



AERIAL **DRONE** COMPETITION



JUDGED AWARD DESCRIPTIONS & CRITERIA

The following pages contain award descriptions and list key criteria for each award and are useful in guiding judges' nominations and deliberations.

Event partners and judge advisors may wish to print these pages and tape them to a wall or whiteboard to assist the judges. Some event partners and judge advisors find it helpful to print these descriptions and laminate them or place them in plastic sheet protectors for use at multiple events.

Not all events will give out all awards. Each judge advisor should consult with their event partner to determine which awards will be presented at an event.

Note for event partners: The standard ADC trophy pack includes the following name plates for the required judged awards: All-Around Champion, Communications Mission Award, Coding Award, Airmanship Award, and Judges Award. If you decide to present any of the other awards listed in this document, their name plates are not included in the standard trophy pack, so please plan accordingly.



ALL-AROUND CHAMPION

The All-Around Champion recognizes a team that excels in both the judged award and performance award categories. This team demonstrates outstanding competition performance, high-quality written and verbal communication skills, and exemplary team conduct, sportsmanship and professionalism. This team is committed to excellence in everything they do.

KEY CRITERIA:

- ALL of the criteria of the Communications Mission Champion Award
- The team is a candidate in consideration for other judged awards.
- The team exhibits positive team conduct, good sportsmanship, and professionalism.
- The team is at or near the top of the competition notebook rankings with a fully developed notebook; submission of a competition notebook is required.
- The team is at or near the top of the team interview rankings with an interview that demonstrates effective communication skills, teamwork and professionalism.
- At the conclusion of alliance/teamwork matches, the team is ranked in the top 50% of teams in alliance rankings.
- At the conclusion of the solo piloting and solo autonomous flight missions, the team is ranked in the top 50% of teams in the solo rankings.
- Participation in both the solo piloting mission and the solo autonomous flight mission is required, with a score greater than 0 in each mission.



ALL-AROUND CHAMPION AWARD NOTES:

- Incorporates all the criteria of the Communications Mission Award, plus the added component of a team's on-field performance at the event.
- Required award if judging occurs at an event.
- Under certain conditions, at "blended" events that combine both grade levels (elementary and middle school or middle and high school for RECF ADC), one All-Around Champion Award per grade level may be awarded. This is determined by the [RECF Drones Qualifying Criteria](#).
 - In the instance of two grade-level specific All-Around Champion Awards being presented at an event, teams are only compared to teams of the same grade level. This includes quantitative event data, such as rankings.
 - When only one All-Around Champion Award is given out for an event with multiple grade levels, all teams are considered together regardless of their grade level. For example, in a 25-team blended event with a single All-Around Champion Award, 50% of 25 teams is 12.5, which rounds up to 13 teams. Therefore, to be eligible for All-Around Champion, a team must be ranked in the top 13 in the event for the applicable performance metrics to qualify the team for consideration for the All-Around Champion Award.
 - If the event had 10 teams of one grade level and 15 in the other, and the event meets the requirements for two grade level specific All-Around Champion Awards, then 50% of 10 teams is 5, and 50% of 15 is 7.5 which rounds up to 8. In this instance, teams would need to be ranked 5th or higher or 8th or higher **within their respective grade levels** in the above performance metrics to be eligible for the grade-level specific All-Around Champion Award.



COMMUNICATIONS MISSION CHAMPION

The Communications Mission Champion recognizes a team that demonstrates an organized, systematic, and professional approach to written and verbal communication, as demonstrated through their team interview and competition notebook.

KEY CRITERIA:

- The team is at or near the top of the team interview rankings.
 - The team exhibits a high-quality team interview.
 - Team interview demonstrates effective communication skills, teamwork, and professionalism.
 - Team interview demonstrates students' ability to explain their alliance/teamwork mission, solo autonomous flight mission, and solo piloting mission strategies.
- The team is at or near the top of competition notebook rankings.
 - Submission of a competition notebook is required.
 - The competition notebook demonstrates clear, complete, and organized records.
 - The competition notebook includes documentation of programming that includes multiple iterations.
 - The competition notebook and team interview demonstrate student-centered ethos.
- The team demonstrates effective management of time, talent, and resources.



JUDGES AWARD

The Judges Award recognizes a team that the judges feel is deserving of special recognition.

KEY CRITERIA:

- The team exhibits a high-quality team interview.
- The team demonstrates special attributes, exemplary effort, and perseverance at the event.
- The team overcomes an obstacle or challenge and achieves a goal or special accomplishment.
- The team interview demonstrates effective communication skills, teamwork, professionalism, and a student-centered ethos.



CODING AWARD

The Coding Award recognizes the team with the most effective and consistent use of coding techniques and programming design solutions used in the solo autonomous flight mission. This award is earned by a team that demonstrates a solid understanding of programming concepts and documented multiple iterations to find programming solutions.

