

A photograph of a FIRST Tech Challenge event. In the foreground, a red and white robot is on a competition field. Several people, including students in red shirts and adults, are gathered around. A referee in a black and white striped shirt is visible. In the background, there are banners for 'FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION' and 'FIRST TECH CHALLENGE'. A digital display shows '1:47'.

FIRST[®] TECH CHALLENGE

It's Way More Than Building Robots

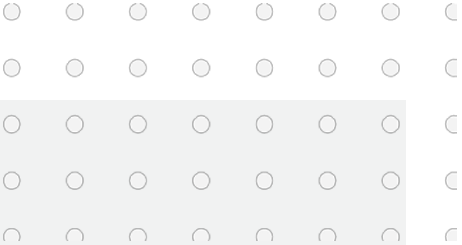


FTC Judging Overview

JP Bullivant, NM *FTC* Judge Advisor

Jim Jackson, NM *FTC* PDP

Agenda



Portfolio

Initial Interviews

Follow-Up Interviews

Observations from Previous Years

Dean's List



Portfolio



- No examples given by FIRST
 - Don't want copies of "exemplary" portfolios
 - Portfolio should reflect the team's year – what makes a good portfolio will be different for each team
- Portfolio captures only the past year
 - Past accomplishments and outreach not considered
- Things to include
 - What are you proud of?
 - What captures your journey as a team?
 - "Must" have items noted in "Engineering Portfolio" section of game manual part 1
 - Each award has a listing for important material to include
 - These are MINIMUM qualifications for each award
 - Presentation and supplemental material will contribute strongly to award rankings but are not a substitute for these minimums

Initial Interviews



- Start after teams check in
- Portfolio – must be presented as a hard copy and preferably printed from PDF
- 5 minute presentation
- 10 minutes judges questions
- Bring any desired non-electronic supplemental info as long as it doesn't take long to set up
- Feedback
 - Confined to feedback forms at qualifiers or championship events
 - More detailed feedback can be given at mock judging events. These don't have to be the actual judging panels – ex. coaches can judge other teams at these events

Follow-Up Interviews



- Follow-up interviews in afternoon
 - ~5 minutes per interview
 - Focused follow-up questions to help clear up any questions from initial interview
 - In pits – please have people available to answer questions
 - Can be multiple groups of judges visiting each team – don't leave the pits empty after one interview
 - We have some flexibility in the schedule for teams that are in matches but will want to interview students in the pits

Observations from Previous Years



- Presentation
 - Include everyone on the team
 - Everyone speaks during the presentation and has areas in which they can answer questions
 - Practice! You won't have a slide deck to read from
- Portfolios
 - Capture your team strengths, not what an “exemplary” team has included
 - Unless competing for all awards, target specific awards you think your team and robot exemplify. Dedicate more space to content appropriate for those awards
 - Not enough space dedicated to engineering content
- Innovate/Design awards
 - Sketches are good to show design decision making but are not “detailed” design drawings
- Control award
 - Minimum is 1 page. Please include more detail in submissions

Dean's List Award

(These three slides are excerpts from a FTC Tutorials presentation “*Dean's List*” by Scot Duncan, FIRST Nevada)

Full presentation link: <https://ftctutorials.com/translations/en-us/Competitions/DeansList.pdf>



- It is “effort to recognize the leadership and dedication of **FIRST’s** most outstanding **FIRST Tech Challenge** students
- Current **FTC** participants who are Sophomores or Juniors
- Dean’s List Semi Finalist
 - Each registered team may submit up to two nominations
 - Coach/Mentor must submit nomination essay/letter online via **FIRST Dashboard** system by Dec 15, 2022
 - The team’s nominees automatically are considered **Dean’s List Award Semi- Finalists**
- Dean’s List Finalist
 - All Semi-Finalists are interviewed just prior to the NM state Championship
 - 2 are selected as the NM Dean’s List finalists
- Be sure to download and carefully read the Dean’s List Award Nomination Guide – North America
 - https://www.firstinspires.org/sites/default/files/uploads/resource_library/ftc/dean's-list-nomination-guide-us.pdf

Dean's List Award Essay



- What to include in the Essay

- How are they a leader?
- How have they helped increase the awareness of FIRST?
- Describe the student's interest and passion that demonstrates their long-term commitment to FIRST.
- Describe their technical expertise.
- Describe their entrepreneurship and creativity
- What are the student's individual contributions to outreach or fundraising efforts?
- What are the student's individual contributions to the Team, whether it is building, programming, team captain, etc.?
- It is not necessary to include the student's activities outside of FIRST; focus on FIRST related activities.

- Nomination Essay

- Tell a compelling story
- It helps if, after reading the essay, the Reviewer feels he/she knows the candidate personally
- Have a thesis (central concept)
- Try to find unifying aspect of the candidate and return to it
- Hit all criteria
- Include specific examples, as well as metrics, especially for outreach and volunteering
- Keep your focus on things related to FIRST - At least 75%
- Mention things that are related to STEM/STEAM/CTE (10-15%)
- Mention other outstanding achievements (but especially when there is a connection to or integration with FIRST (e.g., volunteer award) (5-10%)

Dean's List Award Interview Tips

- Primary basis for selection is the nomination essay; the interview is meant to “meet the candidate” and potentially learn additional information... Relax!
- You do not need to dress up; whatever you are wearing to competition (e.g., your team T-shirt or uniform) should be fine (even if a remote interview)
- However, it is like a job interview; be engaging and confident!
- You don't need to memorize a speech or specific things to say
 - However, it makes sense to prepare “talking points” so you can remember things you want to tell the Reviewers in response to questions
- Organize accomplishments into areas like “leadership,” “outreach,” “technical skills,” etc.
- Do mock interviews





See you at Competition!!

Good Luck!

