

# South Windsor Robotics Team Heading This Week to World Championship in St. Louis

By [Tom Andrea \(Open Post\)](#) Updated April 21, 2014 at 8:17 am [0](#)

High school robotics teams from across Connecticut and the nation are heading to St. Louis, Mo., to compete in the *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics World Championship, on April 24-26.

This year, United Technologies Corp. (UTC) is sponsoring 23 of the finalist teams, including 10 from Connecticut. Dozens of UTC employees volunteer each year to serve as mentors for individual teams, helping student participants learn about science and engineering.

UTC has a 19-year legacy of supporting *FIRST* Robotics, which aligns with the corporation's goal of promoting science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education. Overall this year, UTC has sponsored 81 student robotics teams in 16 U.S. states and three Canadian provinces. More than 180 employees from across UTC business units have served as *FIRST* mentors, judges and volunteers.

Leading the UTC-sponsored Connecticut teams to the 2014 *FIRST* World Championship are three teams crowned regional winners of the *FIRST* New England Championship in Boston on April 11-12. They are:

- Team #230, The Gaelhawks from Shelton High School
- Team #177, The Bobcats from South Windsor High School
- Team #4055, Team NRG representing Northwestern Regional High School in Winsted.

In addition, a Connecticut team will compete for the *FIRST* Chairman's Award, the most prestigious award at *FIRST*. Team #2067, Apple Pi, consisting of students from the Connecticut 4-H in Guilford, will compete for the Chairman's Award, which honors the team that best embodies the *FIRST* core values of teamwork, helping others, spreading the message of *FIRST* mentoring and gracious professionalism. It is the highest honor bestowed to any team at the championship. Apple Pi already won the *FIRST* Regional Chairman's Award at the New England Championship in Boston, Mass. The team is mentored by an employee from Pratt & Whitney and an employee from Sikorsky.