



The Lunatecs, FIRST® Robotics Competition (FRC) Team 316 Qualified to Compete in the FIRST® Championship Event in Houston.

Swedesboro, NJ, April 9th – South Jersey Robotics' FIRST® Robotics Competition team, the [Lunatecs \(FRC 316\)](#), is excited to announce that they have qualified to compete in the FIRST® Championship in Houston from April 20th to 23rd.

After two years of **canceled in-person competitions due to COVID-19**, the Lunatecs finally had an in-person season! Unfortunately, the season got off to a rocky start. Still, after a well-played second competition in Bensalem, where their alliance won the competition and the team won the **Innovation in Control Award**, the Lunatecs qualified for the FIRST® Mid-Atlantic District competition. The Lunatecs fought hard, rising from the low 80s in the district after their first competition to 11th after the First Mid-Atlantic District Championship. Their hard work and **well-designed robot** paid off and qualified

them to compete at the FIRST® Championship in Houston. The FIRST® Championship brings together over 15,000 students competing at all levels of FIRST®!

Although in 2020 and 2021, COVID disrupted their competitions, it did not derail the program. The Lunatecs continued to learn, develop, and thrived doing remote sessions, creating facemasks for local community hospitals, and developing assistive devices. The most recent being a custom-designed swim fin for veteran amputees and spinal cord injury victims. FIRST® and Disney have featured 316's work with adaptive devices on their FIRST® Inspires, Build the future page <https://FIRST@inspires.wpengine.com>

The Lunatecs are excited to represent [FIRST® Mid-Atlantic](#), [South Jersey Robotics](#), and their [sponsors](#) in Houston and are currently raising funds to support them via a GoFundMe at <https://gofund.me/e70e0293>.

For more information about the Lunatecs, South Jersey Robotics programs, and sponsorship opportunities, please contact info@sjrobotics.com.

About the Lunatecs (FRC 316):

The Lunatecs (FRC 316) is not just a FIRST®® Robotics Competition team. It is a year-long community STEM program for youth in South Jersey and the surrounding area that helps students learn STEM and leadership skills and supports the community with outreach events and summer camps.

About South Jersey Robotics (SJR):

SJR is a 501c3 nonprofit that provides STEM education through the creation of sustainable, robust robotics programs in Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties in NJ. SJR works with school districts & community organizations to provide access to STEM-related, FIRST®, and other programs to the 61,000 school-aged children in these counties. These programs help students build lifelong skills beyond engineering and robotics, such as public speaking, project planning & time management, which will help them succeed in life.

About FIRST®®:

FIRST®® is a robotics community that prepares young people for the future through a suite of inclusive, team-based robotics programs for ages 4-18 (PreK-12) that can be facilitated in school or in structured afterschool programs. Boosted by a global support system of volunteers, educators, and sponsors that include over 200 of the Fortune 500 companies, teams operate under a signature set of FIRST® Core Values to conduct research, fundraise, design, build, and showcase their achievements during annual challenges. An international not-for-profit organization founded by accomplished inventor Dean Kamen in 1989, FIRST® has a proven impact on STEM learning, interest, and skill-building well beyond high school. Alumni of FIRST® programs gain access to exclusive scholarships, internships, and other opportunities that create connections and open pathways to a wide variety of careers. Learn more at FIRST@inspires.org.

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