven district

qualifying events hosted by **FIRST** Chesapeake, culminating with [the **FIRST** Chesapeake District Championship Sponsored by Booz Allen Hamilton](#) on April 7-8 at the Stuart C. Siegel Center at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. Newport News Shipbuilding will also host a "Technology Row" at this event that will highlight technology-based companies located in Hampton Roads.

"Newport News Shipbuilding's support of **FIRST** is a partnership to inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, technicians and shipbuilders in Hampton Roads. As a corporate citizen, Newport News Shipbuilding prioritizes programs that not only support our community but also provide opportunities to engage employees. Our employees enjoy supporting **FIRST** as mentors for teams throughout the region, volunteers at the competitions, and representatives to talk to students about future career possibilities", said Tom Cosgrove, Newport News Shipbuilding's manager of government relations and corporate citizenship.

[FIRST STEAMWORKSSM](#) is this year's annual game developed by **FIRST**[®] (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). This year's game theme invites two adventure clubs from an era in which technology relied on steam power to prepare their airships for the ultimate long distance race.

FIRST teams around the world have just six weeks this winter to design, program and build their robots. They use their own inventiveness and are assisted by mentors, but teams are given NO design instructions. The robots they build weigh up to 120 pounds.

"We are pleased to recognize Newport News Shipbuilding as the title sponsor for the **FIRST** Chesapeake District Hampton Roads Competition again this year. Their strong presence in the STEM community and their employees' considerable contribution of time and expertise to **FIRST** robotics teams illustrates the incredible impact a strong corporate leader can have on today's youth. They are helping these young people become tomorrow's technology leaders", said Stan Southworth, Executive Director for **FIRST** Chesapeake.

This year, high school students involved in **FIRST** programs are eligible to be considered for more than \$25 million in college scholarships.

[The Title Sponsor for the **FIRST** Chesapeake District Hampton Roads Competition is Newport News Shipbuilding, a division of Huntington Ingalls Industries. The competition live feed sponsor is Northrop Grumman Corporation.](#)

The Title Sponsor for the **FIRST** Chesapeake District Championship is Booz Allen Hamilton. Other major sponsors include NASA, Bechtel, Leidos, Showbest Fixtures and Newport News Shipbuilding. For more details, visit <https://www.firstchesapeake.org/about/sponsors>

About **FIRST[®] Chesapeake**

FIRST Chesapeake was founded in 2015 as the [FIRST Robotics Competition Program](#) brand for the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. **FIRST** Chesapeake, the **FIRST** Robotics Competition partner for Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia is planning exceptional events for the 2017 season and beyond. **FIRST** Chesapeake is especially excited to bring these District competitions to areas of Virginia, Maryland and DC that have not hosted events in the past, and to expose a whole new community to the excitement of **FIRST** programming and

competitions. To learn more about *FIRST* Chesapeake, go to www.firstchesapeake.org. Follow Us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

About *FIRST*[®]

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 support from over 200 of the Fortune 500 companies and more than \$25 million in college scholarships, the not-for-profit organization hosts the *FIRST*[®] Robotics Competition for students in Grades 9-12; *FIRST*[®] Tech Challenge for Grades 7-12; *FIRST*[®] LEGO[®] League for Grades 4-8; and *FIRST*[®] LEGO[®] League Jr. for Grades K-3. *Gracious Professionalism*[®] is a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. To learn more about *FIRST*, go to www.firstinspires.org

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