



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Braunfels FIRST Tech Challenge Team Competing in Asia Pacific World Festival

New Braunfels, Texas -- The New Braunfels Public Library FIRST Tech Challenge robotics team will compete in the Asia Pacific World Festival robotics competition in Sydney, Australia on July 4th-6th. The team of students from New Braunfels High School, Canyon High School, and Grace Preparatory Academy will leave Texas on June 30th with the robot they have designed and built for the competition.

At the competition, the robot will be inspected and the team will speak to a panel of judges about robot design and programming. They will also submit an engineering notebook that records their experiences before competing in qualification rounds. FIRST Tech Challenge game play is in an alliance format, so in every match the team will be partnered with another team and competing against an opposing partnership. Teams at the Asia Pacific World Festival are from China, Japan, India, Korea, Hong Kong, and numerous other countries.

Each year the FIRST Tech Challenge game is different. In the 2012-2013 season challenge - "Ring It Up" - robots must retrieve plastic rings from dispensers on the field and place them on a rack of PVC pipe at predetermined levels to win points. As a bonus challenge, one alliance partner robot can lift the other robot off the ground for a higher score.

Other events at the competition include a Women of FIRST morning tea (which allows young women on the teams to network with women engineers) and a Friendship Night during which each team will present a short performance related to their team and culture.

"The FIRST family of programs are designed to work hand in hand with schools to prepare students for the 21st century workplace," Library Director Gretchen Pruett commented. "A focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) skills, as well as teamwork and cooperative problem solving, will benefit future employers. The New Braunfels Public Library fosters literacy in all its forms, including digital, when planning programming for the community."

The robot matches will be streamed over the internet for viewing by spectators from around the world. The link will be posted on the library website – www.nbtexas.org/library.

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