



Museum of Nature and Science

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“SATURN V GIRLS” TEAM FROM THE HOCKADAY SCHOOL WINS 1ST PLACE CHAMPION’S AWARD AT 11TH ANNUAL NORTH TEXAS FIRST LEGO® LEAGUE REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP ROBOTICS TOURNAMENT

Months exploring the complex world of the vast expanse of space pays off for the “Saturn V Girls” as they advance to the World Festival in Houston April 17-20; “Axis of Eagles” from Carrollton’s Prince of Peace Christian School takes 2nd place and “Ambassador Lightning” from Fort Worth’s Bethesda Christian School takes 3rd place

DALLAS (Feb. 12, 2019) – After months of intense preparation, nearly 600 North Texas youth came ready to compete at the 11th-annual **North Texas FIRST LEGO® League (FLL) Regional Championship Robotics Tournament** held Feb. 9 at Parish Episcopal School and Community Center. Tasked with this season’s “INTO ORBIT” robotics competition challenge, the teams have spent hours studying the vast expanse of space and coming up with innovative solutions using science and technology. Winning the 1st place Champion’s Award was the “Saturn V Girls” team, with students from The Hockaday School in Dallas, who will advance to the World Festival in Houston April 17-20. The 2nd place team – “Axis of Eagles” (with students from Carrollton’s Prince of Peace Christian School) – will also head to the World Festival.

Taking 3rd place, the “Ambassador Lightning” team with students from Fort Worth’s Bethesda Christian School will head to the LEGOLAND® North American Open in Carlsbad, Calif., May 17-19. And taking 4th place, the “STAR Fleet” team with students from Frisco will advance to the Razorback Invitational in Fayetteville, Ark., May 16-19.

Each Champion’s Award team was recognized for fully embracing the FLL Core Values while achieving excellence and innovation in the robot game and project.

Produced by the **Perot Museum of Nature and Science** and supported by **ARCO/Murray, Rockwell Collins** and **USAA**, the FLL competition featured 60 teams of nearly 600 young “engineers in training” who learned about research and experimentation, teamwork skills and robot-design strategies. Teams also built and programmed an autonomous robot using LEGO® MINDSTORMS technology to score points in 2.5-minute “mission” matches on a space-themed playing field.

The **Perot Museum of Nature and Science** has been the affiliate and operational partner for the North Texas FLL region since 2008. The Museum coordinates and oversees all North Texas FLL events, the largest of which is the Regional Championship Tournament typically held in February. FLL continues to grow in North Texas, from 25 teams in 2008 to 469 teams registered for the 2018 season.

“FLL is not only fun and competitive, but teaches critical thinking, team-building, and presentation skills that will be key for our future workforce,” said Dr. Linda Silver, Eugene McDermott CEO of the Perot Museum. “This program serves as a gateway for kids to pursue careers in STEM, which is pivotal to the Perot Museum’s mission to inspire minds through nature and science. Our region touts one of the fastest-growing leagues, and we look forward to producing the championship event for years to come.”

This year’s FLL journey began in August 2018, when 4,600 North Texas students ages 9-14 – and approximately 323,500 students worldwide – received the “INTO ORBIT” theme. They spent the next few months studying real-world challenges associated with the vast expanse of space and coming up with innovative solutions using science and technology. After qualifying rounds took place in December and January, nearly 600 North Texas youth qualified for the regional tournament.

Sponsors, supporters and exhibitors

The North Texas FLL Championship Robotics Tournament was produced by the **Perot Museum of Nature and Science**, supported by **ARCO/Murray, Rockwell Collins** and **USAA**, and hosted by **Parish Episcopal School and Community Center**. Qualifier hosts were **Bethesda Christian School, Braswell High School, Fellowship Christian Academy, Ford Middle School, Heritage Middle School, Hillsboro Junior High, Illuminate STEM, O.P Norman Jr. High, Nolan Catholic High School, Parish Episcopal School, Sunset High School, Vanston Middle School, and Williams High School**.

For more information on North Texas **FIRST LEGO® League (FLL)**, go to perotmuseum.org/FLL.

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About the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. *The top cultural attraction in Dallas/Fort Worth and a Michelin Green Guide three-star destination, the Perot Museum of Nature and Science is a nonprofit educational organization located in the heart of Dallas, Texas. With a mission to inspire minds through nature and science, the Perot Museum delivers exciting, engaging and innovative visitor and outreach experiences through its education, exhibition, and research and collections programming for children, students, teachers, families and life-long learners. The 180,000-square-foot facility in Victory Park opened in December 2012 and is now recognized as the symbolic gateway to the Dallas Arts District. Future scientists, mathematicians and engineers will find inspiration and enlightenment through 11 permanent exhibit halls on five floors of public space; a children's museum; a state-of-the art traveling exhibition hall; and The Heglund Foundation Theater, a National Geographic Experience. Designed by 2005 Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureate Thom Mayne and his firm Morphosis Architects, the Victory Park museum has been lauded for its artistry and sustainability. To learn more, please visit perotmuseum.org.*

About FIRST. *FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was founded in 1989 by inventor Dean Kamen to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. Based in Manchester, NH, FIRST is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity. FIRST is supported by a strong network of sponsors and volunteers. FIRST provides the FIRST Robotics Competition for high-school students and the FIRST LEGO® League for 9 to 14 year-olds. FIRST also offers the Junior FIRST LEGO® League for 6 to 9 year-olds and the FIRST Tech Challenge, a mid-level robotics competition that offers high-school students a more affordable and accessible opportunity to participate in FIRST. For more information, visit usfirst.org.*

About The LEGO® Group. *The LEGO® Group, a privately held, family-owned company based in Billund, Denmark, is one of the world's leading manufacturers of high quality, creatively educational play materials for children. The company is committed to the development of children's creative and imaginative abilities, and its employees are guided by the motto adopted in the 1930s by founder Ole Kirk Christiansen: "Only the best is good enough." For more information, visit LEGO.com.*

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