

2003 FIRST Robotics Competition

The Chairman's Award

Overview

The FIRST Robotics Competition is about much more than the mechanics of building a robot or winning a competitive event. It is about the impact FIRST has on those who participate in the program and the community at large. The FIRST mission is to change the way America's young people regard science and technology and to inspire an appreciation for the real-life rewards and career opportunities in these fields.

The Chairman's Award was created to keep the central focus of the FIRST Robotics Competition on our ultimate goal of transforming the culture of the United States, in ways that will inspire greater levels of respect and honor for science and technology, as well as encourage more of today's youth to become scientists, engineers and technologists.

The Chairman's Award represents the spirit of FIRST; it honors the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and which embodies the goals and purpose of FIRST. It remains the most prestigious team award FIRST presents. Because the Chairman's Award recognizes sustained excellence and impact, not just a one-year team effort, it is difficult for a first year (rookie) team to receive this honor; however, we encourage rookie teams to enter a submission because it is a great way to document a team's efforts and impact.

FIRST will present a Regional Chairman's Award at each regional competition. Twenty-three regional competitions are scheduled for the 2003 season. Only the winners of the Regional Chairman's Award will be eligible for consideration in the selection of the Chairman's Award presented at the Championship.

Submission Information/Submission Content

The criteria for the 2003 Chairman's Award are essentially identical to those that have been traditional for the Chairman's Award in the past, with the exception that the judges will more consciously focus on a team's activities during the entire year, as distinguished from just the six-week design and build period. The FIRST Robotics Competition is not about machines; it is about the experience of people working together toward a shared goal. Documenting and preserving your team's FIRST experience becomes an important component of the over-all FIRST experience.

FIRST presents the Chairman's Award to the team judged to have created the best partnership effort among team participants and the team that best exemplifies the true meaning of FIRST through measurable impact on the participants, school, and community at large. There is no single "best way" for a team to win the Chairman's Award. Many factors come into play. The primary factors the judges will evaluate are:

1. How strong is the year-round team partnership effort?
(Partnership can be defined in many ways, including: the partnership among the team's students/corporate sponsor/engineers; school/university sponsor/engineers; students/adults; community/team)
 2. How strongly does the submission document how FIRST impacted the learning experience of the students, school curriculum, engineers, and/or community?
 3. How strongly does the submission provide examples of what the participants experienced in the FIRST program (i.e.: challenges, accomplishments, pitfalls, "lessons learned" etc.)?
 4. How well has the team communicated its excitement and impact within the entire school, community, and beyond (state/nation) through its participation in FIRST?
 5. Has the team documented an innovative way to spread the FIRST message?
 6. Has the team explained/demonstrated why/how it should be a role model for other FIRST teams to emulate?
 7. As a whole, does the content of the documentation exemplify the true meaning of FIRST?
- Your Chairman's Award submission should include documentation for all of the above factors.

Submission Format

The growing number of FIRST teams makes it necessary to standardize the submission format and limit its content to four single-sided, 8 ½ x 11-inch pages. Content can be any combination of text and images. Neatly write or type the text, using a minimum of font size 10. The judges do need to be able to read it! When you prepare this documentation, bear in mind that the students, engineers, teachers, community, school, sponsors, families and other supporters, as well as the machine itself, are all integral parts of your team experience. Your submission need not be professionally produced; but it does need to clearly convey the factors outlined above.

Submission Requirements

- Send 2003 submissions in hardcopy form only. FIRST will not accept Electronic files, CD-roms, computer disks, VHS/DVD, or audiotapes.
- Submit a completed 2003 Chairman's Award Executive Summary Form *at the time of submission*. Please find this form at the end of the Chairman's Award section. If we receive entries without a completed Executive Summary form, judges will not review or consider them.
- Clearly mark *ALL* pages of your Chairman's Award submission with your FIRST Team Number.
- Submit only *one* entry per team.
- Your team *must* compete in the regional competition where you submit your Chairman's Award entry. If your team is competing in more than one regional event, chose *ONE*, and submit your entry to that designated address. We will automatically deem a team ineligible for consideration for this award for the 2003 season if it submits an entry to more than one regional competition.

Submission Deadline

You must submit your entry for your chosen regional so the FIRST representatives *receive* it by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 21, 2003. If submissions arrive after the deadline, they will not receive consideration or review.

Submission Addresses

You will find a list of the regional Chairman's Award submission addresses on the FIRST website by January 17, 2003. Choose the address that coordinates with the event you will attend.

Do not send your submission to FIRST. It will not be eligible for consideration.

Judging Process

A panel of judges at each regional competition will review the Chairman's Award entries and will conduct on-site Chairman Award interviews with those teams that entered a submission for that regional event. Interviews will be limited to five minutes with not more than three team members (students and/or adults), selected by the team to best represent it. As part of the Chairman's Award judging process, FIRST judges will also review the Executive Summary page *AND* the yearbook page for each of the teams who submit for consideration of this award. Your team's submission will be a key factor in the selection process, along with the judges' own observations at the competitions. ***A team may bring additional material to the interview; however, the judges will require that the team also provide any equipment necessary to display the material.*** Listen for announcements on Friday morning at the Competition as to when the Chairman's Award interviews will take place, either later that same day or on Saturday morning.

Judges will select one winner of the Regional Chairman's Award for each regional competition. FIRST will return all submissions on Saturday afternoon, with the exception of the one Regional Chairman's Award winner. The Regional Chairman's Award winning submissions will travel to the Championship event for consideration for the final Chairman's Award. At the Championship, a panel of judges will review the winning twenty-three Regional Chairman's Award winners, and will select one ultimate Chairman's Award winner. This championship Chairman's Award winning team has the additional honor of choosing one of its junior or senior student members to receive the Allaire Medal.

The Allaire Medal - Leadership Exemplified

While the Chairman's Award is presented at the Championship to the team judged to have the best partnership effort, the Allaire Medal is awarded to an individual student on the Chairman's Award team. Named in honor of Paul A. Allaire, a long-serving FIRST Chairman of the Board, the Allaire Medal is given to the student who has demonstrated outstanding leadership on his/her FIRST team, in his/her school and community, and whose personal character best embodies the spirit of FIRST. The Allaire Medal recognizes leadership exemplified.

The team receiving the Chairman's Award at the Championship will select the Allaire Medal recipient. The adult and student team members choose the recipient. He or she must be a high school junior or senior who has been accepted into a four-year college or university degree program. The Allaire Medalist receives the Allaire medallion and up to \$10,000 in total scholarship support for undergraduate tuition, room and board, fees, and books at his or her intended university or college.

2003Chairman's Award Submission Executive Summary

(Complete and return this ONE page overview with your Chairman's Award submission.)

TEAM #: _____

TEAM NAME: _____

CORPORATE/UNIVERSITY SPONSOR: _____

Regional Competition submitting Chairman's Award entry to: _____

Number of years participating in FIRST Robotics Competition: _____

Number of female students on team: _____

Number of male students on team: _____

Number of sponsor professionals actively involved with team: _____

Number of teachers actively involved with team: _____

Briefly describe the impact of the FIRST program on your team's school:

Briefly describe the impact of the FIRST program on team participants:

Comment briefly on the partnership between the school and its sponsor:

Briefly describe community activities by team:

Briefly describe fundraising activities by team:

Overview of why your team should win the Chairman's Award, the most prestigious FIRST award (a **MAXIMUM** of 100 words):

Other matters of interest to the FIRST judges, if any:
