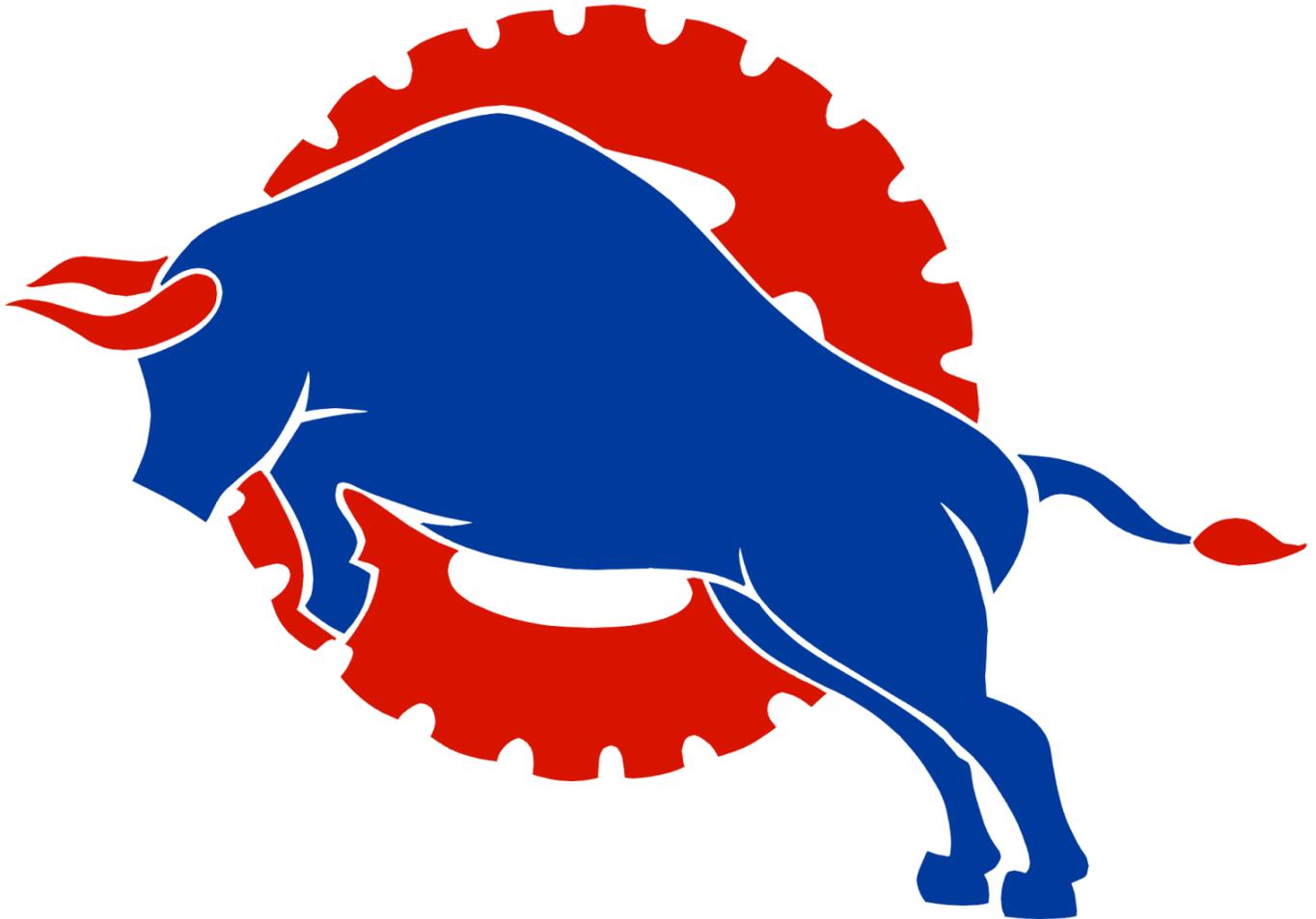


Smithtown Robotics



Practice Judge Questions

Important Reminders

- **Judges want to talk to students on the team. Mentors should not get involved in a conversation between a student and judge.**
- Let judges initiate the conversation.
- Answer questions as accurately and concisely as you can.
- If you don't feel confident in your answer, bring the judge to a member who is comfortable answering their questions.
- Big smiles, firm handshakes, and good eye contact are key.
- Be polite and professional, but polite should come first!
- Remember, judges are just people who love *FIRST* as much as we do! There's no reason to be nervous talking to them.

Disclaimer: This is a collection of questions *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 810 has encountered during our 15 seasons of competition. It is to be used to train members for interacting with judges at competitions, not as a guide to every possible question judges may ask.

Submitted Awards

Chairman's Award

Honors the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the purpose and goals of *FIRST*.

- Personal Questions
 - What does *FIRST* mean to you?
 - What are your plans after high school/college?
 - What did you do on the team this year?
 - How does the *FIRST* program impact you directly?
- Team Questions
 - How is your team sustainable?
 - Who are your sponsors and what do they provide the team with?
 - What is your team's greatest accomplishment?
 - What makes your team unique?
 - What obstacles have you overcome as a team?
 - Where do you see your team going in the future?
 - How is your team expanding?
 - How do you work with other local teams?
 - What is the role of mentors on your team?
 - What is your Mission Statement?
- Presentation Questions
 - Please clarify [event from presentation].
 - What was the impact of [event from presentation] on members/the community?

Entrepreneurship Award

Celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit by recognizing a team that has developed the framework for a comprehensive business plan to scope, manage, and achieve team objectives.

