



# ***FIRST* Signing Day Information Kit**

May 21, 2018

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# Motivation

*Dean Kamen, Founder of US FIRST Robotics said that one purpose of Robotics Programs are*

*“To transform our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of becoming science and technology leaders.”*

*A National Signing Day helps celebrate a major milestone in the lives of our students advancing this vision.*

# Goals for the *FIRST* Robotics College Signing Day

- Create a nationwide campaign recognizing the outstanding high school seniors who have participated in *FIRST* Robotics programs and are choosing to continue their education beyond high school
- Encourage each *FIRST* robotics team to host a signing day on May 21, 2018 to recognize their graduating seniors
- Increase awareness of *FIRST* Robotics programs and the success they bring to students in local communities
- Increase awareness of *FIRST* Robotics programs at colleges and universities

# Planning Your Signing Day

How to organize your team's participation in *FIRST* Signing Day

- 1 - 2 Months Before: Secure a location and time for your event on May 21st, 2018. This could be anything from a large office to a small auditorium based on size of team. Expect the event to last approximately 30 minutes.
- 1 Month Before: Promote your team's participation in *FIRST* Signing Day to local media, businesses, college reps, sponsors, and your school community. Create a slide-show of graduate portraits beside college logos.
- Day of: Your event will take about 30 minutes. This is not a recognition of each student's achievements, but a short statement of post-graduation intentions. Take pictures for release to local media, school papers and social media.

# Ideas for Room Set-Up and Student Participation



Have students wear shirts, hats or other gear from schools they choose to show their pride.



Each student individually recognized. Photos taken with their family/coach/ slide of their college and study.



Table with the team or high school banner on front like this. Students may sit behind the table with parents behind them facing the audience

Have underclassmen from the team attend the event to celebrate their teammates' accomplishments!

# Agenda

- Coach/Mentor makes a brief statement about the team and may introduce each student with any robotics honors and number of years of participation.
- Each student then takes turn saying:  
“My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and my intention is to (attend \_\_\_\_\_ majoring in \_\_\_\_\_).”

They then sign the Intentions Letter and pass the pen to the next participant

- Be sure to have fun with this!!
  - Wear college/university apparel
  - Take individual pictures and/or group pictures and PROMOTE on social media
- Coach thanks everyone for attending and then dismisses those in attendance
- Coach collects the letters and sends them to *FIRST* or enters information

# Example Press Release

East High School and *FIRST* Robotics Team XXXX will participate in *FIRST* Robotics Signing Day that highlights academic scholars and robotics students who have committed to attend college next fall or pursue other avenues of merit. The purpose is to celebrate the STEM education received in the classroom and as members of *FIRST* Robotics teams by formally acknowledging this milestone. We will host a signing event on May 21st, 2018 at 7:30AM where students and community members will witness our robotics seniors sign a letter of intent to enroll their respective chosen college or pursue other post-high school options.

Add description of team accomplishments, if desired.



# Social Media Examples

Twitter • “This is a huge day for robotics students across the nation! Congratulations *FIRST* Robotics Team XXXX Seniors #FIRSTSigningDay”

Facebook • “Happy Signing Day to all the robotics graduates! We are so proud of you! #FIRSTSigningDay

Instagram • [Photograph] “Eastern High and US *FIRST* Robotics Team XXXX high school graduates on National Signing Day 2018 #FIRSTSigningDay”

# Follow Up - Data Capture

Team coach or designee to collect the Letter of Intent from each student signing.

- Within two days of *FIRST* Signing Day, visit website (**this pathway still needs to be determined**) and enter the student information.
- Current plan would be to use the *FIRST* Robotics Signing Letter of Intent Document for a way to consolidate information regarding your team.

Future plans would be for *FIRST* to compile this information and publish it to all FRC/FTC teams in the summer following the day.