

FIRST Robotics – Georgian College Event

Saturday, March 16

When and where:

- Opening ceremonies are 11 to 11:30 a.m. (please arrive by 10:45)
- Barrie Campus Athletics Centre (J building)
- Parking in lots A and F will be free that day



Background:

- At FIRST Robotics events, teams of high school students compete with 140-pound robots they built and programmed from scratch
- Robots are judged in arena-style battles with [set rules and objectives](#)
- [27 teams](#) have registered to compete at Georgian — five from Michigan, three from Simcoe County, and the rest from across Ontario
- Georgian hosts this [three-day event](#) to help inspire and support the next generation of innovators

Expectations:

- Opening ceremonies mark the beginning of official competition and help build excitement
- You'll be the last speaker before the emcee officially announces the start of qualifying matches
- Your goals are to wish the teams luck and push Georgian innovation messaging in a fun way that incorporates the Deep Space theme
- Please limit your remarks to two minutes or less

Opening ceremonies will include:

- 10:45 a.m. – Robot practice rounds end
- 11 a.m. – Opening remarks, FIRST Robotics emcee
- Canadian and American national anthems
- John Brassard, MP, Barrie—Innisfil
- Alex Nuttall, MP, Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte
- Doug Downey, MPP, Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte
- Andrea Khanjin, MPP, Barrie—Innisfil
- Barry Burton, Deputy Warden, County of Simcoe
- Jeff Lehman, Mayor, City of Barrie
- **MaryLynn West-Moynes, President and CEO, Georgian College**
- Closing remarks, FIRST Robotics emcee
- 11:30 a.m. – Start of qualifying matches

Audience:

- 27 teams of high school students, most of them from Ontario
- 100 volunteers from our community, including Georgian staff and students
- 900 spectators, most of them friends and family of competitors

Contact:

Lisa Banks, Vice President, External Relations and Enrolment, Georgian College
705.817.0263 or lisa.banks@georgiancollege.ca

Suggested speaking points

- Thanks to:
 - MP Brassard
 - MP Nuttall
 - MPP Downey
 - MPP Khanjin [pronounced “can gin”]
 - Deputy Warden Burton
 - and Mayor Lehman
- for being part of Georgian College’s third FIRST Robotics Competition, presented by the Nissan Canada Foundation.
- On behalf of Georgian, I’d like to welcome everyone to our Barrie Campus.
 - Teams: We’re excited you’re here!
 - Parents, friends and family: Thanks for everything you do to support these young innovators.
 - Local sponsors: Thanks for helping to inspire a love of science and technology.
 - Volunteers: This competition wouldn’t be possible without you.

- This event includes many of my favourite things:
 - students
 - science and technology
 - community involvement
 - healthy competition
 - fun
 - and this year, space.
- The moon landing was an unprecedented achievement for humanity.
- It took thousands of people working together — developing brand new technologies — to get there.
- Students, you may not be building rockets today. But you *will* be using:
 - teamwork
 - problem solving
 - perseverance
 - and technology
- to overcome challenges and reach new heights.
- To me, that's what innovation is all about.

- And at Georgian, we believe it's crucial to support the next generation of innovators.
- Our students don't just learn how to use the latest robotic, electronic, and manufacturing technology.
- They're taught to be changemakers and creators. They:
 - start their own businesses
 - help prototype and test products
 - and conduct research for industry partners.
- In many ways, the experience they gain at Georgian builds on the skills you've developed for this competition.
- Our communities need people with these skills, whether to overcome shared challenges or reach deep space.
- And as they said in Cape Canaveral when they launched Apollo 11, good luck and Godspeed!