



LI FIRST Robotics Competition

Fact Sheet

- This is the 10th consecutive year that School Business Partnerships of Long Island, Inc. (SBPLI) has sponsored the Long Island FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Regional Robotics Competition.
- When the initial LI FIRST Regional Competition began in 1999, only eight schools participated. This year's competition has more than 1,100 students from 47 high schools from Long Island and the New York metropolitan area participating in this event. These teams will compete for a spot at the championship event, which will be held April 16-18 at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, GA.
- The game for this year's competition is called "Lunacy." In "Lunacy," robots are designed to pick up 9-inch balls and place them in trailers hitched to their opponents' robots in order to score points. The match lasts 2 minutes, 15 seconds. Additional points are awarded to the team that scores a special ball, called the Super Cell, in the opponents' trailers during the last 20 seconds of the match.
- During the competition, students learn about teamwork, competitive play and sportsmanship. The Regional Chairman's Award is given to the team which exemplifies the purposes and goals of FIRST and makes that team an example of what other teams should follow.
- Each robot weighs 130 pounds. Students were given a "kit of parts" at the beginning of the year, and had six weeks to construct the robot.
- Students participating in this year's FIRST competitions nationwide are eligible to apply for more than \$9 million in scholarships from leading companies, universities and colleges. Last year, students from Long Island who participated in LI FIRST received approximately \$600,000 in college scholarships. To date, there has been more than \$2 million in scholarship money awarded to LI FIRST participants.
- According to surveys conducted by the Center for Essential Management Services, students who participated in the FIRST Robotics Competition saw an improvement in their self-image, and a growing interest in science, math and teamwork. Students also became more interested in internship and employment opportunities with local companies which sponsored the event.
- SBPLI works with high schools and businesses to provide students a chance to work in the fields of science, engineering and technology. This, in turn, helps the Long Island business community develop its future workforce. Since SBPLI's inception in 1984, more than 100 partnerships between schools and businesses have been formed.
- This year's major sponsors are New York State Sen. Owen Johnson, FESTO, Hofstra University, Northrop Grumman and BAE Systems. Other sponsors include Stony Brook University, Farmingdale State College, DeVry College of New York, and Ziehm Medical, LLC. Sen. Johnson and FESTO have supported LI FIRST for the past 10 years. FESTO has provided mentors to a number of local teams.

