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## Camdenton robotics team competes at FIRST World Championship

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The Camdenton 4-H LASER 3284 robotics team participated at the FIRST World Championship hosted in St. Louis this past week. The FIRST Championships had over 20,000 youth from 900 teams from 41 countries participating at the event in grades K-12 at the America Center, The Dome and Union Station.

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The Camden High School 4-H LASER 3284 team competed in the **FIRST** Robotics Competition (FRC) where 600 teams were divided into eight divisions of 75 teams each. The LASER 3284 finished its ten qualification matches ranked 25th overall out of 75 teams in the Newton Division. The Newton division had 11 former World Championship teams in the tournament bracket. LASER encountered technical difficulties in the first seconds of its first match when a small aluminum shaving bounced into the control module and shorted out the 5V encoders. This limited the capabilities of the robot, except for driving. Feverishly the students and mentors used diagnostics and process of elimination to finally correct the issue late Thursday afternoon. The team worked hard to climb back in the rankings winning five of the next six matches.

The team was awarded Safety Award pins and recognized by the Underwriter Laboratories judges as a top 3 Safety Award finalist of the 150 teams represented in the Hopper and Newton divisions. Team Safety Captain Adriana Sharp and protégé Haley Green were also recognized Saturday morning as the Safety Stars of the Day.



The highlight of the event was when junior Brenden Barbour was selected as one of ten FRC students to be recognized as a Dean's List Winner. There is approximately 50,000 **FIRST**FRC participants around the world of which 165

Dean's List Finalist were selected based off of written nominations to attend the **FIRST** Championship to contend for this award. The Dean's List Award began in 2010 to celebrate outstanding student leaders whose passion for and effectiveness at attaining **FIRST** ideals is exemplary. In an effort to recognize the leadership and dedication of the **FIRST** most outstanding FRC students, the Kamen family sponsors this award for the selected top students. Brenden received several prizes for with this recognition. One prize being an all-expense paid summer camp at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. WPI is a private research university in Worcester, Massachusetts, focusing on the instruction and research of technical arts and applied sciences. While on the east coast Brenden will get to visit Dean Kamen's residence and have dinner with the other Dean's List Winners.

While at the World Championship LASER students were able to attend the Innovation Faire, Scholarship Row and numerous conference workshops while attending the event. Opening and closing ceremonies also had influential guest speakers from NASA, Department of Defense, and Dean of Admissions from MIT urging students to stay the course to meet the STEM challenges of the future by studying hard, taking rigorous classes and exploring all STEM areas.

In addition, two of the elementary **FIRST** LEGO League Jr LASER teams also qualified for the Championship. One team from Osage Beach Elementary and a combined team with students from Dogwood and Hawthorn elementary represented Camdenton. Each team spent three days at the World Championship Expo sharing their research and model made of LEGOs that demonstrated a solution to a real world problem by using simple machines. Team 185 won the Against All Odds Trophy and team 5631 won the Construction Innovation Award. The trophies were made in Denmark by master LEGO builders.

For more information about the Laker Afterschool Science Engineering and Robotics team please contact Camdenton R-III Afterschool Services at 573-346-9233.