

# Why Didn't We Get an Award?





# PREPARE

Failing to prepare is to prepare to fail.

The primary role of a Judge is to **interview** teams, and to **decide** which teams deserve an award based upon:

- Team Interviews
- The Robot
- Match play
- and the Engineering Notebook.



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# WHO ARE THE JUDGES?

- Engineering professionals (software, mechanical, electrical)
  - Instructors
  - Community leaders
  - College students
  - Anyone with a passion for FIRST who completes judge training
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# THE JUDGING PROCESS

- The 20 minute judges' interview
  - The Engineering Notebook
  - Robot/Match observation and pit interviews
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# THE ENGINEERING NOTEBOOK

- Turned in at team registration, usually by the coach **REQUIRED** if the team is to be considered for a judged award
  - Section 10.2.3 through 5 in the FTC Game Manual Part 1
  - **FOLLOW THE STATED REQUIREMENTS TO THE LETTER**
  - *Missing a requirement = no award. Really.*
  - **After the event, don't leave the venue without it!!!**
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# THE JUDGES' INTERVIEW

20 VERY IMPORTANT MINUTES

- Be early.
  - Bring your robot.
  - **BE PREPARED.**
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# WHAT'S IN THE ROOM?

- Rooms vary. You may be in a locker room, racquetball court, classroom or a curtained area.
  - Usually, 3 judges
  - A surface on which to place your robot.
  - Ideally, a timekeeper
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## REGARDING TIMING AND TIME LIMITS

- Remember, you only have 20 minutes to communicate everything you wish to the judges.
  - ONLY TEAM MEMBERS ARE TO SPEAK...COACHES ARE WELCOME BUT MUST BE SEEN AND NOT HEARD.
  - **Timing begins as soon as all the team members are in the room.**
  - If you have a timekeeper, you will receive a **5 minute warning** before your time is up.
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**So, how do we get  
things started once  
we are all in the  
judging room?**

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## BE PREPARED FOR ANY OF THESE SCENARIOS

- Usually, the judges will introduce themselves, but not always! If that is the case, go ahead and start things off by **introducing yourselves**.
  - Usually, the judges will ask your team if you have a presentation prepared. If so, **proceed with your presentation**.
  - It's OK to go **straight to questions**, concisely answer each to the best of your ability.
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# Presentation Tips

1. **Introduce** your team
2. **Highlight** the **various aspects** of your season:
  - a. Outreach
  - b. Volunteering
  - c. Notebook Highlights
  - d. Your Robot
  - e. Mentors
  - f. Team Sponsors

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# Strong Impression

- **Props** - keep them simple and legible
  - **Large images**
  - Demonstrate cohesion
  - Have a narrative
  - **Accessible** - be ready, no fumbling
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# Be Memorable

This is your one chance to make a **great first impression** on the judges.

Plan your presentation carefully...if you don't share it with the judges now, they may never know that cool thing that **sets your team apart**.

Judges only have 10 minutes between team presentations to make notes, review the notebook, and discuss potential award candidates.

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# Questions

Anticipate questions that your judges might ask! Have answers ready to go!

**Assign team members** to field questions regarding specific aspects of your team.

**Practice with other team members, parents, coaches.**

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# Closing

- Thank the judges for their time...REMEMBER! THEY ARE DOING THIS FOR FREE TO HELP YOU GROW!
  - It is appropriate to share a small token with the judges to help them remember you: a printed handout, a team button, a thank-you candy bag...be creative!! (don't go overboard)
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# Pit and Pit Reps

Your pit says a lot about **how seriously your team takes itself**

Your pit gives your team an excellent chance to show team pride and spirit

YOUR PIT REPS **CAN MAKE OR BREAK** YOUR CHANCES  
FOR AN AWARD

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# WHAT'S A PIT REP? WHY SHOULD WE ASSIGN SOME?

- The pit reps (ideally, two of them) are the FACE OF THE TEAM to roaming judges.
  - Your pit reps should know everything about the team...from your outreach to your notebook to your robot.
  - It's a great idea to have **displays in your pit** that your pit reps can share with judges! This gives your team a chance to “increase” your facetime with the judges.
  - Nothing is sadder than when an otherwise incredible team either **doesn't have anyone in the pit** to talk with judges, or when the pit reps **don't seem to care.**
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# Polished, Well Rounded

You don't necessarily have to "try" for a specific award.

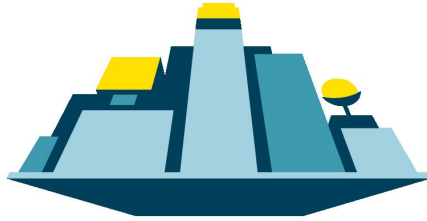
JUST DO YOUR BEST, AND **HIGHLIGHT WHAT YOU ARE GOOD AT.**

If you do a good job of this, **the judges will notice!**

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Q & A



***SKYSTONE***<sup>SM</sup>

PRESENTED BY **Qualcomm**

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