You Will Solve the New Challenge

What if you could build a better world? Where would you begin? More than ever, we must come together to innovate and solve problems. In FIRST, you are part of a thriving community brimming with inspiration, creativity, and hope for a stronger, more sustainable future—one that’s built better together. You have the power to help the cities, towns, and places you call home reach new heights. With the support of the FIRST community, this is your opportunity to lead our future forward—and up.

Gracious Professionalism is part of the ethos of FIRST. It’s a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community.

Coopertition produces innovation. At FIRST, Coopertition is displaying unqualified kindness and respect in the face of fierce competition. Coopertition is founded on the concept and a philosophy that teams can and should help and cooperate with each other even as they compete.

FIRST Core Values
We express the FIRST philosophies of Gracious Professionalism and Coopertition through our Core Values:
- Discovery: We explore new skills and ideas.
- Innovation: We use creativity and persistence to solve problems.
- Impact: We apply what we learn to improve our world.
- Inclusion: We respect each other and embrace our differences.
- Teamwork: We are stronger when we work together.
- Fun: We enjoy and celebrate what we do!

Four Parts:
1. Table Challenge
2. Research Report
3. Teamwork Interview
4. Technical Interview

Methodology

Educational Goals
For all team participants, we work to gain expertise in the following key areas:
- Understand team work and the benefit of complementary skills.
- Learn how to keep excellent project records.
- Gain expertise in core project management skills and methods.
- Experience the hard work of funding your project through external support resources.
- How to focus on a successful solution to a challenge.

Attendance and Educational Goals:
Students participating in the team challenges must be prepared to attend nearly all meetings and work outside of the meeting time to continue to learn and do research. This year these two programs will be treated as classes and assigned a credit value.

The Assumption: The challenges can be done. Someone has solved it. So can you...

The Method: Your work should be...
1. Simple
2. Reliable
3. Repeatable
4. Precise

The Process:
1. Define the task
2. Describe the task
3. Propose solutions
4. Test
5. Refine
6. Record
7. Evaluate
8. Repeat