

Teams from Montana FIRST robotics competitions at MSU advance to nationals

BOZEMAN – Several teams that participated in the FIRST robotics competition hosted by Montana State University’s College of Engineering will advance to national competitions or have been nominated for awards.

On January 27, 36 teams composed of students grades 7-12 from Montana, Wyoming, Idaho and Utah participated in the Montana state championship for the FIRST Tech Challenge. On January 28, 72 teams composed of students grades 4-8 from across Montana participated in the state championship for Montana’s FIRST Lego League.

FIRST Lego League teams at the event were scored on the performance of their robots, which were assembled using animal-themed Lego kits and programmed to perform “missions” on pool table-sized playing fields. During interviews that took place the morning of the event, judges also evaluated teams’ research work, overall innovation and “gracious professionalism,” among other things.

Teams with strong scores in robot performance and other categories are considered for the overall Champion’s Award.

The Beauties and the Beast team, of Billings, won the first place Champion’s Award, and will advance to the FIRST World Championships in Houston, Texas, U.S. on April 19-22.

The Beebots team, of Missoula, won second place in the Champion’s Award, and will go to the LEGOLAND® North American Open held in Carlsbad, California on May 19-21.

The Meadow Hill RoboTicks, of Missoula, were nominated for the FIRST Lego League Global Innovation Award, which is presented by XPRIZE® to showcase the real-world, innovative solutions that FIRST Lego League teams create as a result of their Project. The RoboTicks designed a tool to benefit both humans and animals for the First Lego League competition. After conducting research and consulting with bear experts, the RoboTicks designed a backpack attachment called the "Bear Be Friend" that can be quickly inflated to deter bear attacks.

The three top-ranking FIRST Tech Challenge teams will advance to the Super-Regional Championship for the West Region, held March 10-12 in Tacoma, Washington.

1st Place: X Team Musketeers, Helena

2nd Place: RedNeK Robotics Wun, Sun River

3rd Place: Fusion, Helena

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a non-profit organization designed to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology, to motivate them to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math, and to encourage team-building, imagination and critical thinking skills.

Initially orchestrated by the Montana Space Grant Consortium and now organized through the College of Engineering, MSU has been involved with the Montana chapter of FIRST for more than a decade.

FIRST LEGO League detailed results:

