



LASER Trifecta!

accompanied the team's buses as they traveled through the entire county to honor them for their incredibly successful weekend at the 2014 St. Louis FIRST® Robotics Regional on March 13-15.

The high school FIRST® Robotics Competition LASER team members were excited as they traveled to St. Louis after participating in the Central Illinois Regional, where the team won the Underwriters Laboratory Industrial Safety Award for the fourth year. This year's game, Aerial Assist, proved to be a challenge while in Illinois due to mechanical issues and drive team experience. After returning from this competition, the team troubleshot the mechanical and shooting issues. The team was able to perfect shooting to 90 percent accuracy by working on the practice robot for the St. Louis Regional.

Upon arrival in St. Louis, the drive team and pit crew set up the LASER pit and prepared the robot for practice rounds while the safety crew and chairman's team prepped for interviews and presentations. The scout team immediately began to collect statistics and other information on all forty-five robots and teams in attendance. The practice rounds went well and LASER quickly

The Camdenton 4-H FIRST® LASER 3284 team returned from St. Louis with a very special escort. The Henry County Sheriff's Department

established itself as one of the top five robots at the challenge.

To begin their amazing weekend, the LASER alliance set the highest score for week three among all the FIRST® Robotics regional competitions taking place internationally, with a score of 305. At the end of elimination matches, LASER found itself in the number four slot and then was selected by the number one team (1501) to form an alliance. Scout captains for 1501 and

3284 asked team 4500 to round out the alliance for the semi-final matches. Only one round was lost in the semifinals due to loss of communication with the LASER robot while on the field. Throughout semis and finals, the LASER alliance won the



last four matches by an amazing 70+ points per match. This 2014 alliance win goes in the record book for the LASER team, as few teams have been regional champions four out of five years!

The second award of the competition earned by the LASER team was the coveted "Chairman's Award" banner. The regional Chairman's Award is the most prestigious award at FIRST®; it honors the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST®.



LASER 3284 will compete for the International Chairman's Award at the World Championship.

To complete their successful weekend, 3284 was also honored to have LASER President Garrett Johnson named as a finalist for the prestigious Dean's List. This award is given to team members to celebrate outstanding student leaders whose passion for and effectiveness at attaining FIRST® ideals is exemplary. Garrett will compete for the title of Dean's List Winner at the upcoming international competition in April. This is the second time that Camdenton has had a student named to the Dean's List in the last two years. Garrett joins 3284 alumni and current mentor Kyle Gulshen on the list.

By winning the regional championship and the Chairman's Award, LASER 3284 double qualified for the World Championship for the fourth time in the program's short five-year history. The World Championship will take place April 23-26, 2014, at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis. Seventeen countries will participate in this 2014 international challenge.

LASER would like to thank all of the team sponsors: Camdenton R-III Schools and Afterschool Services, Speedline Technologies, Sakelaris Ford, Missouri Afterschool State Network, Metaltech, AT&T Cellular Connections, Boeing, The Camdenton Optimist Club, Lake Professional Engineering, Nihon Superior, 4-H, and WRG/SES.

The LASER team would also like to recognize the many professional mentors who give hundreds of

hours to support all four progressions of the district's FIRST® programs. At this time, one in every 20

students out of the total 4,200 Camdenton R-III student body is a LASER robotics team member. Afterschool Director Sherry Comer notes, *"Without our sponsors and mentors we could not exist. It is because of the unselfish giving of their time and resources that our LASER afterschool robotics teams have achieved so much success."*

The LASER team will partner for the fourth year with Sakelaris Ford of Camdenton as they host the annual LASER fundraiser "Drive 4 UR School" event on May 3, 2014, at Camdenton High School. For every valid test drive of a Ford vehicle, Ford donates \$20 to the LASER program up to \$6000.

All four progressions of the FIRST® LASER programs, along with off-season FIRST® LEGO® League and FIRST® Tech Challenges will be on display at the fundraiser. This year's St. Louis Regional Championship robot the "Scorpion" will also be available for a "test-drive" at this event! LASER is asking the community to help us raise funds for this terrific program

by stopping by the high school and test-driving a new Ford vehicle.