KEY CRITERIA:

- Participation in the solo autonomous flight mission is required, with a score greater than 0.
- The competition notebook demonstrates a clear, complete, and organized record of the programming management process, including version history.
 - Programs are cleanly written, well annotated, and documented in the competition notebook.
 - Strategies are well documented from initial conception through execution.
- Students demonstrate an understanding of programming concepts and can explain how they worked together to develop their drone's programming.



AIRMANSHIP AWARD

The Airmanship Award recognizes a team that consistently exhibits good judgment, demonstrates well-developed skills to accomplish mission objectives, and is dedicated to understanding and maintaining drone safety rules and regulations.

KEY CRITERIA:

- The team demonstrates knowledge and understanding of all four missions, their purpose, and how they connect with one another.
- The team demonstrates understanding of, and maintains situational and safety awareness.
- The team demonstrates effective leadership skills, communication skills, teamwork, and professionalism.
- The team uses appropriate drone and/or aviation terminology where applicable.
- The team members are aware of drone safety rules and regulations, which may include:
 - Completion of [FAA Trust \(U.S. Teams Only\)](#)
 - Completion of Robolink's ["Getting Started"](#) course
 - Pre- and post-flight checklists
 - Flight logs
- The team exhibits integrity and goodwill towards other teams, coaches, and spectators.
- The team demonstrates a student-centered ethos.



INSPIRE AWARD

The Inspire Award recognizes a team that exhibits passion for the competition and positivity at the event.

KEY CRITERIA:

- Team exhibits passion and a positive attitude at the event.
- Team exhibits integrity and goodwill toward other teams, coaches, and event staff.
- Team overcomes an obstacle or challenge, or achieves a goal or special accomplishment at the event.
- Team interview demonstrates effective communication skills, teamwork, professionalism, and a student-centered ethos.



SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD*

The Sportsmanship Award recognizes a team that exhibits a high degree of good sportsmanship, helpfulness, respect, and a positive attitude both on and off the competition field at the event.

KEY CRITERIA:

- Team is courteous, helpful, and respectful to everyone, on and off the field.
- Team interacts with others in the spirit of friendly competition and cooperation.
- Team acts with honesty and integrity, enriching the event experience for all.

*Potentially a volunteer-nominated award. Volunteers at the event may discuss amongst themselves and nominate teams for consideration.



ENERGY AWARD*

The Energy Award recognizes a team that exhibits outstanding enthusiasm and excitement at the event.

KEY CRITERIA:

- Team maintains a high level of enthusiasm and excitement throughout the event.
- Team exhibits a passion for the competition that enriches the event experience for all.

*Potentially a volunteer-nominated award. Volunteers at the event may discuss amongst themselves and nominate teams for consideration.



TEAM SPIRIT AWARD*

The Team Spirit Award recognizes a team that has an approach to team identity, image, and theme that unifies team logos, uniforms, and overall aesthetics.

KEY CRITERIA:

- Team has an effective and original logo or theme.
- Team's logo, apparel, pit space, and other collateral represent a unified aesthetic.
- Team aesthetic has a positive and respectful message and/or cultural significance, and a bold approach to a memorable team identity.
- Team enhances the event experience for all by exhibiting positive energy and good sportsmanship throughout the event.

*Potentially a volunteer-nominated award. Volunteers at the event may discuss amongst themselves and nominate teams for consideration.



INDIVIDUAL RECOGNITION AWARDS*

Mentor of the Year

The Mentor of the Year Award recognizes a team mentor who has helped students achieve goals that were seemingly out of reach. This individual is a role model, a leader, and an extraordinary mentor who shows students new ways to expand their knowledge and solve problems in the world of STEM.

Partner of the Year

The Partner of the Year Award recognizes an organization that consistently supports students and schools as they pursue excellence in competitive drone programs. The recipient of this award is recognized as a champion who dedicates their time, abilities, and resources to ensure affordability and accessibility for all participants.

Teacher of the Year

The Teacher of the Year Award recognizes a teacher who shows true leadership and dedication to their students. The winner of this award continually exceeds expectations to ensure a safe, enjoyable, and educational experience for all students.

Volunteer of the Year

The Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes an individual who leads the effort to “make things happen.” Hosting a drone event takes the collective effort of many people who give their time and effort for the sake of the participants. The Volunteer of the Year demonstrates a commitment and devotion to their community, putting in many hours of hard work with persistence and passion to make events happen.

*These awards recognize the contributions of a volunteer, mentor, teacher, or sponsor and are determined by the Event Partner. Judges do not determine the winners of individual recognition awards. Event Partners may create their own process for selecting these award recipients, if needed.