Champion's Award

1st: Beauties and the Beast, Billings
2nd: BeeBots, Missoula

Robot Awards

Robot Performance

1st: Lego Robo Pro Bros, Helena
2nd: Magic City Mechanics, Billings

Mechanical Design

1st: Alphabots, Missoula
2nd: Falcon Robotics, Florence

Programming

1st: Mindcrafters, Billings
2nd: Lego my Eggo, Eureka

Strategy & Innovation

1st: Helena Brainstorm, Helena
2nd: Arrowhead Robot World, Billings

Project Awards

Research

1st: Ernie's Attorneys, Missoula
2nd: BARCbots, Billings

Innovative Solution

1st: Meadow Hill Robo-Ticks, Missoula
2nd: Shorty Squad, Helena

Presentation

1st: Green Mustangs, Butte
2nd: Twin Busters, Missoula

Core Values Awards

Inspiration

1st: Go Go Gadget Girls, Frenchtown
2nd: Mission Mountain Hoggers, Ronan

Teamwork

1st: Butte Mustangs 2, Butte
2nd: #BeesLivesMatter, Missoula

Gracious Professionalism

1st: RoboSharks, Billings

2nd: Fort Benton Freaks of Nature, Fort Benton

FIRST Tech Challenge detailed results

Advancement Criteria	Team #
1. Inspire Award Winner	7208
2. Montana State FTC Championship Winning Alliance Captain	724
3. Inspire Award Finalist 2	4133
4. Montana State FTC Championship Winning Alliance First Pick	5667
5. Inspire Award Finalist 3	3188
6. Montana State FTC Championship Winning Alliance Second Pick	4535
7. Think Award Winner	5025
8. Montana State FTC Championship Finalist Alliance Captain	12239
9. Connect Award Winner	3188 - Advancing Above
10. Montana State FTC Championship Finalist Alliance First Pick	3188 - Advancing Above
11. Rockwell Collins Innovate Award Winner	10595
12. Montana State FTC Championship Finalist Alliance Second Pick	9112
13. PTC Design Award Winner	8271
14. Motivate Award Winner	6088
15. Control Award Winner	9112 - Advancing Above
16. Highest Ranked Team Not Currently Advancing	5026
17. Think Award Finalist 2	No team selected
18. Highest Ranked Team Not Currently Advancing	11944
19. Connect Award Finalist 2	4604

20. Highest Ranked Team Not Currently Advancing	5024
21. Rockwell Collins Innovate Award Finalist 2	10731
22. Highest Ranked Team Not Currently Advancing	9084
23. PTC Design Award Finalist 2	7002
24. Highest Ranked Team Not Currently Advancing	658
25. Motivate Award Finalist 2	5024 - Advancing Above
26. Highest Ranked Team Not Currently Advancing	8280
27. Control Award Finalist 2	5667 - Advancing Above
28. Highest Ranked Team Not Currently Advancing	4273
29. Think Award Finalist 3	No team selected
30. Highest Ranked Team Not Currently Advancing	9809
31. Connect Award Finalist 3	No team selected
32. Highest Ranked Team Not Currently Advancing	4813
33. Rockwell Collins Innovate Award Finalist 3	No team selected
34. Highest Ranked Team Not Currently Advancing	7283
35. PTC Design Award Finalist 3	No team selected
36. Highest Ranked Team Not Currently Advancing	8717
37. Motivate Award Finalist 3	No team selected
38. Highest Ranked Team Not Currently Advancing	2879
39. Control Award Finalist 3	No team selected

Team #	Name	School	City	State	Country
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54	Gr3y Matt3r		Bozeman	MT	USA
658	Grounded Robotics		Helena	MT	USA
724	RedNek Robotics Wun		Sun River	MT	USA
2879	T3CH 5QU@D		Bozeman	MT	USA
3188	Squiggle Spat Band		Powell	WY	USA
4133	Fusion		Helena	MT	USA
4273	Aluminati		Themopolis	WY	USA
4535	RedNek Robotics Too		Sun River	MT	USA
4557	Binary Logic		Belgrade	MT	USA
4604	The Force		Helena	MT	USA
4813	Bruce Wayne and CO		Belgrade	MT	USA
5024	Central Pigeon Intelligence (CPI)		Twin Falls	ID	USA
5025	Flyers		Twin Falls	ID	USA
5026	Tesla Coils		Kimberly	ID	USA
5646	FERGUS ONE		Lewistown	MT	USA
5667	Robominers 2.0		Park City	UT	USA
5720	Axolotls		Helena	MT	USA
5895	The Ladybots		Park City	UT	USA
6088	I-Bots		Post Falls	ID	USA
7002	Phetabots		Eureka	MT	USA
7208	X Team		Helena	MT	USA
7283	Fist Full of Axels		Themopolis	WY	USA
8271	Holly Hand Grenades		Eureka	MT	USA
8280	Team Hyperion		Park City	UT	USA
8717	FOUR Zero 6		Thompson Falls	MT	USA
9084	Timber Tech		Big Timber	MT	USA

9112	Skeleton Crew		Salt Lake City	UT	USA
9809	The Untouchables		Eureka,MT	MT	USA
10541	RoboPanthers		Powell	WY	USA
10595	Bison		Great Falls	MT	USA
10731	RadioActive		Powell	WY	USA
11063	eNDVR		Missoula	MT	USA
11944	GFHS Thundering Herd		Great Falls	MT	USA
12239	Matrix		Helena	MT	USA
12332	Atlas		Helena	MT	USA

Contacts

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