



# Volunteering for fun and (non)profit

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# Objective & Agenda

## Objective:

- Learn about volunteer opportunities within FIRST
- Learn how to volunteer for FIRST
- Learn how to upgrade your current volunteer position
- Learn how an event committee works

## Agenda:

- Volunteering for *FIRST*
  - Why do that?
  - Districts vs Regionals
- How to sign up to volunteer
- Volunteer Paths
  - Non Technical
  - Technical
  - Judging
  - Committee

# About Me

- 1999-2001: Founder of FRC 237, Black Magic Robotics (Watertown, CT)
- 2005-2011: Mentored FRC 40, Trinity Robotics (Manchester, NH)
  
- 17<sup>th</sup> FRC season in 2016, 16<sup>th</sup> year volunteering
- 10 years volunteering at Championship as a Volunteer Coordinator
- Have literally done almost every volunteer job (still need to learn how to robot inspect)

# Volunteering for FIRST

## So! Many! Reasons!

- It's rewarding
- It's fun
- It's for all ages and backgrounds
- It's very active
- You'll meet some of the smartest kids out there
- Robots are cool
- Etc, etc, etc.

## Many use it for fulfilling volunteer credits

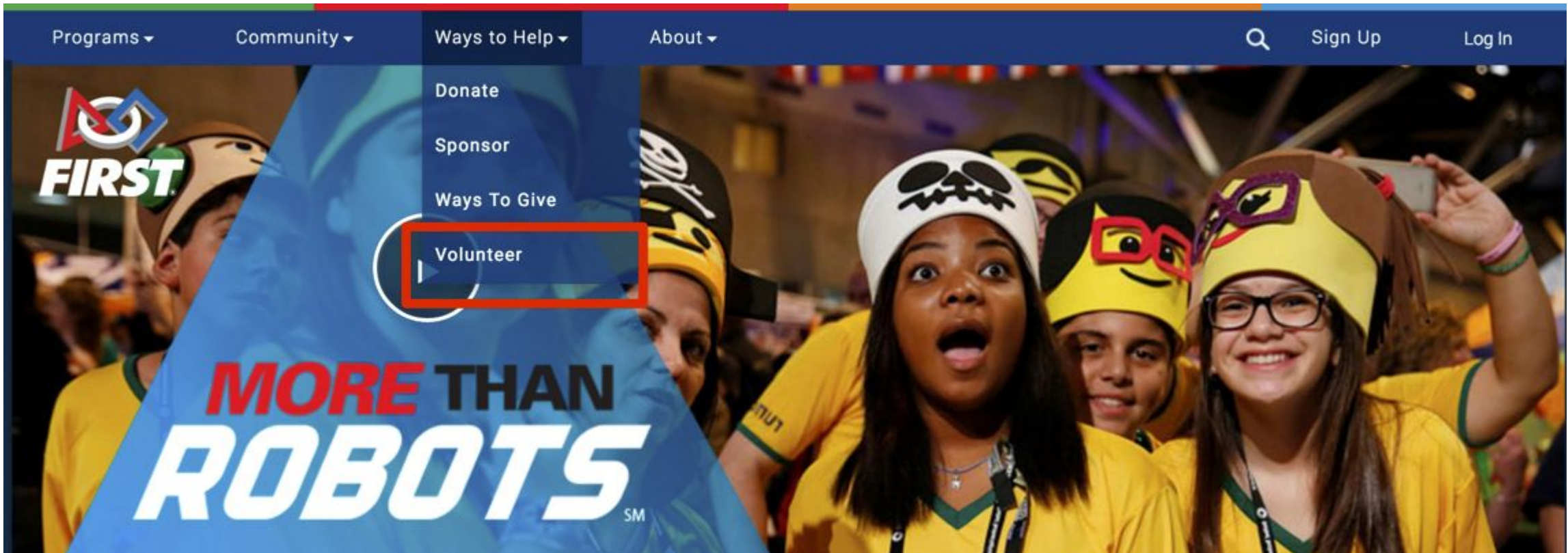
- Religious groups
- Honor societies
- Greek organizations

# Volunteering in Districts vs Regionals

- With the District Model, there's lots of places to volunteer!
- District events are shorter
- Many events happen on the weekend
- District events are smaller
- District Championship = Regional-style
- New Regionals are starting all the time!
- Regionals are HUGE
- More time with your *FIRST* Family
- More volunteer hours banked
- More time for on-site training
- Regionals are about the show!

