

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NH TechFest 2009 Aims to Cultivate Student Excitement about Careers in Science and Technology**

**Technical extravaganza will feature exciting demonstrations, hands-on activities, contests and entertainment, along with enlightening educational experiences.**

[Derry, NH - October 1, 2009] - On Saturday, November 14, 2009, FIRST Robotics Team 241 and Pinkerton Academy will host the 1st Annual New Hampshire TechFest, an all-day extravaganza of enlightening science and technology demonstrations, hands-on activities, and overall cool experiences. The festival will run from 9am to 3pm, and will be held in the Hackler Field House at Pinkerton Academy in Derry NH. Admission is free for everyone.

The goal of the NH TechFest 2009 is to demonstrate the immediate and future relevance of studies in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) to middle and high school age students. We are inviting a variety of leading edge technologists, corporations, educational institutions, and professional societies to showcase and share their work with an audience of young, eager minds and potentially, future colleagues and employees. The overall hope is that the TechFest will bring students to understand how studies in the STEM fields are becoming absolutely critical to success in all of the most desirable careers of tomorrow.

Along with multiple interactive mini-workshops, there will be displays and demonstrations of the latest developments in science and technology including robotics, industrial machines, safety devices, and research equipment. Many scientific and technical organizations will also be on hand to educate students and parents about educational and career opportunities.

Contests, music, games, and entertaining lectures will also be offered. The featured contest will be an apple-tossing Trebuchet contest, in which teams of students and adult mentors from throughout New England will build catapult-like machines and compete to see who can throw an apple with the most accuracy. A generous donation of over \$1800 in tools from the Tire Warehouse will serve as prizes for the top three finishers in the competition.

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## **NH TechFest 2009 Aims to Cultivate Student Excitement ... (Page 2)**

Among the many activities and attractions at NH TechFest 2009 will be:

- **Cinematic Special Effects:** A special effects engineer who has worked on several major Hollywood productions will be on hand to exhibit models and casts used in recent feature films, as well as to demonstrate the science behind some of the most amazing effects.
- **Robotics:** In addition to displays and demonstrations of various FIRST competition robots, additional exhibits will show the ever increasing range of everyday applications for robotic technologies.
- **Health Sciences:** Attendees will learn about the future of medical training through the use of a life-like electronic mannequin. They will be able to explore the latest in non-invasive medical imaging by using an ultrasound system to examine and identify hidden objects. Other activities will allow students to conduct their own DNA extraction experiment, and observe the processes involved in pharmaceutical development and manufacturing.
- **Engineering:** Build a tower out of paper and see whose can hold the most weight. Learn about the many sources of groundwater pollution and how it can be avoided. Learn about wind chill and how geothermal energy can be harnessed to both heat and cool your home. Learn how side-scan sonar equipment was used to find the sunken Titanic!
- **Professional Applications:** Learn the science and math behind GPS and other surveying technologies. Learn about the latest advancements in air traffic safety and control. Learn how a good foundation in science and math are critical to CSI investigations and in fire investigations and safety!

### **What is STEM education and why is it important?**

STEM is an acronym for Science - Technology - Engineering – Mathematics. These areas of study are the foundations of the knowledge and technologies that are employed every day in the development of products and processes that make our world a safer, more productive, and enjoyable place to live.

Modern cell phones, computers and automobiles would not be possible without solid foundations in math and science. Our country needs more students engaged in the STEM areas to keep our economy productive and growing. This is where the jobs are now, and will be in the future. It's serious and demanding work... but the goal of NH TechFest is to also demonstrate just how much fun it can be!

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## **NH TechFest 2009 Aims to Cultivate Student Excitement ... (Page 3)**

### **About FIRST Robotics Team 241**

The FIRST mission (<http://www.usfirst.org>) is "...to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership."

Team 241, the "Astros", is a group of Pinkerton Academy students and their mentors who compete annually in the FIRST Robotics Competition. They are also active year-round in a variety of community outreach, education, and fundraising activities. The team believes strongly and knows first-hand the value and importance of the STEM fields of study in today's society. Team 241 believes that the NH TechFest 2009 is their most ambitious and most important community outreach project to date. More information about the team may be found at <http://www.team241.org> .

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