

Alumni and Scholarship Programs

FIRST ALUMNI CORE MESSAGES

- **FIRST® prepares students for life beyond high school**
 - By participating in *FIRST* programs, *FIRST* Alumni gain skills and attitudes needed in today's workforce, including problem-solving skills, teamwork, innovative thinking, creative thinking, perseverance, and leadership.
 - *FIRST* Alumni stand out to potential employers. They are innovative, leaders, and ready to hire. They have gone on to specialize in engineering, science, education, media, mathematics, theater, film, marketing, business, finance, health, art, communications, medicine, ecommerce, politics, technology, and much more.
 - *FIRST* Alumni have access to networking opportunities, internships and jobs, community, inspiration, and more through *FIRST*.
 - *FIRST* helps alumni of *FIRST* programs take the next step, reach for the next breakthrough, and take their dream and see it through. No matter their dream, *FIRST* helps them get there.
- **FIRST Alumni belong to a global, lifelong community.**
 - *FIRST* Alumni are part of a network of innovators, changing the world one dream at a time.
 - Alumni of *FIRST* programs are critical to advancing our mission across the globe.
 - *FIRST* Alumni are encouraged to give back by volunteering, mentoring, donating, recruiting, and spreading the mission of *FIRST*.
 - Nearly half of *FIRST* Alumni are still involved in *FIRST* as coaches, mentors, volunteers, and donors.
- **FIRST isn't something you do; it's something you are.**
 - *FIRST* Alumni are confident, inspiring, driven, and unstoppable. They are *FIRST*.

FIRST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CORE MESSAGES

- High school student participants of *FIRST*® Robotics Competition and/or *FIRST*® Tech Challenge programs are eligible to apply for more than \$80 million in scholarship opportunities through the *FIRST* Scholarship Program.
 - *FIRST* Scholarships are not funded or administered by *FIRST*.
- *FIRST* Scholarship Providers agree *FIRST* Alumni have the necessary skills to succeed in college.
 - Colleges, universities, corporations, and associations support the mission of *FIRST* by making available *FIRST* Scholarships to *FIRST* participants and alumni who are ready to take the next step toward becoming leaders in their fields.
 - Colleges, universities, and employers recognize the value of the *FIRST* experience. They recognize that *FIRST* team members are passionate about science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), and that *FIRST* students develop critical 21st century life skills including problem solving, time management, teamwork, and the appreciation of diverse, inclusive, and equitable communities.
- Receiving a *FIRST* Scholarship can have a big impact on deciding which college to attend or whether or not it's affordable.

FIRST Scholarship Program

To help develop new *FIRST* Scholarship Opportunities Regional Directors and Committee members can:

- Recruit colleges, universities, companies, and associations in your region to join the *FIRST* scholarship program

- Discuss scholarship opportunities with colleagues and contacts at colleges, universities, professional associations and companies
- Encourage universities that host *FIRST* events in your region to offer *FIRST* Scholarships
- Present scholarships as an option for support of *FIRST* when talking to potential sponsors
- Provide *FIRST* Headquarters with phone/email/addresses information for contacts at colleges and universities
- Pass on scholarship leads or contacts generated, as well as any local scholarship opportunities that you are aware of for specifically for *FIRST* participants HQ at *FIRST* (scholarships@firstinspires.org), to ensure that offerings are properly advertised and recognized.

Regional Alumni and Scholarship Contact

Each Regional Director should identify the person who will be the Regional Alumni and Scholarship Contact (this individual is identified in Section 1). The responsibilities of the **Regional Alumni and Scholarship Contact** include:

Alumni

- Developing and maintaining relationships with *FIRST* program participant Alumni in and from your area
 - HQ is still developing overall alumni strategies and is interested in working with local groups to ensure that initiatives are appropriate and useful with/for regional areas.
 - Please contact Michelle Long at alumni@firstinspires.org to connect!

Scholarships

- Planning and overseeing the basic scholarship presence at the regional event
- Planning and overseeing a Scholarship Row at the regional event
- Promoting the *FIRST* Scholarship Program whenever planning or attending other *FIRST* activities in the region.
- Being the primary contact between the region and *FIRST* HQ Alumni Relations staff.

Alumni/ Scholarship Presence at Events

ALL *FIRST* Robotics Competition Events will:

- Provide *FIRST* Alumni/ Scholarship Program literature to students, parents, and other visitors at a designated *FIRST* Scholarship table near the main entrance door.
- The *FIRST* Scholarship Program is included in the Headquarters provided recognition video.
- Information about *FIRST* Alumni will be included in the event script, and the current year's *FIRST* Alumni video will be shown.

FIRST Headquarters will supply all materials for regional and district events.

“Scholarship Row” at Events

To encourage awareness of the *FIRST* Scholarship Program and the opportunities in higher education, as well as to steward current Scholarship Providers, Regional Planning Committees are invited to offer *FIRST* scholarship providers a display table to present materials at their local regional event. All Regional Planning Committees are invited to host a Scholarship Row within their event; however, a few guidelines and restrictions are noted below.

- *FIRST* Scholarship Row may only consist of official *FIRST* Scholarship Providers
 - Bronze level *FIRST* Scholarship Providers (total yearly value of \$20,000+) and higher-level providers are ‘entitled’ to invitations at no additional cost to available Scholarship Rows, however the decision on whether to include other *FIRST*

Scholarship Providers is at the sole discretion of the Regional Director or his/her agent.

- Find all *FIRST* Scholarship Provider benefits at <http://www.firstinspires.org/resource-library/scholarship-providers>
- Should you encounter any issues, please contact scholarships@firstinspires.org
- Regions interested in hosting a Scholarship Row event at their regional should inform HQ as soon as possible(scholarships@firstinspires.org).
 - Knowing which regions are planning to hold a Scholarship Row will allow HQ to provide additional resources and support.
- Regional Alumni and Scholarship Contact is responsible for inviting local scholarship providers to participate, coordinating and monitoring scholarship tables at their event, and working closely with the event management team.
 - *FIRST* HQ will provide Scholarship Provider contact lists in late Fall/early Winter
- The Scholarship Row at a regional event may be as simple as providing a single 6- foot, non-staffed table in an available area for all regional scholarship providers to display literature, or may include providing individual tables for multiple institutions and their university representatives.
- What the regional event is able to accommodate will be determined by contracts in place and space considerations. If a regional event does not have the space for scholarship tables, or the contract with the venue does not allow this type of promotion, that event will not have a Scholarship Row.

***FIRST* Championship Innovation Faire Scholarship Row**

- Championship Scholarship Row recognition are privileges reserved for schools/organizations that are silver level (total yearly value of \$40,000+) or higher providers, and on a first-come first-served basis
- Invitations to display at the Championship are managed by *FIRST* Headquarters only, and not be part of any regional conversations.
- Should you have any questions about the above guidelines, please contact scholarships@firstinspires.org