

# NASA and the FIRST Robotics Competition



- The FIRST robotics program is chartered to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers, and motivate them towards an interest in STEM-related careers.
- NASA has participated in and sponsored, the FIRST Robotics Competition since 1995. Agency participation in FIRST (and the similar VEX and BotBall programs) is managed through the SMD Robotics Alliance Project.
- NASA currently sponsors more than 250 teams, including >50 “house teams” that are mentored directly by NASA and on-site contractor engineers.
- Students and mentors work side-by-side to build their robots, with the mentors assisting in the design and fabrication of the machines while simultaneously demonstrating professional practices and behaviors
- The 2016 competition was won by a partnership of three teams, led by The BeachBots (mentored by JPL), with Cleveland’s Team (mentored by GRC) and Team Blue Cheese (mentored by Boeing).
- The NASA Administrator accepted the Founders Award on behalf of the Agency, for exceptional service in advancing student engagement in STEM. NASA is the only two-time recipient of this award.