



FIRST Robotics Competition Woodie Flowers Award Criteria

Overview

The Woodie Flowers Award celebrates effective communication in the art and science of engineering and design. Dr. William Murphy founded this prestigious award in 1996 to recognize mentors who lead, inspire, and empower using excellent communication skills.

Two subcategories are awarded:

The Woodie Flowers Finalist Award (WFFA) is presented to one adult mentor at each Regional Competition. The Woodie Flowers Award (WFA) is presented to one WFFA winner at Championship.

Each year, students may submit an essay nominating one mentor from their team to be considered for this award. FIRST will recognize one adult mentor at each regional to receive the WFFA. If a team already has a mentor who has won the WFFA in a prior year, then that team may re-submit that mentor in the current year instead of nominating a mentor for the WFFA if they wish. The current year WFFA winners, along with those mentors who won a WFFA in a prior year, and have been re-nominated, will be judged to receive the WFA at the FRC Championship.

Spirit of the Award

High school students on a FIRST Robotics team will choose one adult team member as their WFFA candidate. The students will describe how this mentor has given them the best understanding of the challenges, opportunities, and satisfaction involved in the discipline of engineering and design. Professor Flowers will lead the past Championship Woodie Flowers Award (WFA) winners as they judge and select the Finalists and Championship winner based on student essays.

This award recognizes an individual who has done an outstanding job of motivation through communication while also challenging the students to be clear and succinct in recognizing the value of communication. As such, it is very important that this is a student led effort and a student decision. Team mentors should direct their students to the online entry site and let the high school student nominators decide who to nominate. Adults can help edit, but this must be a student led effort, since any team mentor is eligible. Authors must be clearly identified as high school students in the online submission.

Award Eligibility Requirements

Regional WFFA (except District Event Teams) – Each team may nominate one adult member from their team for the WFFA. The adult mentor must be on the same team as the student nominators and only one adult member may be nominated per team. Previous year WFFA winners are not eligible to win the current year WFFA.

Michigan State Championship Regional WFFA (applies only to Michigan Teams) – Each Michigan team may nominate one adult member from their team for the Michigan State Championship Woodie Flowers Finalist Award. Each Michigan team may only nominate their candidate at one of the Michigan district events. The adult mentor must be on the same team as the student nominators and only one adult member may be nominated per team. Previous year Regional WFFA winners are not eligible to win the current Michigan State Championship Regional WFFA. One Regional WFFA will be selected at the Michigan State Championship.

Please note that at each Michigan district event the Michigan State Championship WFFA nominees nominated at that district will be called to the playing field to be recognized.

Championship WFA – All prior Regional WFFA winners are eligible to be re-nominated for the current Championship Woodie Flowers Award. However, if a team has multiple prior Regional WFFA winners, then

the team may only re-nominate **one** of those previous winners. The re-nomination can be made as soon as the online submission process begins. All of the Regional WFFA winners from the current year are automatically eligible to win the current Championship Woodie Flowers Award, with one exception. Teams that have submitted a previous year WFFA winner for the current Championship WFA and have a current Regional WFFA winner must select only **one** of those mentors to be submitted for the Championship WFA. In this case, student nominators will be asked by the WFA committee which Regional WFFA winner from their team will be their Championship WFA candidate. A person may not win the WFA more than one time.

Judging Criteria

Two aspects of this award are important: (1) the accomplishments in communication by the mentor and (2) the student's ability to communicate clearly and concisely through their written nomination.

Specific judging criteria are based on the team's description of how the mentor inspired each member of the team in some or all of the following ways:

- Level of student participation
- Creativity of effort
- Clear explanation of mathematical, scientific, and engineering concepts
- Demonstration of enthusiasm for science and engineering
- Encouragement to work on projects as a team effort
- Inspiration to use problem-solving skills
- Inspiration to become an effective communicator
- Motivation through communication

Each *FIRST* team completes a product development cycle as it designs a concept, develops a prototype, and builds and debugs a unique machine. This requires teamwork, attention to detail, scheduling, and hard work. The award-winning essay should answer this question; "How did the candidate inspire your team throughout this process?" If the essay best describes how this individual excels above all others as he or she inspires the team, then that mentor truly deserves to be recognized with the award that honors Professor Woodie Flowers and his contribution to engineering, education, and communication.

Entry Requirements

The students enter team and candidate information, reference information, and a **maximum** six hundred-word (600) essay written in English. Teams may also add up to six (6) pictures, totaling no more than 1.0 Mb. of memory. This essay should be a team effort and will stand alone as the team's entry to award their candidate the deserved recognition.

For students to re-nominate a past WFFA winner for the Championship WFA, they must write a new six hundred word essay.

Teams may only submit their WFFA candidate at one Regional competition for judging.

Submission Deadline

The Woodie Flowers Award entries are due by 11:59pm EST on Thursday, February 18, 2010.

Entry Process

Students enter their candidate through the *FIRST* Student Team Members Information System <https://my.usfirst.org/frc/goteams/site.lasso>

Student nominators must follow the directions listed on the screen. As the student nominator fills out the required information, he/she will also choose their selected regional.

Student nominators can easily enter information, save it, and return to the site to edit their entry information until they are ready to submit it for judging. All entries will be final on Thursday, February 18, 2010 at 11:59 p.m. EST (midnight). No entries will be accepted or altered after this date.

Students will go to the website to enter information in the following fields:

Team Number

Candidate Information:

First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name

Address, City, State, zip code

Employer

Occupation

Position on team

High School Student Nominator's information: (Student recommending candidate)

First Name, Last Name

Phone Number

High School

E-mail Address

Position on Team

Year in school (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th)

Adult Reference (On the same team)

First Name, Last Name

Phone Number

E-mail Address

Position on Team

Adult Reference (Any FIRST affiliation)

First Name, Last Name

Phone Number

E-mail Address

Regional / Michigan District Selection (Team must attend this Regional / District)

Upload Pictures (Up to 6, no more than 1.0 Mb total)

Essay (600 words max) - The students will see a quote from Dr. Murphy and/or Woodie about the value of concise and clear writing. Once candidates' information and essays are submitted, they are sorted and posted on a private, password-protected site where only the Judges can read the entries.

Prior Year Regional WFFA Winner Re-submission

Student nominators must submit a new 600 word (max) essay in order for their previous year Regional WFFA winner to be eligible for the current Championship WFA. Student nominators will not be able to edit the original submission. Past winners without a new essay will not be eligible for the current WFA. While the judges can review past essays, the new essay must be able to stand alone as a complete submission. Each FIRST team can have a maximum of one candidate for the 2009 Championship WFA.