

Dean's List Reviewer Manual

Revision History		
Revision	Description	
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Overview

Roles Covered: Dean's List Reviewer

Job Description

The Dean's List Reviewers are responsible for selecting the Dean's List Award finalists. They must evaluate students who have been nominated for the Dean's List Award by reviewing the student nomination essay, reviewing the Dean's List Interviewer notes, and select their regions finalists.

Requirements		
Technical	Medium	
Physical	Low	
Administrative	High	
Communication	High	
Pre-event Training	High	

Time Commitment

A Dean's List Reviewer should expect 3-4 hours to read the nominations and select the region finalists. Approximately 1-2 hours of pre-event training and planning is required.

Training and Certification

Read and complete all tasks listed in the Pre-Event Training section.

Any volunteer who applies to a role will be able to get into the Learning Management System (LMS) using the 'FIRST Training' button. Roles with the training required will appear in the 'roles missing certification' area.

If you have applied for a role but have not received access to the training, please email training@firstinspires.org. A separate confirmation of the role assignment will come later.

Dean's List Reviewers should speak to the Program Delivery Partner to find out what additional requirements are, such as setting up meetings with fellow Reviewers. The approximate training time is 1-2 hours.

All volunteers are expected to read and comply with the Volunteer Handbook.

Roles and Responsibilities

FIRST is fun for all. The most important role of a volunteer is to provide a safe, fun, and welcoming environment for all *FIRST* participants. When executing the duties of your role, always make decisions with the team experience in mind. Ask for help from event leadership if you feel your required duties conflict with the best team experience.

Dean's List Reviewer

There will be at least two Reviewers in a region that work together to determine the finalists for that region. The Reviewers must access the <u>Judges Portal</u> to view the original nomination as well as the notes from the Dean's List Interviewers. Once all the nominations and notes have been considered, the reviewers are responsible for choosing the finalist students to be announced at the regional



championship. Dean's List Reviewers do not need to be present at the event; rather they review each semi-finalist and enter the finalists in the Dean's List Award System. This information will feed up to the regional championship Event Director.

Prerequisites for Dean's List Reviewer

To serve as a Dean's List Reviewer:

• must be 21 years of age or older

Managing Conflicts of Interest

Conflict of Interest – a conflict between the private interests and the official responsibilities of a person in a position of trust.

All listed volunteer roles will be asked to disclose any potential Conflicts of Interest, and to complete the <u>Conflict of Interest and Disclosure form.</u> During the Judges meeting, Judges will be asked to declare any potential conflicts to the rest of the judging pool. During the Referee meeting, Referees will be asked to declare any potential conflicts to the rest of the referee team. Some scenarios of conflict of interests:

- A coach/mentor volunteers as a judge or a referee.
- A parent/relative of a team member volunteers as a judge or a referee.
- A recent alum (student or adult) of a team competing at the event volunteers as a judge or a referee.
- A sponsor of a team competing at the event volunteers as a judge or referee.

Having a Conflict of Interest, or even the perception of a Conflict of Interest can affect a team's experience, even if decisions that were made throughout the day were not biased in any way. The perception of potential favoritism is enough to discourage a team, coach, or mentor, and take away from their overall experience at an event. Knowing what Conflict of Interest is, and how to avoid being in a position that could be a conflict will ensure all teams feel they have been evaluated fairly.

All volunteers at an event have a fiduciary responsibility to act in the best interest of the event which means to treat all teams fairly and equitably.

Volunteers should use prior *FIRST* experience to help inform their decisions but should not use prior knowledge or perception of any specific team to inform their decisions either good or bad. Every team, at every event, deserves a fresh blank slate with all volunteers.

A volunteer who does not disclose their conflict of interest can compromise the integrity of *FIRST* Tech Challenge events. In judging, this could cause teams affiliated with the volunteer with a Conflict of Interest to be removed from consideration for awards.

Conflict of Interest, in some cases, can be quite easy to see. In other cases, it may be less obvious, and it may be difficult to decide what constitutes a true Conflict of Interest. In some cases, the bias may be apparent, while other times a Conflict of Interest may be perceived by a team or a coach. It is best to keep the following in mind when volunteering:

• Be open and forthcoming about any conflicts you may have with a team competing at the event.



- If there is a known Conflict of Interest, avoid making decisions about a team that would change the outcome of the day, such as speaking for or against a team in judge deliberations, or holding some teams to a different refereeing standard than others.
- Remove yourself from any situation that could be perceived as a Conflict of Interest.

