



## For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology

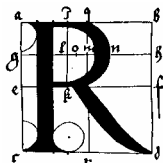
FIRST develops programs to help students see math and science as real and applicable. It inspires them to seek futures in science and technology through their participation in the FIRST LEGO League and FIRST Robotics Competition. These programs bring together students, teachers, and volunteer mentors in teams with corporate and government sponsorship to participate in the annual challenges. RJEC has been a supporter since 1999, providing funding and encouraging society members to get involved.

It's time once again for the FIRST LEGO League competition. This year's action pits teams of 9 to 14 year-olds against the clock and the puzzles posed by this year's challenge: **No Limits**, and involves the design of systems and equipment to allow those with physical limitations to have equal access to things that most of us take for granted. Details on the challenge can be found at: <http://www.usfirst.org/jrobotcs/flego.htm>. Qualifying tournaments will be held on November 13 at Appomattox Regional Governor's School in Petersburg and on November 20 at Maggie Walker Governor's School in Richmond. Volunteers of all sorts, both technical and non-technical, are needed for this one-day event.

Registration opens next week for high school teams to participate in this year's FIRST Robotics Competition. The NASA/VCU Regional will be held March 3-5, 2005 at VCU's Siegel Center. Volunteers are welcome to help with the Regional, but our most critical need is for adult mentors to work with high school teams. Calls come in daily from teams all over the region who need help from mentors.

- All disciplines are welcome! While the nature of the program is especially suited for mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, controls and computer engineers, a diverse team with a range of skills and backgrounds is required for a successful project. It is great for anyone who is either handy with tools or who has a burning desire to build a competition robot.
- This is an excellent opportunity to show a student not only why we love what we do, but also to show them that engineering and related technologies are achievable, accessible, and well worth the effort to pursue. Mentors are positive adult role models for these teams. Help students to connect with the professionals who work every day to make the world better, those who FIRST founder, Dean Kamen, calls "real heroes of today."

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