

## FIRST Competition Information

The FIRST Competition is a national engineering contest which immerses high school students in the exciting world of engineering. Teaming up with engineers from businesses and universities, students get a hands-on, inside look at the engineering profession. In six intense weeks, students and engineers work together to brainstorm, design, construct and test their "champion robot". With only six weeks, all jobs are critical path. The teams then compete in a spirited, no-holds-barred tournament complete with referees, cheerleaders and time clocks.

The partnerships developed between schools, businesses, and universities provide an exchange of resources and talent, highlighting mutual needs, building cooperation, and exposing students to new career choices. The result is a fun, exciting and stimulating environment in which all participants discover the important connection between classroom lessons and real world applications.

Each year, the Competition is different, so returning teams always have a new challenge to look forward to.

However, the details are kept secret until the unveiling at the Kick-Off workshop. This provides a high level of excitement as everyone sees the new challenge for the first time and ideas immediately begin forming in people's minds.

To give you a flavor of the Competition, we have [pictures from the 1996 FIRST Competition](#) available online. If you have a lot of time, you can download a [cool video](#) showing the excitement of the 1995 FIRST Competition at Epcot '95. You can also browse [web pages setup by some of the teams](#) which have participated in past FIRST Competitions.

The [1996 FIRST Competition](#) started on February 10, 1996 with the Kick-Off Workshop in Manchester, NH. The New England Tournament took place on March 28-30, at New Hampshire College in Manchester, NH. The National Championship took place at [Walt Disney World's](#) Epcot Center, on April 18-20.

Preparation for the 1997 Competition is now under way. Due to extraordinary growth in the number of teams, there will be three regional Competitions in addition to the National Championship, which will again be held at Epcot.

Dates and locations for the 1997 FIRST Competition are as follows:

Date(s)	Event	Location	City, State
1/11/97	Kick-Off Workshop	TBA	<a href="#">Manchester, NH</a>
3/6/97 to 3/8/97	<a href="#">Motorola</a> Mid-West Regional	<a href="#">William Rainey Harper College</a>	<a href="#">Chicago, IL</a>
3/13/97 to 3/15/97	New England Regional	<a href="#">New Hampshire College</a>	<a href="#">Manchester, NH</a>
3/20/97 to 3/22/97	<a href="#">Johnson &amp; Johnson</a> Mid-Atlantic Regional	<a href="#">Rutgers University</a>	<a href="#">New Brunswick, NJ</a>
4/10/97 to 4/12/97	National Championship	<a href="#">Walt Disney World's</a> Epcot	<a href="#">Orlando, FL</a>