

2006 WRRF Cal Games Awards Description

FIRST Aim High Champion and Finalist (6 awards)

This year's California Robot Games feature the full FIRST Robotics Competition of 2006: *Aim High*. The format of the tournament will be exactly like FIRST's. There will be six to seven Qualification Rounds per team on Saturday morning to determine the seeding of each team. The top eight seeds will pick their partners during lunch, and advance into elimination rounds. The Champion and Finalist of this tournament will have to play against all odds, compete against the top teams of Northern California, and win every step of the elimination tree to get to the top.

Cal Games Autonomous Mode Challenge Champion and Finalist

This challenge was started in 2003 when autonomous mode was first introduced in the FIRST competition. For 10 seconds, teams have to rely completely on software to control their robot to gain strategic advantages on the playing field. WRRF believes the autonomous mode is a valuable learning experience for all FIRST students, which is why we are bringing the challenge back to recognize the work programmers did on their robot, and to challenge them to make the program faster and better.

Here is how it works: During the qualification rounds of the *Aim High* tournament, each robot's successful shot into the center goal autonomously will be recorded. The two robots with the most balls scored in the center goal will become the Champion and Finalist of this award. In case of a tie, there will be a tie breaker during the finals.

Wacky Award

Every year teams received technical awards based on a machine's quality, design, elegance, and innovation. Sometimes we forget the design process is also a creative process, and the competition a challenge for students to stretch their imaginations. WRRF believes students can be creative and innovative, and have fun doing it. That is why we are introducing the Wacky Award to the competition this year.

Here is what you do: Make sure your robot can function properly, and play well in the game, according to your team's strategy. Having done that, we are asking you to stretch your imagination as far as you can go, and be a little foolish, a little silly, and a little wacky. Turn your robot into your grandma's moldy couch, dress it up for your Halloween party the next day, or put a giant hamster wheel next to the shooter... Do whatever you can do to win the Wacky Award, and make sure you have fun doing it! Just surprise us!

Kit of Parts Creativity Award

Each year FIRST sends a kit of parts for teams to use on their robots. While there are valuable components such as the motors, control systems, pneumatics, you know just as well as we do there are many parts that will go unnoticed until you clean out the robotics closet.

So here is our challenge to you. Come up with a way to use these parts. In fact, come up with the most unusual way to use them. Once again, stretch your imagination, and have fun doing it!

Safety Award

This award celebrates the team that progresses beyond safety fundamentals by using innovative ways to eliminate or protect against hazards. The winning team consistently demonstrates excellence in industrial safety performance that shines in the heat of competition.

Here is how it works: Each team will be given a set of safety chips during the competition. Teams have two ways to receive more chips: 1. When a fellow FIRST team recognizes an exceptional safety practice and decide to award chips from their own collection, 2. When the team of inspectors recognize an exceptional safety practice and decide to award additional safety chips.

Gracious Professionalism Award

Gracious Professionalism is considered the most valued principle in the FIRST Robotics Competition. Quoting Dr. Woodie Flowers," It [Gracious Professionalism] is completely consistent with the *FIRST* spirit to encourage doing high quality, well-informed work in a manner that leaves everyone feeling valued. Gracious professionalism seems to be a good descriptor for part of the ethos of *FIRST*. It is part of what makes *FIRST* different and wonderful."

WRRF is introducing this award into this year's Cal Games to recognize not only how it is important to do well in the game but also how it is important to remember why students are part of this competition, and what is being learned from it.

Just like the Safety Award, teams will be given a set of GP chips, which they can use to reward other teams for their exceptional demonstration of Gracious Professionalism during the competition and Referees will award these as well.