



## **FIRST® Volunteers Needed: FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC)**

**March 8-10, 2012**

**FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) – Pittsburgh Regional  
Petersen Events Center, Pittsburgh**

If you'd like to make a difference in the lives of local high school students, consider volunteering for *Pittsburgh FIRST®* (*For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology*, [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org)), a program designed to provide a positive, exciting, and intense exposure to engineering at a stage where it can have a big impact on young people. Volunteers are needed at the regional event, and local teams are in need of mentoring assistance. The time commitment for both mentors and volunteers can range from one-time to long-term involvement.

*FIRST* mentors serve as role models and play an integral role on robotics teams by assisting with technical issues (mechanical, electrical, or programming) or non-technical issues, such as time management, team dynamics, brainstorming, or entrepreneurship. Some mentors may act as a one-time consultant, helping the students to solve a specific problem. This brief video sums up what it's like to mentor for *FIRST* teams: <http://tinyurl.com/FIRST-Mentors-intro>

*FIRST* event volunteers get to see the excitement up close, and are essential to keep things running smoothly. Volunteer needs range from field resetters, to robot inspectors, to safety glasses attendants, to crowd control, to judges. Other volunteers work prior to the event in areas such as outreach and marketing, as part of the Regional Planning Committee. Please contact our Volunteer Coordinators or Patricia DePra (contact info below).

The *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC®) has been called “a sport of the mind”; don't miss the opportunity to see the action in person! Join us for the **2012 Pittsburgh Regional FIRST Robotics Competition, March 8-10 (Thu-Sat) at the Petersen Events Center** in Oakland. This event will be our largest ever in Pittsburgh, with 45 high school robotics teams, some traveling from as far away as North Carolina and Wisconsin, and includes a record 29 teams from western and central PA. Seventeen local Pittsburgh Metro area teams will be in action, on the field and in the pits. **The event is free, family friendly, and open to the public.**

If you are interested learning more about *Pittsburgh FIRST*, or serving as a mentor or volunteer, please visit [PittsburghFIRST.org](http://PittsburghFIRST.org) or contact:

**Patricia DePra, FIRST Regional Director - Western PA**  
[pdepra@usfirst.org](mailto:pdepra@usfirst.org) or (412) 512.4302

**Michael Klanica, FIRST Senior Mentor**  
[mklanica@usfirst.org](mailto:mklanica@usfirst.org) or (724) 859-2838

**Shannon Plesh, Ali Marinari, Volunteer Coordinators**  
[FIRSTPittsburghVolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:FIRSTPittsburghVolunteers@gmail.com)

Helpful links:

- All things *FIRST*: [USFIRST.org](http://USFIRST.org)
- More info on the Pittsburgh regional: [PittsburghFIRST.org](http://PittsburghFIRST.org)
- Links to short *FIRST* videos: [www.youtube.com/user/PghFIRST](http://www.youtube.com/user/PghFIRST)
- An animation that presents an overview of the 2012 game
- A representative match video from 2010
- A quick introduction to the point of *FIRST*