

Robots Take Over The White House

Winners of the 1996 U.S. FIRST National Championship and Chairman's Award to Visit 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

MANCHESTER, NH (July 16, 1996) -- On April 20, 1996 at [Walt Disney World's Epcot](#), the [Harris Corporation/Rochester Institute of Technology](#)/Edison Technical High School team of [Rochester, NY](#) maneuvered its "robo-gladiator" to best 73 competitors from around the country to win the 1996 U.S. FIRST National Championship. That evening the [Procter & Gamble Company/Walnut Hills High School](#) team of [Cincinnati, OH](#) was awarded the 1996 U.S. FIRST Chairman's Award as the team who best exemplifies the spirit of the competition.

Both teams will be rewarded with a trip to the [White House](#) on Friday, July 19, 1996. First on the agenda is a meeting with the [Secret Service](#) who will process the visitors and escort them to the [Indian Treaty Room](#). There, the teams will meet [Dr. Jack Gibbons](#), Director of the [White House Office of Science and Technology Policy](#). Next, [Vice President Al Gore](#) will have a photo opportunity with both teams, and will have a chance to operate the robots. Finally, the teams will be treated to lunch and a special VIP tour of the White House. U.S. FIRST, founded in 1989 by Manchester-based inventor and entrepreneur [Dean Kamen](#), is a national, not-for-profit coalition developing a broad range of innovative new programs to excite the next generation about science and technology. The Competition is one of those programs.