The Lake Today

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FIRST LASER Robotics holds fundraiser for Joplin

FIRST LASER team members Kyle Gulshen and Jacob Harmon teach community members how to drive "Jenny" the robot.

The Camdenton R-III *FIRST* LASER team partnered with Ozark Ford to host a "Drive One 4 UR School" fundraiser on Aug. 20. The event was a huge success with 222 test-drives taking place. The event raised $5,000 to be donated to Joplin High School to help their recovery efforts to replace STEM (science, technology, engineering & math) items lost in the F5 tornado that struck Joplin in May.

FIRST robotics LASER team members decided last May at their year-end celebration that they wanted to help Joplin. When Ozark Ford graciously offered to partner with the school, the LASER team knew that they were doing the right thing by donating their hard earned dollars to

help out their Missouri neighbors. As a result of the team's generosity, Ozark Ford is planning a second "Drive One 4 UR School" event in the spring that will directly benefit the LASER team and help the district with the cost incurred for registration fees, travel, lodging, and other expenses of the robotics program.

Courtesy of Camdenton School District

Phil and Toni Morgan prepare to take a test drive with Ozark Ford Manager Dale Lear.

The day of the event, *FIRST* LASER team members from Oak Ridge Intermediate and the High School displayed their robots, allowed community members to drive the robots and explained the goals and objectives of the team. The Camdenton Optimist Club is a team sponsor and graciously volunteered their time to cook out and provide refreshments at the event.

The *FIRST* LASER team would like to thank all community members that came out and supported the "Drive One 4 UR School" event. An official check will be presented to Joplin High School at Friday's football game.

The Camdenton 4-H *FIRST* LASER team is a two-time World Championship qualifier and is beginning its third season this fall.