



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIRST LEGO League Wins Tournament

New Braunfels, Texas — The New Braunfels Public Library robotics team *Unicorn Robotics* won the Champions Award for the top overall team at the Toltech FIRST LEGO League Qualifier Tournament in San Antonio on December 14th.

In the competition, which included teams from across south Texas, 9-14 year-olds build and program an autonomous robot out of LEGO Mindstorms parts to accomplish missions for points on a playing field. They also create an engineering project to help solve a problem in their community related to hazardous weather or natural disasters. To win the Champion's Award, the team must have a solid performance in all three areas of competition: the robot game, the project, and Core Values such as "Coopertition" and "Gracious Professionalism."

Unicorn Robotics' engineering project was a low-water-crossing barricade that lowers automatically when water rises at low-water crossings. The barricade blocks traffic in both directions to keep cars from being swept away. According to the Centers for Disease Control, over 50% of flood-related drownings are due to drivers attempting to drive into flood water. Competition judges said that the team's invention would "definitely save lives."

Because of their award, *Unicorn Robotics* will advance to the Championship tournament at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio on March 1st.

Team members include:

Darean Applegate

Cameron Gridley

Jack Lewis

Andrew Moers

Riley Muennink

David Perry

Reilly Rodgers

Jesus Salinas

Hayden Tondre

Dylon Trombly

At the same competition, New Braunfels Public Library team *Inventors Assemble!* won the Research Award for their research on their project, a "flood box" that can be attached to a house roof to hold supplies that homeowners would need if they had to wait on their roof for emergency personnel during a flood. *Inventors Assemble!* spoke to New Braunfels Fire Department staff from Fire Station 2 and Canyon Lake fire chief Shawn Wherry to research their invention.

Team members include:

Jorge Benitez

John Hughes

Kenny Huntsman

Jeremiah James

Kaia James

Conor Marrou

Hennessy Munoz

Tyler Sargent

Nicholas Sargent

FIRST LEGO League is a worldwide program in over 60 countries. FIRST strategic partners include NASA, Boeing, Rockwell Collins, National Instruments, and other Fortune 500 companies. The Friends of the New Braunfels Public Library sponsors six FIRST LEGO League teams, as well as Jr. FIRST LEGO League teams for 6-9 year olds and a FIRST Tech Challenge team for high-school aged students. For more information on how to be involved as a team member, coach, or sponsor, please contact Kit Ward-Crixell at 830-221-4319.

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