

# *Dean's List*

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# ***Outline***

- What is the Dean's List Award?
- Nomination & Selection Process
- Award Selection Criteria
- Nomination Essay Strategies
- Additional Suggestions

# ***What is the Dean's List Award?***

- It is “effort to recognize the leadership and dedication of FIRST's most outstanding FIRST Tech Challenge students.”
- Important to understand what it is not:
  - Battle of team captains
  - Best Builder / Programmer
  - Best Driver
  - Most hours of Outreach



# ***Dean's List Award Selection***

- Three levels of achievement:
  - Semi-Finalist
  - Finalist
  - Winner
- Who is eligible?
  - Current FTC participants who are Sophomores or Juniors
- How selective is it?
  - 10 Winners from approximately 30,000 - 35,000 eligible FTC participants (out of 70,000 total)



# ***What is the Dean's List Award***

- **What does a Winner receive?**
  - Trip to FIRST HQ for Summit
  - Letter of Recommendation from Dean Kamen (Founder of FIRST)
  - Attention of colleges
  - Trophy, plus of goodies and swag
- **Things that Winners do not receive:**
  - Automatic admission to highly selective colleges and universities
  - Full-ride scholarship (or any scholarship)



# ***Dean's List Semi-Finalist***

- Each registered team may submit up to two nominations
- Coach/Mentor must submit nomination essay/letter online via FIRST Dashboard system
- The team's nominees automatically are considered **Dean's List Award Semi- Finalists**

# ***Dean's List Finalists***

- All Semi-Finalists are interviewed at their League Finals competition to determine if they are Dean's List Finalists
- Depends on region (some regions have interviews at regional championship and some regions do not have interviews)
- 209 FTC Dean's List Award Finalists worldwide
  - 165 from North America
  - 44 from outside of North America (i.e., "international")



# *Dean's List Winners*

- Each region submits its Finalists along with a brief summary from the Judges (which may add, amplify or correct information)
- Winners are selected solely on the basis of the nomination essay and the Judges' summary
- Total of 20 Winners worldwide
  - 10 for FTC
  - 10 for FRC
- Winner are “True **ambassadors** of FIRST”
- They are “**leaders** who participate in fundraising, outreach, and **spreading the word about FIRST**; all the while excelling in school and **other extracurricular endeavors**”





# *Award Criteria*

- Be sure to download and carefully read the Dean's List Award Nomination Guide – North America
- Typically, this is issued/updated for the current season at the end of September or beginning of October
  - [https://www.firstinspires.org/sites/default/files/uploads/resource\\_library/frc/dean's-list-nomination-guide-us.pdf](https://www.firstinspires.org/sites/default/files/uploads/resource_library/frc/dean's-list-nomination-guide-us.pdf)
- Interviewer Guide
  - [https://www.firstinspires.org/sites/default/files/uploads/resource\\_library/frc/dean's-list-interviewer-and-reviewer-manual.pdf](https://www.firstinspires.org/sites/default/files/uploads/resource_library/frc/dean's-list-interviewer-and-reviewer-manual.pdf)



# ***What to Include in the Essay***

- How are they a **leader**?
- How have they helped **increase the awareness** of FIRST?
- Describe the student's interest and **passion** that demonstrates their **long-term commitment** to FIRST.
- Describe their **technical expertise**.
- Describe their **entrepreneurship** and **creativity**
- What are the student's individual contributions to **outreach** or **fundraising** efforts?
- What are the student's individual **contributions to the Team**, whether it is building, programming, team captain, etc.?
- It is not *necessary* to include the student's activities outside of FIRST; focus on FIRST related activities.

# ***Nomination Essay Strategies***

- Tell a compelling story
- It helps if, after reading the essay, the Reviewer feels he/she knows the candidate personally
- Have a thesis (central concept)
- Try to find unifying aspect of the candidate and return to it
- Hit all criteria
- Include **specific examples**, as well as **metrics**, especially for outreach and volunteering
- Keep your focus on things related to FIRST - **At least 75%**
- Mention things that are **related to STEM/STEAM/CTE (10-15%)**
- Mention other outstanding achievements (but especially when there is a connection to or integration with FIRST (e.g., volunteer award) **(5-10%)**)

# ***Additional Suggestions***

- Ask candidates to submit a summary of achievements
  - Shows initiative and interest
  - Helps you learn things you might not know
- Develop a metric to rank candidates, hold interviews and/or hold a team vote
- Stay factual and evidential, but don't be afraid to make broad statements about the nominee, too

# ***Interview Tips***

- Primary basis for selection is the nomination essay; the interview is meant to “meet the candidate” and potentially learn additional information... Relax!
- You do not need to dress up; whatever you are wearing to competition (e.g., you team T-shirt or uniform) should be fine
- However, it is like a job interview; be engaging and confident
- You don’t need to memorize a speech or specific things to say
- However, it makes sense to prepare “talking points” so you can remember things you want to tell the Reviewers in response to questions
- Organize accomplishments into areas like “leadership,” “outreach,” “technical skills,” etc.
- Do mock interviews

# *Credits*

- This lesson was written by Scot Duncan
- You can contact the author at: [pposton@firstinspires.org](mailto:pposton@firstinspires.org)
- More lessons for FIRST Tech Challenge are available at [www.FTCTutorials.com](http://www.FTCTutorials.com)
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