



PRESS RELEASE

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Surry County School System FLL Teams Qualify for State Competition

Surry County Schools is pleased to announce several district FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Teams qualified to advance for state competition after successfully placing at regional qualifiers. Regional qualifiers were held at Flat Rock Middle in Winston-Salem, and Winston-Salem State University last weekend. The regional qualifiers were the next step in route to state competition after teams of middle school students from across Surry and Yadkin Counties competed in the 2018 Surry First LEGO League Competition in November.

“FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL®) is an exciting and fun global robotics program that ignites an enthusiasm for discovery of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) in children ages 9 to 16 (9 to 14 in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico).”¹ Annually, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) selects a theme and develops a series of missions for students to be inspired to become science and technology leaders and innovators. Students build and program robots to complete these missions, “overcome obstacles and meet challenges”.² Teams work together collaboratively to solve real-world problems and demonstrate the league’s core values of teamwork, leadership, and initiative.

The Surry County School System has been actively participating in FLL for six years. Each middle school has three teams with up to ten members per team. The following teams placed at their regional qualifying competitions and will advance to state competition on February 2, 2019.

The Galactic Gals, from Gentry Middle, coached by Mrs. Karen Hodges, placed 1st for Teamwork and qualified as an alternate for state competition in February. Meadowview Magnet Middle’s team, the Space Monkeys, coached by Mrs. Tammy Taylor, were awarded the Robot Design-Mechanical Design Award and will advance to state competition on February 2nd. Additionally, the Galaxy Invaders from Pilot Mountain Middle, coached by Mrs. Neelam Awan, earned the Innovative Solution Award and will advance to state competition as well.

¹ <https://www.ncflandftc.com/what-is-firstreg-LEGOreg-league.html>

² <https://www.ncflandftc.com/what-is-firstreg-legoreg-league.html>

Two other Meadowview Magnet Middle teams received awards but will not advance to state competition. The Celestial Thunder-Bots and the Planet Skittles received the Judges Award and the Robot Design-Programming Award respectively.

The FLL State Championship Competition will be held at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University in Greensboro, North Carolina. Teams will be rated on a stringent judges rubric on the following; project, robot design, and core values.

Superintendent, Dr. Travis L. Reeves, commented, "I want to congratulate all of our FIRST LEGO League teams and coaches for such outstanding achievements at the state qualifying tournaments. Teams competed at a high level of excellence and demonstrated FLL core values. We are proud to offer students this unique opportunity to make learning fun and engaging, build cooperation and collaboration among team members, and simultaneously foster a competitive spirit to solve current and relevant problems. Each team represented their school and Surry County Schools well, and we wish teams and coaches much success in the state competition on February 2, 2019."

