

Awards

What They Are, and How To Win Them

Recap: What are Awards and Who are Judges

What Are Awards?

FIRST celebrates teams' accomplishments on and off the field as well as the FIRST Core Values through awards. There are many awards that teams can win, and they are grouped into four categories.

The four categories are:

1. Machine, Creativity, and Innovation Awards
2. Team Attribute Awards
3. Robot Performance Awards.
4. Submitted Awards

We will be focusing on the first three

Machine, Creativity, and Innovation

Autonomous Award sponsored by Ford

Creativity Award sponsored by Rockwell Automation

Excellence in Engineering Award

Industrial Design Award sponsored by General Motors

Innovation in Control Award

Quality Award

Team Attribute

Judges' Award

Rookie All-Star Award

Rookie Inspiration Award

~~Safety Award sponsored by UL Rip~~

Team Spirit Award

Engineering Inspiration Award

Team Sustainability Award

Gracious Professionalism® Award

Imagery Award in honor of Jack Kamen

Who are Judges?

Judges are volunteers who will approach a team and ask them questions about the team, and the robot.

You will know who is a judge and who isn't because judges wear blue polos.

Note: Judges will only be asking questions during the 2nd day of competitions



Finding Awards To Go For

Finding Awards To Go For

Even though we should try for all awards, it can be helpful to identify some awards to focus more on. This can help make sure your material, and questions are the best they can be.

Once we find a few awards to focus on:

- Make sure you have material that covers the guidelines for the specific award
 - Example: For Engineering Inspiration Award, make sure your packet shows “A commitment to science and technology education among the team, school, and community.”
- Make sure all members understand awards being targeted and can answer questions
- Look over questions and practice answering them ahead a time.

Finding Awards To Go For: Examples

If we want to win Team Spirit Award:

We can really embrace the googly eyes with googly eye flags, and googly eyes signs and such. Get hyped and make the team's spirit noticeable. Make sure we mention working with sponsors, our school, our community. Fulfill those guidelines!

If we want to win EI:

We can make sure our outreach packets and handouts are spot on, all guidelines are covered. Everyone knows how to talk about outreach. We mention our commitment to science and technology education among the team, school, and community. We put a lot of emphasis on the most recent year's work. We show that our efforts are ongoing, not just during build and competition season

Finding Awards To Go For: Examples

If we want to win Creativity Award:

We get the robot info packet and handouts on point, guidelines are checked off.

We can answer questions about the robot really well. We can competently describe the creative/unique feature(s) and can trace its conception and design.

We show that the creative element contributed to the team's success on the field.

If we want to win Autonomous Award:

We have a good packet/handout that explains our auto. We can answer questions about auto really well. We can explain how the robot understands its surroundings, navigates on the field or positions onboard mechanisms and then executes tasks. The auto is pretty cool. Guidelines are clear!

Packets & Handouts

Packets & Handouts

Teams should consider preparing a one-page summary hand-out covering your key machine attributes. Highlight key aspects of your design & build processes, novel components incorporated and/or capabilities, as well as info on your approach to control/programming - from *FIRST's* Best Practices for FIRST Robotics Competition Judged Awards

We should have a few multi page packets. Those are the following:

- Outreach Packet: outlines all the team's outreach
- Robot Info Packet: goes into detail about how the robot works
 - Robot Info Handout: explains the robot but it's one page double sided
- Business Plan: explains how the team works and the business/Outreach side of the team
- Branding Standard Guide: Explains the team's branding

Packets & Handouts

Other examples of handouts can be:

- A packet or handout to explain how Auto works
- A handout for each robot subsystem
- A handout that goes over the most recent part of the team's outreach
 - not to replace the outreach packet
- A handout that explains the googly eye lore
- Make a summary sheet of your team's accomplishments for that year
 - Recommended by *FIRST* in the Best Practices for *FIRST* Robotics Competition Judged Awards

Getting Ready To Talk To Judges

Things To Keep In Mind

Safety is now part of EVERY Award!

- Please wear your safety glasses in the pits, no running in the pits, follow pit rules, don't do anything dangerous, keep your pits clean, look out for each other, keep your pits safe!!

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Gracious Professionalism is a huge part of awards as well

- Be nice to your members, be nice to other teams, try to help other teams! No swearing or foul language is allowed.

This goes for everyone! mentors and students! When you're at a competition, you represent 6201. So be aware of your actions and make sure others are being respectful, safety and following Gracious Professionalism as well

Things To Keep In Mind

Whether it's robot parts or outreach, everyone should know what the focused topics are so that no matter who the judges speak with they at least hear consistent items

Even though it's tempting to have a few people be the ones who talk to judges, everyone should be prepared.

Remember, all the awards are TEAM awards so everyone should be able to speak about them - from *FIRST'S* Best Practices for *FIRST* Robotics Competition Judged Awards

Questions

There are many questions judges will ask you on different parts of your team. The two parts judges focus on is the technical side (the robot) and non technical (outreach).

Technical judges will most likely be judging for the Machine, Creativity, and Innovation Awards and non technical judges will most likely be judging for Team Attribute Awards

Judges wouldn't tell you what awards they are judging for so don't count on it! :)

Robot Questions

If you worked on the robot, showed up to meetings, then answering robot related questions should be easy.

You can find a list of questions that the judges **might** ask you here: [2023: Machine, Creativity, and Innovation Awards & Questions](#)

If the judges ask about a part of the robot that you didn't work on and therefore can't answer the question, then get someone else to talk to them. If that's not possible then try to spin the conversation

Example:

“Can you tell us about the intake?”

“I didn't work on the intake, other students did but I can tell you about the climber”

Outreach Questions

If you showed up to a good amount of outreach events, then you should be all set. However, it wouldn't hurt to read the outreach packet.

The outreach packet goes into detail about every outreach event the team has attended. By going through the packet, you can refresh on what events the team did and what the team did there.

You can find a list of questions that the judges **might** ask you here: [2023 Team Attribute Awards & Questions](#)

Everyone should be able to answer outreach questions!

Tips For Talking To Judges

Tips

You don't need to memorize anything!

- You don't need to have a script memorized. Talking to judges is more like a conversation rather than a school presentation. But you should have an idea of what to answer.

Use the packet

- The packets have a lot of photos and visuals which can help the judges remember your team and can help you explain things to the judges. Use the packet by showing them photos of the things you are talking about

Tips

Offer to give them the packet/handouts!

- The packets/handouts include more information than you can tell the judges in the amount of time they have. If they don't ask for the packet, offer it to them. They will take it and look through it when they are deciding on winners. We will get the packet back at the end

Hype up the robot!

- Don't downplay the robot, or be too honest. You are trying to make your robot seem like the best robot. So talk positively about it...but don't lie about things

Tips

Be Positive!

- Never tell the judges really negative things! Always spin it to be positive.

Give a long response not a short answer

- When talking to judges, make sure to give a “story”. Instead of “This our intake, and yea this is our shooter”, say “This is our intake that picks up the game pieces. It uses these wheels and those wheels to pick up the things. Once it picks up the things, it does....”

**What Awards do we want to
focus on?**