Below is one example of a Conflict of Interest. Keep in mind this is an example, and there are many forms of Conflict of Interest, and ways to handle it.

Parent/Relative/Alumni of a Team

If a parent or a relative of a team member, or an alum of a team is volunteering at an event, this volunteer must abstain from making any decisions that could affect the results of the tournament. Whether volunteering as a judge or as field personnel (referee, field technical assistant, etc.) it is important to have that volunteer remove themselves from making any decisions related to that team. For example:

- If the volunteer is a judge, they must recuse themselves from any conversations about that team during deliberations.
- If the volunteer is a referee, they should not be involved in any decisions around penalties, match replays, etc.
- Keep in mind that there are many ways Conflict of Interest can be presented, from parents to sponsors. Make sure to remove any apparent Conflicts of Interest but also keep in mind any perceptions of conflicts.

What is the FIRST® Tech Challenge Dean's List Award?

In an effort to recognize the leadership and dedication of the most outstanding secondary school students from $FIRST^{@}$, the Kamen family sponsors awards for selected 10th or 11th grade* students known as the $FIRST^{@}$ Robotics Competition and the $FIRST^{@}$ Tech Challenge FIRST Dean's List Award.

There are three (3) levels of FIRST Dean's List Award students.

- 1. **FIRST Dean's List Semi-finalists** comprised of the two (2) students in their 10th or 11th school year nominated by each team.
- 2. FIRST Dean's List Finalists The students selected for each Regional Championship.
- 3. *FIRST* Dean's List Winners comprised of the ten (10) *FIRST* Robotics Competition and ten (10) *FIRST* Tech Challenge students selected from the applicable *FIRST* Dean's List Finalists.

The students who earn *FIRST* Dean's List Award status as either a Semi-finalist, Finalist or Winner, are great examples of student leaders who have led their teams and communities to increased awareness for *FIRST* and its mission, champion *FIRST* Core Values such as <u>Inclusion</u>, and embody *Gracious Professionalism*[®]. It is the goal of *FIRST* that Dean's List Award Winners will continue, postaward, as great leaders, <u>student alumni</u>, and advocates of *FIRST*.

In 2019, the <u>Woodie Flowers Memorial Grant</u> was established for Dean's List Award winners pursuing STEAM fields of study.

*NOTE: For regions of the world that do not use grade levels such as this to identify years of schooling: This award is intended for students who are two (2) to three (3) years away from entering college or university. Students that would be attending college or university in the next academic year are not eligible. Mentors will be asked for the year of graduation during the nomination process.



Dean's List Award Criteria

Criteria for selection of the FIRST Dean's List Award shall include, but not be limited to a student's:

- Demonstrated leadership and commitment to the FIRST Core Values
- Effectiveness at increasing awareness of FIRST in their school and community
- Demonstrates passion for a long-term commitment to FIRST
- The students' individual contributions to their team contribute to the overall success of the team
- Proven experience in areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)
- The student is a role model and can motivate and lead fellow team members

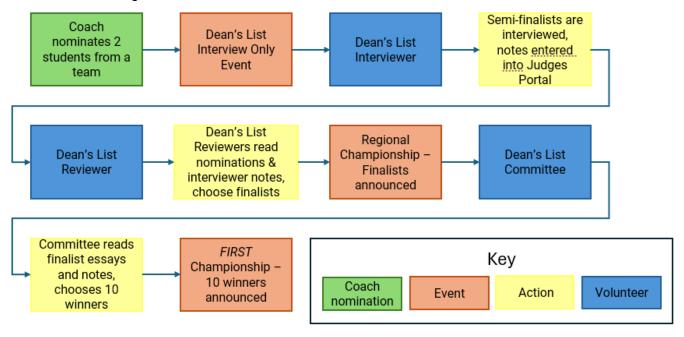
Important Dean's List Season Dates

Dean's List Important Dates				
September 6, 2025	Nominations open			
December 15, 2025	Nominations due			
February 15, 2026	Finalist selections due to FIRST			
Various	RCMP's announce finalists			
April 2026	Winners announced at FIRST Championship			



Dean's List Award Evaluation Structure

The chart below is a visual aid to show how each category feeds into specific levels of competition, starting with the coach making the nominations. Dean's List Interviewers are responsible for interviewing semi-finalists (nominees). Interviews are mostly remote, with some regions doing inperson interviews (this will be region dependent, please check with your local Program Delivery Partner). The Dean's List Reviewer will then review the nominations, and the interviewer notes within a state/region to determine which students will move to the next level as Dean's List finalists. Depending upon the size of the region, there will be 2-4 Dean's List finalists within each state or region (see Dean's List Nomination Guide for further details). These finalists will be announced at the Regional Championship Tournament. A separate panel will review the Dean's List finalists and choose the 10 FIRST Tech Challenge Dean's List winners.





