An Inside look at the Judging Process

What does a Judge do?
- Interview and observe teams in the Pit, on the playing field, and other areas
    - Visit the Awards Page for a full description of awards
- Review team provided materials
- Participate on Judge Panel to decide team/student awards recipients
- Write short awards scripts extolling merits of winning teams
- Assist with award presentations to teams

Judging Process:
Events may choose to use either the Split Judging Model or the Split Awards Model for pit interviews.
- In the Split Judging Model,
    - Judges are divided into 2 categories: one for the Machine Awards and the other for the Team Awards – and then into groups of 2 or 3. Each group is assigned a set number of teams and focus their interviews on either Team or Machine Awards
    - At the end of Day 1, all teams should have been seen by 2 sets of judges – 1 set focused on Machine Awards and 1 focused on Team Awards.
- In the Split Awards Model,
    - Judges are divided into groups of 2 or 3. Each group is assigned to see a set number of teams. In the morning of day 1, they interview teams for Team Awards and in the afternoon, the same pair interview teams for Machine Awards.
    - At the end of Day 1, all teams should have been interviewed twice – 1 interview for Team Awards and 1 focused on Machine Awards - but may be interviewed by the same set of judges.
- In both models:
    - Judges nominate teams for awards
    - Judges reinterview teams for specific awards to help with down selecting the winners. Judges may also do ambassador interviews for teams not up for an award.
    - The Judge Advisor (JA) facilitates discussion with judges to select award winners. Judges 'spread the wealth' and no team can win more than 1 team award at an event
- *FIRST* Impact Award & *FIRST* Leadership Award Judging are separate and are based solely on submissions and separate scheduled interviews
- Woodie Flowers Finalist Awards are separate and are judged by previous Woodie Flowers Award Winners

Submitted Awards - *FIRST* Impact Award & *FIRST* Leadership Award
- Teams must complete the submission by the posted deadline.
- Judges review submissions and compare data looking for information based on the award criteria.
- At events, teams/students are randomly assigned to interview time slots
    - *FIRST* Impact Award: 12 minutes total (7 min presentation, 5 min Q&A)
    - *FIRST* Leadership Award : 5 – 7 minute interviews
- Judges deliberate after all interviews have occurred
    - If teams/students have equal impact, those who use *FIRST* programs rise to the top