

Camdenton students tackle water safety

Camdenton's FIRST LASER Robotics Team joined forces with local businesses to promote water safety around the Lake of the Ozarks. Camdenton's FIRST LASER Robotics Team joined forces with local businesses to promote water safety around the Lake of the Ozarks. Camdenton's FIRST LASER Robotics Team joined forces with local businesses to promote water safety around the Lake of the Ozarks.

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Lake Area

The Camdenton 4-H FIRST® LASER robotics teams partnered with the Lake of the Ozarks Water Safety Council, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Performance Boat Center, and Lake Ozarks Marine to bring a special water safety program to Camdenton R-III kindergarten students.

The LASER team yearly competes for the prestigious FIRST® Underwriters Laboratory Safety Award. As part of the criteria to be considered for the award a team must demonstrate beyond safety fundamentals by using innovative ways to eliminate or protect against hazards while competing at competitions and also at home within the team's community. Each year the team picks a specific goal and works throughout the season to promote safety. The LASER team has been honored with 6 consecutive UL Safety Awards and was a top three safety team at the 2015 World Championship.

This season the LASER team worked in partnership with the Lake of the Ozarks Water Safety Council, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and two local marinas, Performance Boat Center and Lake Ozarks Marine, to provide all Camdenton R-III Kindergarteners with water safety tips and life jackets, if needed. During the water safety class the LASER robotics team members shared the Underwriters Laboratory water safety movie featuring Disney's Timon and Pumba from the Lion King. Through the video kindergarten students learn the importance of always wearing a life vest and other safe water practices.



The lessons of water safety are critical to the young children who are growing up around the Lake of the Ozarks. Of the four drownings last year on Lake of the Ozarks, three could have been prevented by wearing a personal flotation device. The Highway Patrol also worked 75 injury boating accidents in 2014, of which five were fatal. Children learn by example. The LASER team and the Lake of the Ozarks Water Safety Council have worked to provide life jackets for our children. Together they encourage all adults to do their part by wearing a lifejacket and making sure all children have on a vest while around the water.