

FRC Awards: They're easier than  
winning a regional

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# Agenda

- Woodie Flowers Finalist Award
  - Selection & Preparation
  - Writing
  - Submitting
  - Examples and more resources
  - Questions / Discussion
- Regional Chairman's Award
  - Preparation
  - Writing
  - Submitting
  - Presenting
  - Questions / Discussion
  - Examples and more resources

# Woodie Flowers Finalist Award

- “Is presented to an outstanding Mentor in the robotics competition who best **leads**, **inspires**, and **empowers** their team using excellent communication skills”
- “the students will describe how this mentor has given them the best understanding of the challenges, opportunities and satisfaction involved in the discipline of engineering and design”
- “an individual who has done an outstanding job of motivation through communication while also challenging the students to be clear and succinct in recognizing the value of communication”
- Authors must be **clearly** identified as high school students in the online submission
- Now earns a blue banner!

# Judging criteria

- Level of student participation
- Creativity of effort
- Clear explanation of mathematical, scientific, and engineering concepts
- Demonstration of enthusiasm for Science and Engineering
- Encouragement to work on projects as a team effort
- Inspiration to use problem-solving skills
- Inspiration to become an effective communicator
- Motivation through communication
- “How did the candidate inspire your team throughout this process?”

Why?

# Submission

- 3,000 character essay
- 6 pictures
- Nominee info (address, employer, etc.)
- Nominator info
- 1 adult reference on same team
- 1 adult reference with any FIRST affiliation
- Due *Feb, 4, 2016*

# Selection

- Must be an adult who has not won before
- Student-led and student decision
- Someone students can write about, currently active
- Recognition for great mentors, but it is also an award

# Selection

- Involvement on your FRC team
- Working with other FRC teams?
  - Dual-nomination?
- Working in other FIRST programs?
- Number of years involved?



# Selection

- Students must pick someone they are comfortable writing about.
- Overall, this is the easiest part in the entire process.

# Preparation

- Pick a student who knows the mentor well
  - They do not have to be a strong writer
- Come up with a basic outline of what to write
- Interview former students, past colleagues, anyone else who has a unique story

# Writing

- Take your outline and notes, and write it (should take a few hours).
- Initial draft should focus on content, not grammar, structure, etc.
- Doesn't need to be a fancy story, just explain who the mentor is, and why they are amazing.

# Revising

- Hand off your essay to another student, this time someone who is a good writer
- Let them revise it, work on grammar, setup a proper flow, etc.
- Pass it off to a few mentors for further review of content and English
- Have your English teacher review it too

# Submitting

- Make sure you are set up in STIMS early in the season
- Submit at least 12 hours before the deadline
- Copy to a plain text editor first (Notepad, TextEdit, gedit)
- FIRST's website may claim you have too many characters even if you're fine.
  - And → & in a few places
- References can be any other two mentors on the team

# Essays to read

- [http://604robotics.com/team\\_quixilver/mentors/mr-mori/](http://604robotics.com/team_quixilver/mentors/mr-mori/)
- <http://www.chiefdelphi.com/media/papers/2253>
- <http://www.chiefdelphi.com/media/papers/2543>
- <http://www.chiefdelphi.com/media/papers/2127>
- <http://www.chiefdelphi.com/media/papers/1526>
- ChiefDelphi white papers have many more

Questions?

# Regional Chairman's Award

- The Chairman's Award is the most prestigious award at FIRST, it honors the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST.
- It was created to keep the central focus of FRC on the ultimate goal of transforming the culture in ways that will inspire greater levels of respect and honor for science and technology, as well as encouraging more of today's youth to become scientists, engineers, and technologists.
- ...recognize teams for their exemplary efforts in spreading the FIRST message, as well as their talents in organizing materials for their presentations



# Components

- Executive summaries
- Essay (10,000 characters)
- 4 pictures
- Presentation
- Pit judging
- Video
- Everything\*

Why?

