

Promoting water safety:

Lakers support lifejacket use

- **The Lake of the Ozarks Water Safety Council and Camdenton 4-H FIRST LASER 3284 Robotics Team extended the “Wear It Missouri” campaign's message to a statewide audience with the gathering May 12.**



photo provided: State officials and Lake of the Ozarks residents and students gathered on the steps of the State Capitol Thursday all wearing lifejackets to promote their use on our waterways and raise awareness of general water safety across the Missouri

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It was perhaps an incongruous sight - government suits and dress uniforms alongside blue-jeaned kids all adorned with bright red personal floatation devices as they gathered on the steps of the State Capitol - but it was all in a good cause.

State officials and Lake of the Ozarks residents and students gathered on the steps of the State Capitol Thursday all wearing lifejackets to promote their use on our waterways and raise awareness of general water safety across the Missouri.

The Lake of the Ozarks Water Safety Council and Camdenton 4-H FIRST LASER 3284 Robotics Team extended the “Wear It Missouri” campaign’s message to a statewide audience with the gathering May 12.

Just two days earlier, the robotics team was honored with a resolution from the Missouri House of Representatives for their work on water safety. Team members have worked with their local water safety council over the last two years, teaching water safety and building a robotic boat to be used to promote safety in classrooms and at special events.

Being based in Camdenton at the Lake of the Ozarks, the team has taken on water safety as their primary community service the last two years because members know first-hand how dangerous the Lake of the Ozarks can be, according to co-coach Sherry Comer.

The robotics team is a seven-time recipient of the FIRST Underwriter’s Laboratory safety award at regional events and was in the top three at the World Championship this month. The Camdenton team has adopted safety as a core value and has established the framework for safety leadership in all aspects of its program.

In addition council members and students, Lake area Representatives Rocky Miller, Diane Franklin and David Wood as well as troopers with the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

“I thank the members of the Lake of the Ozarks Water Safety Council for sharing the importance of water safety. I also thank the members of the Camdenton LASER team for joining us and introducing the robotic boat Lil’ Laker, they have designed to help further safety on Missouri waterways,” commented Rep. Miller.