

# Best Practices for FIRST Robotics Competition Judged Awards

Awards generate interest and awareness for your team and *FIRST*. They also help engage potential sponsors and help expand *FIRST* in your community. Awards help inspire students and help your team set goals to improve.

## General Tips for talking to Judges:

- Judges come and talk to teams during the official competition (generally this means no judges on practice day at a Regional)
- Students should talk to the Judges, not the mentors.
- Speak firmly and clearly.
- This is YOUR opportunity to tell the judges YOUR STORY about your team, your game design concept, and/or your robot.
- Relax and HAVE FUN – Judges love talking to you.
- Keep handouts and supports simple
  - Teams should consider preparing a one-page summary hand-out covering your key machine attributes. Highlight key aspects of your design & build processes, novel components incorporated and/or capabilities, as well as info on your approach to control/programming. Be sure to include a picture of your robot!
  - Teams should focus on the elements of their team and their robot of which they are most proud. Everyone on the team should know these focused things so that no matter who the judges speak with they at least hear these consistent items. Remember, all the awards are TEAM awards so everyone should be able to speak about them.
  - Make a summary sheet of your team's accomplishments for that year
- If your team is focusing on a specific award, describe how your team meets that criteria.
  - Make sure all members understand awards being targeted and can answer questions
  - It helps to have students practice in front of their teams, family, or friends ahead of time.
- Always keep someone in your Pit that can speak to the judges -OR- have some type of sign telling judges where they can find your team (e.g. practice field, match queue, etc.). This will help to ensure the judges can easily find you for interviews.
- Remember your [Gracious Professionalism and FIRST Core Values](#)! This should be true for every team member and all those associated with the team during the season.

## Chairman's

- Gather data (photos and statistics) relevant to your key points to quantify your team's impact
- Utilize the [Chairman's Definitions](#) & [Chairman's Documentation Form](#)
- Chairman's Award is not simply a list of things you've done in your community. Remember to tie in all the great things you've done with WHY you are doing them in the first place.
- Focus on recent activities (past 3 years) as well as long term achievements
- Utilize these [Chairman's Award Resources](#) to see examples and FAQ.

## Dean's List

- Practice, Practice, Practice!
- Utilize the [Dean's List Award Resources](#) to see tips.
- Dean's List nominees should be familiar with the essay that was submitted about them.
- Judges want to know all of the amazing stuff you have done – be sure to share anything not covered in the essays

For full descriptions of the awards, visit the [FIRST Robotics Competition Awards Page](#)