# Preparing

- “Role model FRC team”
- Changing your culture
- FLL is an easy way to get started
- Show your robot at local events
- Read other submissions to see what other teams are doing for ideas
- 3 buckets – do those things (*FRC 27*)
- Document everything – take lots of pictures!!
- Plan ahead – everything can be done before build season even starts
- Chairman's “team” cannot work in isolation (*FRC 1114*)
- Written submission due *Feb 4, 2016*

# Writing executive summaries

- Very short 500 character responses
- Sentences? 604 uses lots of semi-colons
- List everything that falls under the category, then pick the most important ones
- “Briefly describe other matters of interest to the FIRST Judges, if any”
- Compliments your essay
- Good place to involve new students and teach them team history

# Example

*Briefly describe the impact of the FIRST program on team participants with special emphasis on the 2014/2015 year and the preceding two to five years*

In 5yrs: 100% of alumni went to college, 83% in STEM; 3 FIRST scholarships+\$250K merit scholarships; Internships: FIRST SpaceX winner & sponsors; Community Service-9K hrs; 54% growth in 5yrs: 2015 team: 26% female & 26% with jrFLL/FLL/other robotics experience. FIRST builds a tight community of alumni & provides productive interaction with sponsors; expands horizons; explores career opportunities. Learn life skills: strategic thinking, leadership, teamwork, communication, time management. (493 characters)

# New definitions

- “started”, “mentored”, and “assisted” a team all have specific definitions this year
- The helped team should agree that you provided said level of support (judges will check)
- “ran”, “hosted”, and “assisted” an event
-

# Writing the essay

- Similar process to WFFA
- Tell your team's story
- Can be thematic, doesn't have to be
- Come up with an outline – baseline
- Have one student take a weekend and write the essay
- Pass it around to other students, mentors and critique

# Submitting

- Have completely uninvolved people proofread your essay beforehand. They will find typos.
- Process same as WFFA mostly
- Video does not need to be ready at this time



# Presenting

- Free format ~7 minute presentation
- 604 uses posterboards with giant Costco slides
- Using electronics is iffy – don't count on power
- Compliment your essay, don't 100% duplicate it
- Practice. Practice. Practice. Use 27's list
- Have backup presenters
- Judges are your friends!

# Picking presenters

- 3 students
- Team representatives
- Good speakers who know the material
- Can answer questions well
- NOT ON THE DRIVE TEAM
- At least one underclassmen
- 1 adult mentor can observe!

# Presenting

- New!: 7 minute presentation, 5 minutes for Q&A
- Clock starts when you enter the room (usually)
- Prepare targeted handouts for the judges, they might read it
- Wear how your team dresses (but it really doesn't matter)
- When you present doesn't matter that much. 604 tries to go last for extra practice time.

# Presenting

- Q&A questions tease out information. “What grades are you all in?” They want to know more than just your grade.
- Questions about specific things usually mean you didn't do a good job explaining it.
- Generic questions are used to test your depth
- Ask other CA teams to review your presentation.

# Pit judging

- Have visual aids ready, 604 uses scrapbooks
- Everyone should know the Chairman's content
  - just like everyone knows about the robot
- Start with a large variety of things, then go deep once the judges show interest

# Video

- Not judged for award
- But teams with bad videos don't win so don't put it off until the last minute
- Can use text from essay
- Copyright is very important – it will disqualify you
- Minors! No full names!
- Doesn't have to be about Chairman's specifically
- Have two copies of your video

# Resources

- <http://archive.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/chairmans-award-resources>
- <http://www.teamrush27.net/chairmans>
- [http://www.fusd1robotics.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/The\\_Complete\\_Guide\\_to\\_the\\_FRC\\_Chairmans\\_Award\\_2.0.pdf](http://www.fusd1robotics.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/The_Complete_Guide_to_the_FRC_Chairmans_Award_2.0.pdf)
- Me! [legoktm@gmail.com](mailto:legoktm@gmail.com)
- FRC 604 and other CA teams