- Business Plan
 - Tell me about your business plan.
 - What is your team's Mission Statement?
 - What are your plans for growth in the next 12 months?
 - How were team roles decided?

- How do you analyze risks on the team?
- What are your team demographics?
- Fundraising/Outreach
 - How does your team raise funds?
 - What outreach have you done?
 - What makes your team unique?
 - What social media does your team have?
- Sustainability
 - How do you find sponsors?
 - How do you keep them?
 - How are new members recruited?
 - How do you stay in contact with team alumni?

Individual Awards

FIRST Dean's List Award

Celebrates outstanding student leaders whose passion for and effectiveness at attaining *FIRST* ideals is exemplary.

- Personal Questions
 - How did you first get involved in the *FIRST* Robotics Competition?
 - Why do you choose to continue with *FIRST*?
 - As [role on the team] what do you do?
 - What leadership roles have you taken?
 - Note: this includes responsibilities beyond the team.
 - What are you doing to promote *FIRST* in your district?
 - Do you have plans to continue participating in *FIRST* after you graduate?
 - How have you been involved in team fundraising and outreach?
 - Why are you planning to pursue (college major of choice)?
- Team Questions

Judges will also ask how you have been involved with both technical and business sides of the team. Practice Submitted Award and Machine Award questions as well.

Woodie Flowers Award

Presented to an outstanding Mentor in the robotics competition who best leads, inspires, teaches, and empowers their team using excellent communication skills.

There are typically no questions asked, but there may be if you are a contender

- Team Questions
 - How has [mentor] impacted you/the team?
- Personal Questions
 - How did you get involved with the team?
 - What do you find most rewarding about mentoring?

Creativity and Innovation Awards

Excellence in Engineering Award

Celebrates an elegant and advantageous machine feature.

- What is your favorite mechanism on the robot?
 - What is its function?
 - How did your team come to develop it?
- Describe your engineering notebook.
- Please describe your robot's mechanisms and how they accomplish the game's tasks.
- What makes your robot unique?
- What is your favorite feature on the robot?

This award is also dependent on the robot's performance during matches.

Innovation in Control Award

Celebrates an innovative control system or application of control components - electrical, mechanical, or software - to provide unique machine functions.

- Please describe your robot's control system.
- What sensors does your machine utilize?
- What makes your robot unique?
- What can your robot accomplish in autonomous mode?
- What obstacles did you encounter while programming the robot?

Creativity Award

Celebrates creativity of a design, use of a component, or strategy of a play.

See Excellence in Engineering Award questions.

Machine Awards

Industrial Design Award

Celebrates form and function in an efficiently designed machine that effectively addresses the game challenge.

- Please describe your engineering notebook.
- Please explain your robot.
- What obstacles did you encounter while building (or wiring, programming, designing, etc) the robot?
 - How did you overcome them?
- Why did you select this [mechanism] design?
- How did your team come to a consensus on the robot's design?

Quality Award

Celebrates machine robustness in concept and fabrication.

Practice Industrial Design Award questions.

Team Attribute Awards

Engineering Inspiration Award

Celebrates outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering within a team's school and community.

- What outreach has your team done?
- How do you promote *FIRST*?
- How do you work with other *FIRST* teams?
- What impact does your outreach have on team members and the community?
- How do you attain and retain members?

Also practice Chairman's questions.

Gracious Professionalism Award

Celebrates outstanding demonstration of *FIRST* Core Values such as continuous Gracious Professionalism working together both on and off the playing field.

This award is based not on words, but actions. However, judges may ask you what other teams have shown *Gracious Professionalism*. They may also ask what other *FIRST* teams you work with outside of competition.

Imagery Award

Celebrates attractiveness in engineering and outstanding visual aesthetic integration of machine and team appearance.

- What is your team's history?
- How did you determine this brand?

This award also focuses on the overall look of a team. Teams that win this award have pits, gear, and robots that follow an overarching brand.

Industrial Safety Award

Celebrates the team that progresses beyond safety fundamentals by using innovative ways to eliminate or protect against hazards.

- What do you do when a battery leaks?
- What is the procedure when somebody gets cut?
- How do you operate a fire extinguisher?
- What do you do if somebody gets sick in the pit?
- What does AED stand for?
- What mistakes have happened in the past and how do you work to ensure that they won't happen again?
- Who in the Pit Crew is CPR certified?

Judges will periodically check your pit for cleanliness and safety hazards. They will also monitor the team as a whole to ensure that pit crew and visitors alike are being safe. The Safety Captain is responsible for knowing and enforcing the rules outlined in the [FIRST Robotics Competition Safety Manual](#).

Judges Award

During the course of the competition, the judging panel may decide a team's unique efforts, performance, or dynamics merit recognition.

This award is given to teams that are considered for other awards and do something unique during the competition to catch the judges' attention.

Team Spirit Award

Celebrates extraordinary enthusiasm and spirit through exceptional partnership and teamwork furthering the objectives of *FIRST*.

Judges will evaluate your team's positive enthusiasm while cheering in the stands, as well as members' attitudes interacting with competitors and judges. Practice Imagery questions and questions focused on outreach.

Rookie Awards

Rookie All-Star Award

Celebrates the rookie team exemplifying a young but strong partnership effort, as well as implementing the mission of *FIRST* to inspire students to learn more about science and technology.

- See Chairman's Award questions

Rookie Inspiration Award

Celebrates a rookie team's outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering and engineers, both within their school, as well as in their community.

- See Engineering Inspiration Award questions