



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Battle O' Baltimore *FIRST* Robotics Competition Opens Doors to STEM

FREE and Open to the Public on September 26, 2015 at McDonogh School

[Baltimore, MD] August 3, 2015 — The 9th annual Battle O' Baltimore *FIRST* Robotics Competition returns to the McDonogh School in Owings Mills on September 26, 2015 from 8:30am – 4pm. This high school robotics competition showcases one of the nation's leading STEM programs and is a featured event of Baltimore Innovation Week.

The Battle O' Baltimore is a pre-season event that gives new team members a chance to experience a friendly competition before the new build and competition season starts in January 2016. Presented by the Baltimore Area Alliance of *FIRST* teams, the event will feature up to 30 high school teams from Maryland and beyond.

Come meet the teams of teenagers and watch the action. Witness the *FIRST* ethos of "Gracious Professionalism" where the students learn to build robots and compete like crazy, but treat each other with respect and kindness.

The game is "Recycle Rush." The atmosphere is part rock concert, part sporting competition with 120-lb robots stacking totes and recycling containers to score amid a flurry of pool noodles with the help of their human players and robot alliance partners.

FIRST offers a progression of K-12 "Sports for the Mind", giving students opportunities to develop intellectual fitness, demonstrate courage, experience teamwork and participate in a sharing of knowledge, skills and friendship with their teammates, other *FIRST* teams, and mentors. There will also be demos of the other *FIRST* programs: Jr. *FIRST* LEGO League (Jr.FLL) ages 6-9; *FIRST* LEGO League (FLL) ages 9-14; & *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC) grades 7-12.

Visitors of all ages are welcome for no charge and may register for "*FIRST* Stop" tours via Baltimore Innovation Week:

http://2015.baltimoreinnovationweek.com/events/battle_o-baltimore_first_robotics_competition

Battle O' Baltimore – www.battleobaltimore.com

The Baltimore Area Alliance supports the development and growth of FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) teams in the Baltimore area by providing a nurturing environment for activities and competitions to help teams achieve their goals. For more information, please visit www.firstbaa.com

Maryland FIRST coordinates events and fundraising for FIRST programs within Maryland. For more information, please visit www.marylandfirst.org

Baltimore Innovation Week is a week-long celebration of technology and innovation taking place September 25 – October 3, organized by Technically Baltimore. For more information, please visit 2015.baltimoreinnovationweek.com

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