# How to Sign Up to Volunteer

[https://my.firstinspires.org/FIRSTPortal/Login/VIMS\\_Login.aspx](https://my.firstinspires.org/FIRSTPortal/Login/VIMS_Login.aspx)



# How to Sign Up to Volunteer



## Event Volunteers

Volunteers make up 99% of the *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> workforce. Whether you have a weekend to help, want to mentor a team, have technical or non-technical expertise, there is a volunteer role suited to your unique interest. Find information about *FIRST* programs, volunteer resources, opportunities, and more!

[READ MORE >](#)



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*FIRST* Volunteers make a difference in the lives of young people, helping them to discover the real-world value in science and technology. *FIRST* Volunteers are people from all walks of life that come together to lead by example in the ways of science, technology, and citizenship.

### Find Local Volunteer Opportunities

[Apply to Volunteer](#)

**Quick Links**

- [Volunteer Registration](#) >
- [Volunteer Resources](#) >
- [Youth Protection Program](#) >
- [Mentors and Coaches](#) >



# How to Sign Up to Volunteer

Login

## VIMS 2015: Volunteer Information and Matching System

VIMS helps **FIRST** match people with volunteer opportunities at **FIRST** events.

Junior FIRST®LEGO®League

FIRST®LEGO®League

FIRST®Tech Challenge

FIRST®Robotics Competition

[Volunteer Screening Process](#)

[VIMS User Guide](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

FIRST extends our greatest thanks to the thousands of volunteers who make our programs successful. We thank you for supporting our mission, and making a difference in the lives of our young people.

EMAIL

PASSWORD [I forgot my password](#)

[Login »](#)

**New Volunteers: Start Here**  
[Must be 13 or older]

[Create FIRST Account](#)



# How to Sign Up to Volunteer

- To volunteer you must:
  - Be at least 13 years old (16 for the FIRST Championship)
  - Fill out an application in VIMS
    - Select your events and roles of interest
    - Agree to be screened (except minors and non-US residents)
    - Agree to the YPP (Youth Protection Program) Policy
  - Check back in to confirm you passed screening & wait for your assignment!

# Where should I volunteer?

## Ask yourself the following questions:

- *Do I need to see the field to watch matches?*
- *Do I want to utilize my technical knowledge?*
- *Do I want to interact with the teams?*

## **FIRST** is ALWAYS in need of people to do the following:

- Field Reset
- Queueing
- Crowd Control
- Managing a desk (Volunteer Desk, Info Table, etc)
- Assign as needed

# Volunteer Paths

## Why a Path?

- Many of the high profile jobs are already pre-assigned
- People still sign up for them
- Common Volunteering Paths allow for people to work towards their goal position

## Ways to accelerate your path:

- Ask to shadow a current goal position
- Volunteer at an off-season event to gain experience
- Talk to committees and Volunteer Coordinators

# Non Technical Positions

- Lead Queuer
  - Queuer
- Master of Ceremonies / Game Announcer
  - MC Assistant
- Lead Safety Glasses Attendant
  - Safety Glasses Attendant
- Pit Administrator
  - Pit Administrator Support
  - Pit Announcer
  - Practice Field Attendant

# Technical / Certified Volunteers

- Head Referee (Certified)
  - Referee (Certified)
  - Official Scorers
- Lead Robot Inspector (Certified)
  - Robot Inspector (Certified)
- FTA (FIRST Technical Advisor)
  - FIRST Technical Advisor Assistant
  - Field Supervisor
  - Scorekeeper

# Judging

- Typically, judges are from industry
- Great role for a VIP
- Lots of interaction with students
  
- How do you get there?
  - Judge at off-seasons
  - Talk to Committees
  - Become a Judge Assistant



# Planning Committee

Planning Committees are always looking for help!

- Committee Chair
  - Regional Director (pre-set by NE FIRST)
  - Event Coordinator
  - Judge Advisor
  - Volunteer Coordinator
  - Media Coordinator
  - Other roles as needed (every event is different)
- Time Commitment is negligible – Some meetings in the fall, one meeting a week after Kickoff



**Thank You!**