Before Finalist Selection

Pre-Event Training

Dean's List Interviewers must complete the required reading in this section and are required to pass a certification test prior to serving in this role.

Resources for training and certification:

Dean's List Reviewer Pre-Event Training List		
Requirement	Resource	
Required	Welcome to FIRST	
Required	The <u>Dean's List Reviewer Volunteer Manual</u> (this document)	
Required	Complete the Dean's List Reviewer Certification Test in the FIRST Learning System, which is accessed through the www.firstinspires.org dashboard. (For volunteers outside of North America without a FIRST Dashboard Account use the PDF to self-certify)	
Required	Complete the FIRST Data Protection and Privacy Training	
Encouraged	Complete Strategies for Inspiring Success for All modules.	
Encouraged	Attend the monthly Volunteer Calls	

Access the Nominations

Dean's List Reviewers are required to apply for this volunteer role through the dashboard on firstinspires.org. All reviewers are required to apply and complete YPP screening prior to accessing any student information.

Dean's List Award nominations are posted on a private, password-protected site where only the Interviewers, Reviewers, and authorized *FIRST* staff can read the entries. The link to the system is below. Please see the



Judges Portal section of this manual for further instructions and features of the system.

Link to Judges Portal: https://my.firstinspires.org/Judging/

Reviewer Collaboration

There must always be at least two Reviewers that will work together to read all the nominations and decide who the finalists will be. In some regions, a committee might be formed to review the nominations and to make final decisions. Reviewers should check with the Program Delivery Partner in their region to determine if a committee has been formed to review nominations, or if they will need to collaborate with one other individual.

Reviewers can choose to either meet in person, or via conference call to discuss each semi-finalist in detail. It is most helpful for each Reviewer to read the nominations prior to this meeting and have ideas of which candidates are the top contenders and why.

Review Timeline

The time for reviewing semi-finalists will vary slightly depending on the region. Each region has the option of selecting their interview time slots to complete interviews within the interview window noted in the

<u>Important Dean's List Season</u> Dates. All finalist selections must be communicated to *FIRST* no later than February 15th, 2025. This can be done by selecting the student names in the Judges Portal.

Dean's List Reviewers - Selecting Finalists

It can be a difficult task for the Reviewers to determine which semi-finalists will move to the next level as finalists. The Reviewer should always keep in mind the criteria when making their decisions. This section goes over some other items the Reviewer should and should not consider when making their decision.

FIRST Robotics Competition/FIRST Tech Challenge

Both *FIRST* Robotics Competition and *FIRST* Tech Challenge are eligible to be nominated for the Dean's List Award in their region's program. There is no rule that states a student cannot be nominated for both. Additionally, a student can be selected as a Dean's List Finalist for both *FIRST* Tech Challenge and *FIRST* Robotics Competition within the same season. Reviewers should focus on the student's accomplishments in the program they have been nominated for, rather than disregarding a student that has been nominated for both programs.

Individual Contributions

Many essay nominations will outline team activities but not necessarily discuss what the student's individual contributions are to the activity. This is where the job of the Interviewer is very important, and they have been instructed to include these types of notes to better assist the Reviewer in making their final decisions.

Other questions a Reviewer can ask themselves when making final decisions:

- Is the student a great ambassador for FIRST?
- Is the student a leader?
- Is this a student that will continue to be involved with FIRST and its mission in future years?



How have they helped increase the awareness of FIRST?

Previous Year Finalists

If a student was selected as a finalist in the previous year, they are still eligible to be considered as a finalist for the current year, as long as they meet all other eligibility criteria.

Narrowing the List

Information in the essays should be used to distinguish the outstanding students.

- Compare data carefully and look for specifics, not generalizations.
- Where did the student initiate new opportunities for their team vs. contributing to existing team efforts?
- This is a *FIRST* award. While contributions to other STEM activities are good, an explicit commitment to *FIRST* programs should be very evident.
- Think about how their team might be different if they had never joined? How did their presence on the team make a profound difference?
- Is it clear that they played a critical role on their team or were they more of an individual contributor? Is there a progression of leadership or an increasing reliance on the student?
- What did they accomplish that made you AMAZED by them?

