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Central Missouri robotics teams invade Drury for state qualifier

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On Saturday 34 teams from Missouri and Kansas traveled to Springfield, Mo. to participate in the Drury FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics qualifier. Lake area teams made an impression on participants as they vied for spots at the Missouri State FTC Championship that will take place at the University of Missouri Science and Technology in Rolla on March 9.

Local teams competed in robot rounds and gave presentations about their team, shared outreach efforts, explained their engineering notebooks and were interviewed by judges throughout a long day. At the end of the day local teams found themselves in the position of relying on each other and competing against each other in alliances of three for the tournament crown and a bid to the upcoming state championship.

Rankings put five local teams in a position to pick alliance partners to graciously battle it out for the championship crown. The top alliance, made up of Elementary My Dear Botson, Eldon MS Gearheads 7678 and Camdenton MS LASER 5907, pulled off the exciting win against Camdenton MS LASER 5905, Chaffees Girls With Attitude and Camdenton MS LASER 5906.

Advancing to state were Elementary My Dear Botson 8461, Eldon MS Gearheads 7678, Camdenton MS LASER 5905 and Camdenton MS 5906. Botson had an outstanding day placing third in the following: Think Award, Rockwell Collins Innovations, Motivate and Control. They also captured 2nd place Inspire. Camdenton MS LASER 5905 brought home additional hardware winning the Think Award 1st place and 3rd place Inspire.

Other local teams will have one more chance to qualify for the state championship based on scores and ranking in Blue Springs on Feb. 9. Camdenton MS LASER 5907 who was a finalist team at Drury will move on to try and seal a bid to state. Magic Dragons of Lake Ozark and Eldon's Rock Solid Community team will advance to compete based on combined rankings from meets as well.

To learn more about FIRST and how every student can go pro contact the Central MO FIRST Affiliate at 346-9233. FIRST Tech Challenge is a student-centered program that focuses on giving students a unique and stimulating experience. Each year, teams engage in a new game where they design, build, test and program autonomous and driver operated robots that must perform a series of tasks. To learn more about FIRST Tech Challenge and other FIRST Programs, visit www.firstinspires.org.



