What do those Judges really do?
An Inside look at the FIRST Robotics Competition Judging Process

What does a Judge do?
- Interview and observe teams in the Pit, on the playing field, and other areas
  - Visit the FIRST Robotics Competition Awards Page for a full description of the awards
- Review team provided materials
- Participate on Judge Panel to decide team/student awards recipients (winners?)
- Write short awards scripts extolling merits of winning teams
- Assist with award presentations to teams

Judges evaluate attributes that help FIRST achieve its mission to change the culture.

The Judging Process
- Judges are typically divided into sets of 2 or 3
- Judges are assigned to interview specific teams for either Machine Awards or Team Attribute Awards
- Each team should be seen by at least 2 sets of judges
- Judges nominate interviewed teams for awards
- The Judge Advisor (JA) facilitates discussion with judges to select award winners
  - Judges ‘spread the wealth’ and no team can win more than 1 team award at an event
  - Chairman’s & Dean’s List Judging are separate and are based on interviews
  - Woodie Flowers Finalist Awards are separate and are judged by previous Woodie Flowers Award Winners

Submitted Awards
Chairman’s Award & FIRST Dean’s List Award
- Teams must complete the submission by the posted deadline.
- Judges review submissions and compare data looking for information based on the award criteria.
- At events, teams/students are randomly assigned to interview time slots
  - Chairman’s: 12 minutes total (7 min presentation, 5 min Q&A)
  - Dean’s List: 5 – 7 minute interviews
- Judges deliberate after all interviews have occurred
  - If teams/students have equal impact, those who use FIRST programs rise to the top

Rev. June 2021