Number of Advancing Finalists

The number of semi-finalists that will move onto the next level as finalists depends upon the region. Regions with larger team numbers will have additional spots to advance students based on the previous year's registration numbers. Please see the <u>Dean's List Nomination Guide</u> for advancing finalists per region.



Judges Portal

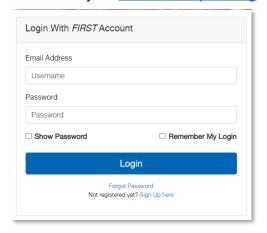
Link to Judges Portal: https://my.firstinspires.org/Judging/

Review Nominations

1. Click "Login" at the upper righthand corner. This will redirect you to the www.firstinspires.org login page.



2. Log in using your username and password for your www.firstinspires.org account.

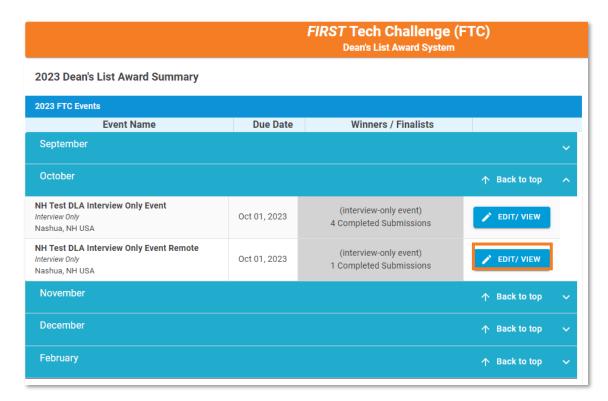


3. Once logged in, click "FTC - Dean's List Award"

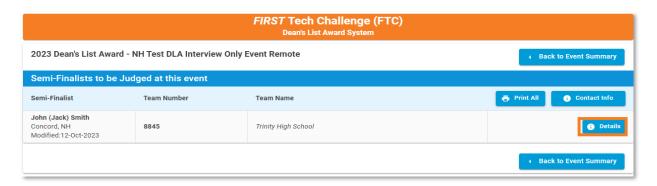




4. Click "Edit/View" to access the nominations for the event.

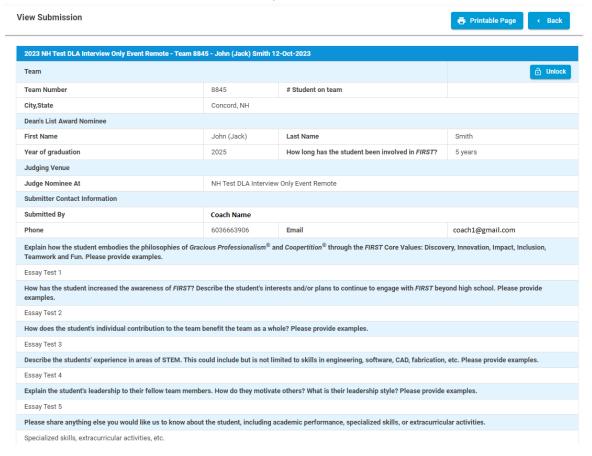


5. Click "Details" to access each individual nomination





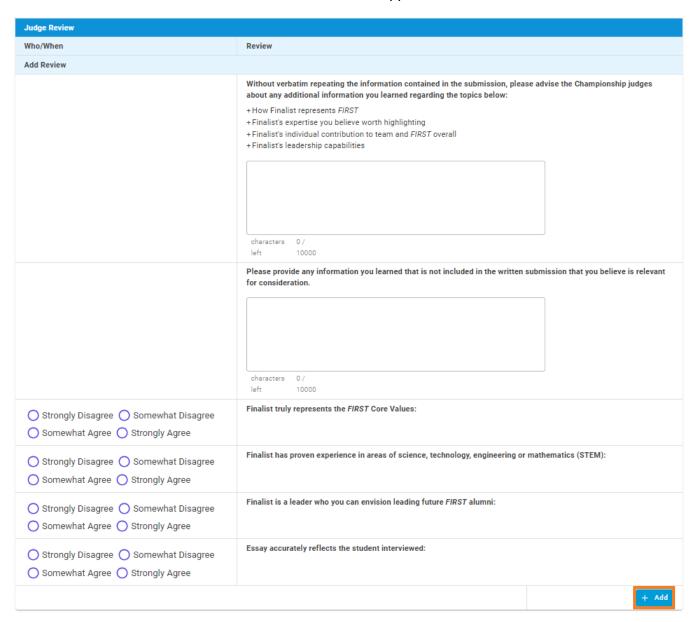
6. The student information, along with the essay from the coach will be shown on this screen. Make sure to read through the nomination essay prior to interviewing each student.





