

May 2015

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BLOG by Dan Green

Dan's latest blog may be found on the Illinois *FIRST* [website](#). Any questions on Illinois *FIRST* programs or events may be directed to Dan at dgreen@usfirst.org.



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU ...

CHAMPIONSHIPS

Thank you to everyone from Illinois who volunteered to support the World Championship in St. Louis April 22-25. *FIRST* is a volunteer driven organization. An event of this magnitude took volunteers from all over the world to make it successful. A wrap-up of the event for all *FIRST* programs at Champs may be found [here](#).

ROBOT BLOCK PARTY AT MSI

Thanks to the many Illinois *FIRST* teams that attended the annual Robot Block Party at the Museum of Science and Industry on April 4, 11, and 12.



Registration is now closed for the 2014-2015 season for Jr.FLL. We had 158 Jr.FLL teams register this season in Illinois. The Waste Wise season will open for registrations in August. Be prepared to look at trash in a whole new way!

The teams from Illinois that attended World Festival Expo and their awards are:

- #12, The LEGO Cellos, Springfield – Simply Awesome Machine Award
- #234, Mighty Mustangs, Oswego – Master Programmer Award
- #1595, LEGO Brothers & Friends, North Aurora – Inquiring Minds Award
- #3181, Pink Peacocks, O'Fallon – Against All Odds Award

There is now an Illinois Jr.FLL Yahoo group for coaches and parents to post questions about the Jr.FLL program or challenge, and to share coaching strategies and resources. It is a restricted group and will function

similar to the FLL Yahoo group. The group name is jrfl_illinois. Jr.FLL coaches - if you have not yet done so, please complete the Jr.FLL [survey](#).

Specific questions may be directed to our Illinois Jr.FLL program partner, Mary Buchanan, at jrFLL-contact@ILfirst.org.



Our 1st Place Champions from each of our Championship tournaments attended the FIRST LEGO League World Festival in April. The teams and their awards:

#2936, HIPPIES, Peoria – Champion's Award Finalist
#5591, RoboPop, Lake Villa – 2nd place Gracious Professionalism

We wish the best of luck to the following teams that will be representing Illinois at the FLL World Class Open Championship at LEGOLAND, Carlsbad, CA, and the FLL Razorback Invitational at the University of Arkansas.

#4511 Lovely Lego Ladies, Crystal Lake - LEGOLAND
#4355 Fuzzy Pink Bunnies of Doom, Buffalo Grove - LEGOLAND
#13658 Team Technicians, Fairview Heights -LEGOLAND
#2981 The Thinkinators, East Peoria - Razorback Invitational

We also wish the best of luck to #3077, Newton Busters, Wilmette, who will represent Illinois at the FLL Asia Pacific Open in Sydney, Australia in July.

National registrations will open in the first week of May for the upcoming Trash Trek season.

Specific questions may be directed to our Illinois FLL program partner, Diane Michalczyk, at contactflillinois@gmail.com.



Way to go Illinois FTC teams at World Championships. Awards and rankings are as follows:

#5037, got robot?, Elgin - Compass award nominee, PTC Design Award nominee, Think Award nominee, Inspire Award nominee
#7129, Robo Raiders, Troy -- Control Award nominee, Think Award nominee

Edison Division

#14 5200 Robots Incorporated, Barrington
#21 7129 Robo Raiders, Troy

Franklin Division

#27 5037 got robot?, Elgin
#46 7006 RoboTitans, Chicago
#47 6007 Octopi, Crystal Lake

Get to know the 2016 FTC Controller by signing up for [training](#). Signing up for the mailing list will ensure you receive the latest news and information on FTC Curriculum as well as other *FIRST* updates.

Specific questions may be directed to either of our Illinois FTC program partners: Sue Kunzeman at FTC-contact@ILfirst.org or Jonathan Weiland at jwFTCil@gmail.com.



FIRST® Robotics Competition



Congratulations to the following Illinois FRC team award winners from March regional competitions:

#111, WildStang – Creativity Award, Midwest
#1736, Robot Casserole – Team Spirit Award, Midwest
#1756, Argos – Regional Finalists and Excellence in Engineering, Midwest
#2338, Gear It Forward – Regional Chairman’s Award and Regional Finalists, Midwest
#3061, Huskie Robotics – Gracious Professionalism Award, Midwest
#3352, Flaming Monkeys – Imagery Award, Midwest
#4143, MARS/WARS – Regional Winners, Midwest
#4645, X-Machina – Judge’s Award, Midwest

Congratulations to Steve Garward #111 for Woodie Flowers Finalist Award, Midwest. Congratulations to Diane Cabiness IL FIRST Senior Mentor for Volunteer Award, Midwest. Congratulations to Neil #4096 and Veronica #111 for FIRST Dean’s List Finalist Awards, Midwest.

At the FRC Championship, we had 12 Illinois teams in attendance. A list of teams, awards & avg. qual scores:

#111 – WildStang, Schaumburg (129.2)
#1208 – Metool Brigade, O’Fallon (139.5)
#1625, Winnovation, Winnebago (110.4)
#1756, Argos, Peoria – Subdivision finalist, Newton (159.5)
#2039, Rockford Robotics, Rockford (115.1)
#2338, Gear It Forward, Oswego – Subdivision winner, Archimedes (147.9)
#2451, PWNAGE, St. Charles – Creativity Award, Galileo-Carson Division (140.7)
#2481, Roboteers, Tremont (182.8)

#3352, Flaming Monkeys, Belvidere (107.3)
#4143, MARS/WARS, Metamora (153.8)
#4213, MetalCow Robotics, Bloomington (124.9)
#5442, Mechanical Monarchy, Washington – Highest Rookie Seed, Curie-Carver Division (142.9)

An FRC Workshop is planned for Saturday, September 19, at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy in Aurora. All Illinois FRC teams are welcome to attend. More details soon, but mark your calendars now for an event you won’t want to miss.



SENIOR MENTOR CORNER

The Senior Mentor Corner is a potpourri of events and activities that may be of interest to teams or students of our Illinois *FIRST* teams. Some information will be directly from *FIRST* HQ. Other events/activities may not necessarily be sanctioned functions of *FIRST* or Illinois *FIRST* but may be of general interest to our teams regarding fun events, fundraising, etc.

ALUMNI

Congratulations to our graduating seniors. Be sure to sign up for the *FIRST* alumni network on [LinkedIn](#). The *FIRST* website has more information on [internships](#) and [scholarships](#).

ROBOT REVOLUTION AT MSI

A new exhibit, [Robot Revolution](#), will premier May 21 at the Museum of Science and Industry. The premier day also happens to be one of the free admission days for MSI. Additional free days may be found [here](#) for MSI and other Chicago museums.

TIMS

Please note that the Team Information Management System is closed until summer. If you need to communicate with other teams, please contact your Illinois program partner, FIRST Senior Mentor, or Regional Director.

R2OC

The 3rd annual Rock River Off-Season Competition will be July 24-25 at Rock Valley College in Rockford. FRC team registration is available [now](#). Volunteer registration opens the middle of May. Non-FRC teams are welcome to come on July 25 to watch the friendly competition.

OUTREACH / TRAINING

We encourage teams to plan some summer outreach activities at neighborhood fairs and festivals. Summer is a good time to fundraise by offering workshops, clinics, and classes for your community. Summer is also a good time to schedule some in-house training in anticipation of the upcoming season.

Diane Cabiness, FIRST Senior Mentor – Illinois
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