

1 - Motivate

The Motivate award recognizes outstanding team spirit shown through costumes and outfits, team support, and other methods of standing out and raising attention. Teams that reach out to their schools and community to raise awareness of *FIRST* and their FTC efforts have done so in a variety of cool and inventive methods – this year’s winner is no exception.

The three finalists for this award are

Team 194, iLite Robotics 194, from Battlefield in Haymarket

Team 354, iLite Robotics 354, from Battlefield in Haymarket

And Team 2859, Team Tiki, from XStreamHD in McLean

This is what the judges said about the winner of the Motivate Award:

This team exhibited enthusiasm and gracious professionalism both on the field and in the community. This team has an on-going, year-round connection with elementary schools, and they are so well viewed at their home school that they managed to bring four FTC teams this season. This team will have you seeing blue & orange, and that means purple.

The Motivate Award is presented to

Team 194, iLite Robotics 194, from Battlefield in Haymarket

2 – Connect

The Connect Award is a bit different than the Motivate Award. Winners of the Connect Award have done a great deal of community outreach not only to spread the word about *FIRST* but specifically to include engineers, scientists, and other technology professionals into their outreach efforts. This creates connections between teams, *FIRST*, and the professional world that can last years beyond their participation in FTC. Connect Award winners also develop and execute plans to fund their team including clear goals and objectives – including how they can give back to their community in the future.

The three finalists for this award are:

Team 354, iLite Robotics 354, from Battlefield in Haymarket

Team 1033, Holy Rollers, from Benedictine/St. Gertrude’s in Richmond

Team 3165, Twisted Bots 2, from NASA Langley/New Horizons in Gloucester

This is what the judges said about the winner of the Connect Award:

There was a real battle for this award. The winning team demonstrated an awareness of their community and an enthusiasm to get involved. Although they are in great company, they distinguished themselves in their strong communication skills as well as their overall leadership.

The Connect Award is presented to

Team 354, iLite Robotics 353, from Battlefield in Haymarket

3 - Innovate

The Innovate Award is robot specific. It celebrates teams who come up with innovate solutions to the Game Challenge that most others have overlooked. These solutions can't just look good – they've got to work... at least most of the time. Historically, some of the most innovative breakthroughs in science and technology have come when fresh thinking is applied to a known problem. This year's Innovate Award winners demonstrated that type of thinking.

The three finalists for this award are:

Team 14, Team B, from Acme Robotics in McLean

Team 177, Twisted Bots, from NASA Langley/New Horizons Gloucester
and Team 339, Forge Robotics, from Colonial Forge in Stafford

This is what the judges said about the winner of the Innovate Award:

This robot uses an innovative gear system to create a variable length arm and an elbow joint using a single motor. The unique crocheted basket and multicolor pint scheme make this robot a real standout.

The Innovate Award is presented to

Team Number 177, Twisted Bots, from NASA Langley/New Horizons in Gloucester

4 - PTC Design Award

This is the first year FTC has had a PTC Design Award and we're happy PTC has offered to sponsor it. The intent of this award is to expand the challenge, inspiring teams to incorporate industrial design into their robots. These elements can be shown in the simplicity of the design as it applies to the tasks, the look and feel of the robot, and how the design allows us to think of robots in new ways. The Design aspects must serve a function – but they should also differentiate the robot in a unique fashion – not an easy task with a limited set of parts and game challenge.

The three finalists for this award are:

Team 1033, Holy Rollers from Benedictine/St. Gertrude's in Richmond

Team 2940, Wave Riders from Riverview MS in Grundy

Team 3165, Twisted Bots 2, from NASA Langley/New Horizons in Gloucester

This is what the judges said about the winner of the PTC Design Award:

They had a stable platform that exhibited grace under fire and were praying that their side scoop worked for a win.

The PTC Design Award is presented to

Team 1033, Holy Rollers from Benedictine/St. Gertrude's' in Richmond

5 - Think

Every team at this event has had to think – hopefully a lot. The Think Award recognizes the team that has successfully thought, organized, and documented their journey from their starting point to their final design. The engineering notebook is the record of this journey. Just like in real life, teams that can document their process have the best chance at learning from it and improving on it.

The three finalists for this award are:

Team 339, Forge Robotics, from Colonial Forge in Stafford
Team 2859, Team Tiki, from XStreamHD in McLean
and Team 3118, St. Cath, from St. Catherine’s in Richmond

This is what the judges said about the winner of the Think Award:

The winning notebook clearly demonstrated the engineering process. The extensive use of sketches and calculations culminated in a highly maneuverable, functional robot. This team made us all feel like we were on vacation.

The Think Award is presented to

Team Number 2859, Team Tiki, from XStreamHD in McLean

6 - Inspire

The Inspire Award is the highest award given by FTC. The winner of the Inspire Award is automatically eligible to compete in the 2008 FTC World Championship in Atlanta. The Inspire Award winner is the “prototype” for what we would like to see all teams achieve as part of the FIRST Tech Challenge. They do many of the things mentioned in the other awards. The difference is that they have tied these together in a comprehensive manner resulting in success in the competition, outreach to the community, robot design, team spirit, and engineering accomplishment. That’s a tall order but we’ve got some great candidates for this award today.

The three finalists for this award are:

Team 177, Twisted Bots, from NASA Langley/New Horizons in Gloucester
Team 293, Wiglaf’s Pride, from Cape Henry Collegiate School in Virginia Beach
Team 3165, Twisted Bots 2, From NASA Langley/New Horizons in Gloucester

This is what the judges said about the winner of the Inspire Award:

This team was able to score at will using their own pucks – or the other team’s pucks. The judges were impressed with the clever way that they cleared the rack of pucks with an independent actuator. This team has an out of this world sponsor.

The Inspire Award is presented to

Team Number 3165, Twisted Bots 2, from NASA Langley/New Horizons in Gloucester

7 - Finalist Alliance

Captain: Team 3165 from Gloucester, VA (home school team)

First Pick: Team 339 from Colonial Forge HS/Commonwealth Governor's School in Stafford, VA

Second Pick: Team 343 from Hopewell HS in Hopewell, VA

8 - Winning Alliance

Captain: Team 1086 from Deep Run HS in Henrico, VA

First Pick: Team 177 from Gloucester, VA (home school team)

Second Pick: Team 3061 from Benedictine/St. Gertrude's in Richmond, VA