Reviewing Notes in the Dean's List Award System

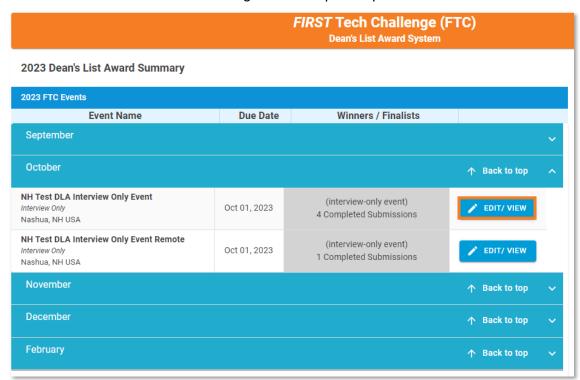
The below screenshot shows the fields each interviewer will fill out after the Interview. Once the notes have been entered, the reviewer will read the notes that support the nomination.





Selecting Finalists

1. Click the Edit/View button in the Regional Championship event.



2. There will be 2-4 dropdown boxes. Select the students' names in the dropdown lists, and click "save"





Dean's List Award: Helpful Terms

These terms are intended to assist mentors in writing the nomination essays and for students to use during the interview. The use of these terms is not a requirement for submitting a nomination.

	Possible Leadership Titles
Captain	A top-level position of responsibility over the team
'	Teams with a flat leadership structure may have captains that cover
	specific areas, while making larger decisions as a group with no defined
	leader
	Teams with a structured leadership would have one or more captains with
	multiple Leads working under them to lead smaller team areas.
	Can be preceded by "co-" to indicate they shared that responsibility with one
	or more individuals.
Lead	A leadership position over a specific area of responsibility and should include a
	"team area" below.
	Can be preceded by "co-" to indicate they shared that responsibility with one
	or more individuals.
	Team Areas
Marketing	Responsible for items like team branding, newsletters, website, etc.
Awards	Responsible for working on award submissions or pit presentation preparation.
Finance	Responsible for fundraising, grant writing, and sponsor relationships
Outreach	Responsible for organizing demonstrations and events not tied to competitions.
Drive Team,	Responsible for guiding the team's strategy, representing the team at competitions,
Scouting, and/or	and collecting data on the performance of other teams.
Strategy	
Mechanical	Responsible for the mechanical design and build of the robot.
	CAD can be included as a separate lead position or included alongside mechanical
Electrical	Responsible for the electrical design and build of the robot, including any sensors
	or custom circuits.
Programming	Responsible for programming the robot.
Other	Any team area that falls outside of the areas listed above should be detailed to
	provide the judges with appropriate context.
	Action Specific Words
Mentored	The student advises or trains, either in person or via phone/email/video
	conference, another team or team member, helping with technical or non-technical
	FIRST program specific issues.
Lead	the student leads an event if they are responsible for planning and execution. Can
	be preceded with "co-" to indicate a shared responsibility.
	Planned - worked on the planning of the event but did not lead the
	execution.
	Executed - responsible for the execution of the event - onsite leader throughout the event.
Canacius	throughout the event.
Conceived	Indicates the student introduced the initial concept.
Helped/Assisted	Indicates the student had significant impact or participation, without being a leader
	in that situation.



Useful Links and Information

On-Call Support Numbers

On-Call Support

These numbers are for <u>volunteer support only</u>. Teams should not use these numbers to call about rulings or technical assistance.

Administrative, Judge, Referee and Non-Technical Issues: (603)206-2412 Scoring System (FTC Live) or other Technical Issues: (603)206-2450

Call or use the **built-in chat feature on FTC Live** available for events with internet access.

Pre-Event Support



Mon – Fri 8:30am – 5:00pm Eastern Time (UTC-4 or UTC-5)

<u>Contact Support</u> including live chat or email <u>customerservice@firstinspires.org</u>

Program Resources



FIRST Tech Challenge Website



Event Search



Game and Season Resources



FIRST Tech Challenge Blog



Volunteer Resources



Team Email Blasts

Feedback

We strive to create support materials that are the best they can be. If you have feedback about this manual, please email customerservice@firstinspires.org or by contacting support. Thank you!